

Mid-East Prophecy Update – June 5th, 2016

- Before we get to our prophecy update today, I want to once again, very quickly say thank you to everyone who has given to us.
- After bringing our financial need for our building renovation before God's people two weeks ago we continue to receive support.
- We're moving forward by faith, trusting God to provide the funds to complete the project, and I hope to provide an update soon.

- For today's prophecy update I'll address the prophetic significance of even more geopolitical developments from just last week.
- For those who have been keeping up with the fast moving developments, you like me, are probably finding it rather astonishing.
- While we're not surprised by what's happening, I have to say that I'm astonished by just how fast everything is now happening.

I want to begin with a very interesting article in The Washington Post on Thursday, in which they seem to be shocked by the Israel-Palestinian peace initiatives that are suddenly popping up everywhere. In it they say; "Until a week ago, it seemed the Israeli-Palestinian peace process was a flat-liner. President Obama thought so. In March, he said he wouldn't seek to jump-start talks — the two sides were too far apart; it was not in the cards. Now Israeli-Palestinian peace initiatives are popping up all over." The article goes on to report on the French hosting a meeting on Friday, which included about 25 foreign ministers, as well as the US Secretary of State John F. Kerry. The purpose of the meeting was to seek an international consensus on a way to move talks forward. However, according to the Post, ...Kerry's presence in Paris worries Israelis who fear that the international community is going to press them to end the 49-year military occupation of the West Bank and the partial trade and travel blockage of Gaza, and to stop ongoing construction of Jewish settlements on land the Palestinians want for a future state. The Israelis also have their eyes on the calendar. They are concerned that the Obama -administration will, before leaving office, enshrine a two-state -solution in a speech or a U.N. resolution, in effect laying out the final status ahead of negotiations. The problem is that across the political spectrum in Ramallah and Jerusalem, nobody holds out much hope for the French effort. French diplomats shrug and say in briefings with journalists, "We have to do something." In Israel, there is a feeling that something is happening. Just this week, the once-moribund Arab Peace Initiative is back in the game after years on the sidelines. Benjamin Netanyahu is concerned that there is a "diplomatic hurricane" coming this year.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/israel-palestinian-peace-initiatives-are-suddenly-popping-up-everywhere/2016/06/02/e458dd3e-282d-11e6-8329-6104954928d2_story.html

I would suggest that Netanyahu's concerns about a "diplomatic hurricane" coming this year are well founded as evidenced by The Times of Israel on Friday. Apparently the French Foreign Minister concurs and is warning, even threatening that there will be an impending disaster if the Israeli-Palestinian deadlock is not broken. I suppose the question becomes one of whether or not there is any hope of said deadlock being broken. For the answer, we need look no further than to a quote from the article where the director-general of Israel's Foreign Ministry said that France's bid to revive Israel-Palestinian peace talks was doomed, and compared it to a 1916 colonial effort to carve up the Middle East. What's really interesting about this France peace talk is that neither Israel nor the Palestinians were present. Even more interesting is the Times reported that the aim of Friday's France talks was to lay the ground for a fully-fledged peace conference to be held by the end of the year.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/french-fm-warns-of-impending-disaster-if-israeli-palestinian-deadlock-not-broken/>

Netanyahu is not only being pressured and threatened from without, he's also getting it from within. On Wednesday, The Times of Israel published a report with the headline, Kahlon appeals to Herzog: Regional peace efforts 'more substantial' than reported. Quoting the Times, There is a substantive effort underway to launch a regional peace initiative between Israel and several Arab neighbors, Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon indicated Wednesday, as he called on Zionist Union leader Isaac Herzog to join the Likud-led coalition. "The rumors and talk of a significant diplomatic move in the region are far more substantial than mere hints in newspapers," the Kulanu party leader said at an event in Netanya. "I call on the Zionist Union to join the government and not to miss the historic window of opportunity that has been created," he added. "This is not the time or place to offer details, but we have a rare opportunity for a dramatic shift at the regional level."

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/kahlon-appeals-to-herzog-regional-peace-efforts-more-substantial-than-reported/>

While Netanyahu is not likely to acquiesce to the France peace push, he may in fact be warming up to the Egypt/Saudi Arabia peace push. On Friday, The Times of Israel reported that Netanyahu 'said yes' to regional peace efforts in phone call with John Kerry. Here are a couple of excerpts from this report. "In a telephone conversation with Secretary of State John Kerry on Thursday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "said yes" to new efforts led by Egypt and Saudi Arabia for regional progress toward peace, an Israeli television report said. The call was made on the eve of Friday's Paris peace summit, and was a factor in the summit's vague concluding communiqué, which Kerry helped negotiate, and which did not set a firm date for the international peace conference Paris wants to host by the year's end, the Channel 2 report said. ...Netanyahu on Monday partially endorsed the initiative, offering to negotiate with the Arab world the parameters of the plan. "I take this opportunity to make clear that I remain committed to making peace with the Palestinians and with all our neighbors. The Arab Peace Initiative contains positive elements that could help revive constructive negotiations with the Palestinians," Netanyahu declared in the Knesset. "We are willing to negotiate with the Arab states revisions to that initiative so that it reflects the dramatic changes in our region since 2002, but maintains the agreed goal of two states for two peoples," Netanyahu said, making his statement first in Hebrew and then repeating it in English.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/tv-report-netanyahu-said-yes-to-regional-peace-efforts-in-call-with-kerry/>

I want to share one more interesting article concerning this Paris peace talks, from Arutz Sheva on Friday. In it they rhetorically ask if the Paris floods, which peaked during the “peace talk” push, is a divine message. This because, at the very time that they met to basically divide Jerusalem in order to destroy Israel, a natural disaster was declared, necessitating the Louvre artwork evacuation.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/213224#.V1MBHeckrKJK>

You'll forgive me for turning an abrupt corner from France to Iran, but I have to take a little time to talk about this Fox News report from Wednesday, about the State Department admitting that briefing footage on Iran deal was intentionally deleted. Quoting the report, The State Department, in a stunning admission, acknowledged Wednesday that an official intentionally deleted several minutes of video footage from a 2013 press briefing, where a top spokeswoman seemed to acknowledge misleading the press over the Iran nuclear deal. ...The State Department had faced questions earlier this year over the block of missing tape from a December 2013 briefing. At that briefing, then-spokeswoman Jen Psaki was asked by Fox News' James Rosen about an earlier claim that no direct, secret talks were underway between the U.S. and Iran – when, in fact, they were.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2016/06/02/state-department-admits-briefing-footage-on-iran-deal-intentionally-deleted.html?intcmp=hpbt1>

- Allow me to offer a summary of sorts related to the prophetic significance of these geopolitical developments from last week.
- Actually, truth be known, we looked at this in our prophecy update just two weeks ago concerning Bible prophecy about peace.
- In it I made the assertion that the global effort by way of a peace push is preparing the way for a false savior, namely, antichrist.

Daniel 8:25 KJV And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify *himself* in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

Jeremiah 8:11 (NIV) They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. "Peace, peace," they say, when there is no peace.

Daniel 9:27 (NKJV) — 27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

1 Thessalonians 5:3 ESV While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

- I'll bring it to a close by posing a question that I think we would all do well to consider in light of how fast everything is moving.
- When a woman is in labor, you know it's just a matter of time before the baby is coming by virtue of the woman's birth pains.
- Here's the question, if all that's happening are like birth pains then wouldn't it stand to reason that it's now just a matter of time?