

Mid-East Prophecy Update – May 8th, 2016

- For today's prophecy update I want us to focus in on the fast moving developments taking place in Israel and the Middle East.
- Then, once we're up to speed on what's happened in just the last week, we'll turn a corner of sorts and look at the significance.
- More specifically, the significance of recent developments as it relates to key prophecies, which are today very much in play.

We'll start with last Sunday, and this stunning article from The Times of Israel in which they report that Iran is suing the US at the International Court of Justice over an order for Iran to pay the families of terror victims. "A senior Iranian official said Sunday that Iran has filed a lawsuit against Washington at the International Court of Justice over a US Supreme Court ruling which would transfer over \$2 billion in frozen Iranian funds to American victims of terror attacks."

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-it-filed-lawsuit-with-icj-over-payment-to-terror-victims-families/>

If this weren't bad enough, also on Sunday, The Jerusalem Post reported that an Islamic Jihad delegation is visiting Iran to discuss ways to strengthen the intifada. According to the report, "Islamic Jihad representatives are visiting Iran to discuss ways to strengthen the intifada in the West Bank and Jerusalem, Palestinian media reported on Sunday. ...In these meetings, the parties discussed the circumstances prevailing in the Islamic world and especially the issue of Palestine and the ways to bolster the intifada in the West Bank and Jerusalem against "Zionist expansionism." Additional subjects discussed were the attempts to "Judaize al-Aksa mosque" and the need to support the steadfastness of Gazans in light of the 10-year blockade.

<http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Islamic-Jihad-delegation-visits-Iran-to-discuss-ways-to-strengthen-intifada-452788>

To make matters even worse, also on Sunday, The Times of Israel quoted the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei as saying that the US is Iran's main enemy, and that the 'Zionist regime' is a close second. Speaking at a meeting in Tehran on Sunday with the head of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), Ramadan Abdullah, Khamenei said that looking at the turmoil in the region in a "macro" sense, the US was clearly to blame, with Israel following closely behind. The article went on to report that the ongoing unrest in the Middle East, Khamenei alleged, is a continuance of the "war" waged on Iran by US-led Western governments since the Islamic Revolution in 1979 "and the Palestine issue is the key issue," Khamenei tweeted.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/khamenei-us-is-main-enemy-zionist-regime-a-close-second/>

Khamenei didn't stop there. On Monday, Arutz Sheva published an article about Khamenei's calls to 'defend Palestine' against the 'Zionists'. Quoting the article, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on Sunday launched one of his verbal attacks against Israel, saying that defending "the Palestinian cause in the face of the Israeli regime" symbolizes defending Islam. "The [ongoing] developments in the region must be studied and analyzed from such a viewpoint, and within this framework, the issues of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Hezbollah are part of this large-scale confrontation," he said, according to *PressTV*. Ayatollah Khamenei said the Islamic Republic continues to support the Syrian government "because those standing against Syria are in fact hostile to Islam in principle and are serving the interests of the U.S. and the Zionist regime." He also highlighted the strength of the Hezbollah terrorist group, claiming the Israeli regime is more "fearful" of Hezbollah than before. Khamenei regularly attacks both Israel and the United States, which he and other Iranian leaders refer to as the "Great Satan". In March, the Supreme Leader ruled out his country having ties with the United States or "the Zionist regime" – that is, Israel – claiming he had proof that the United States was planning a coup in Iran. He also said that month that missiles, and not negotiations, will be a part of Iran's future relations with the outside world.

http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/211607#.VyaWiGBX_wv

To add insult to injury, on Monday, Arutz Sheva published another article in which they reported on Jordan's Foreign Minister discussing Israeli-Palestinian peace talks with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. Quoting the report, "The Israeli-Palestinian Authority (PA) peace process was among the topics discussed on Sunday between Jordan's Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh and United States Secretary of State John Kerry in Geneva. According to Jordan's official news agency Petra, Judeh underlined the importance of launching serious and effective talks between the sides within a set timeframe. Such talks, he added, must lead to the two-state solution, entailing the establishment of a viable and independent Palestinian state with eastern Jerusalem as its capital, according to Petra.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/211615#.Vyez0uQgmFp>

It seems Kerry had a busy week last week as evidenced by this Ynet News report on Tuesday, with the headline, "Kerry warns Assad to start transition by Aug. 1 - or else." Secretary of State John Kerry warned Syria's government and its backers in Moscow and Tehran on Tuesday that they face an August deadline for starting a political transition to move President Bashar Assad out, or they risk the consequences of a new US approach toward ending the 5-year-old civil war. But given the various, unfulfilled US threats throughout the Arab country's conflict - from declaring Assad's days "numbered" five years ago to promising military action if chemical weapons were used - it was unclear what effect Kerry's ultimatum might have. And it's unlikely that the Obama administration, so long opposed to an active American combat role in Syria, would significantly boost its presence beyond the 300 special forces it has authorized thus far in the heart of a US presidential election season. More feasible might be US allies like Saudi Arabia giving the rebels new weapons to fight Assad, such as portable surface-to-air missiles.

<http://www.ynetnews.com/Ext/Comp/ArticleLayout/CdaArticlePrintPreview/0,2506,L-4799050,00.html>

It's important to note that this was on the heels of this Fox News article on Monday, in which it was reported that the Islamic State had struck a deal with Assad on the battleground in Syria. According to Sky News, which is a Fox News affiliate, the Islamic State and the Assad regime in Syria have been colluding with each other in deals on the battleground, ...Our exclusive investigation into leaked secret IS files suggests one piece of co-operation was over the ancient city of Palmyra. The files also show that the militant group has been training foreign fighters to attack Western targets for much longer than security services had suspected. The revelations underscore fears in the United States that a network of sleeper cells is spread across Europe, avoiding detection, and is planning further Paris- and Brussels-style assaults. IS defectors, meanwhile, have told Sky News that Palmyra was handed back to government forces by Islamic State as part of a series of cooperation agreements going back years. New letters obtained by Sky News, in addition to the massive haul of 22,000 files handed over last month, appear to confirm this. They show: An agreement with the Syrian regime to withdraw IS weapons from Palmyra. : A deal between IS and Syria to trade oil for fertilizer and; Arrangements to evacuate some areas by Islamic State forces BEFORE the Syrian army attacked. All appear to be pre-agreed deals and suggest direct evidence of collusion between the Syrian regime and Islamic State chiefs.

http://www.foxnews.com/world/2016/05/02/report-isis-struck-deals-with-assad-on-battleground-in-syria_print.html

- Let's turn a corner and look at the prophetic significance of these developments, specifically as it relates to the global agenda.
- By global agenda, I mean the Islamic effort afoot to eliminate first, America as the great Satan, then Israel as the little Satan.
- You'll forgive the bluntness with which I say this, but it's only Israel not America that will prevail according to Bible Prophecy.

- Truly, this is one of the only explanations as to why the United States of America is conspicuously absent from Bible prophecy.
- In other words, it would stand to reason that something has to happen to the once most powerful nation on earth to explain this.
- The fact of the matter is God will intervene on behalf of His people, the Jewish people, so that they will know He alone is God.

Ezekiel 38:14-16, 23 (NKJV) — 14 "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it? 15 Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. 16 You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes." ...23 Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD." '

- It's for this reason that we know Russia, Iran, et al along with Syria as well will all be dealt a decimating defeat by almighty God.
- It's also for this same reason we know that something will happen to America as well, by virtue of her absence from prophecy.
- I would suggest that something is already happening both in and to America, and it's coming by way of the judgment of God.

Back on April 26th, CNS News published an article in which they quote Anne Graham Lotz as saying that "God Is Turning Away From America And Leaving Us To Our Sins" Commenting on the moral state of America and God's judgment on sinful nations, evangelist Anne Graham Lotz, the daughter of pastor Billy Graham, said America is imploding "morally and spiritually," that God is removing His "blessing and protection" from us, leaving us to our sins, and that this encroaching judgment is evident in the chaos of the political scene, the economy, and even the weather.

<http://www.cnsnews.com/blog/michael-w-chapman/billy-grahams-daughter-god-turning-away-america-and-leaving-us-our-sins-0>

Last Thursday, we studied through 2 Kings 16-17, and in so doing came across a terrifying indictment concerning Israel not hearing or heeding God's warning. 2 Kings 17:13-15 of this says, "Yet the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets." 14 Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God. 15 And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them that they should not do like them."

Lest one accuse me of being one of those doom and gloom preachers, let me hasten to say that I will never be numbered amongst those of whom it could be said that they only taught that which the people wanted to hear and not what the people needed to hear. 2 Timothy 4:1-4 (NIV) — 1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.