

Mid-East Prophecy Update – June 19th, 2016

- Before we get to our prophecy update today, there are two matters I would kindly ask you allow me the needed time to address.
- The first has to do with something I said in last week's update concerning Muslims and Christians worshipping the same God.
- Please know, that I would absolutely never say this, as Allah is the false moon god and Jehovah is the only true and living God.

- The second matter is concerning a question that I've been asked by a number of people related to our current building project.
- The question is why are we even involved in a church building project if the rapture of the church could happen anytime now?
- Actually, I'm going to provide answers to this question, by doing something a little bit differently than we usually do for today.

- As such, I'm hoping you'll kindly indulge me for today's prophecy update, as I address the matter of what Christians are to do.
- More specifically, that which we as Christians should do in these last days in order to prepare for and be ready for the rapture?
- Over the last several weeks, we've focused chiefly on the prophetic significance of how fast everything is moving geopolitically.

- One of the unintended consequences of doing this is that often times it leaves some perplexed as to what we can do about it.
- Worse yet, being perplexed can give way to despair in the sense that we feel helpless to do anything about the evil in the world.
- As an example what can we do about the fact that Christian's are actually who's being blamed for the Islamic terrorist attack?

Last Sunday, The Washington Examiner, published an article reporting that, according to ACLU attorneys, Christian conservatives are responsible for the mass shooting at a gay bar in Orlando because they "created this anti-queer climate..." An ACLU staff attorney by the name of Chase Strangio even went as far as tweeting, "You know what is gross — your thoughts and prayers and Islamophobia after you created this anti-queer climate."

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/aclu-lawyers-blame-christian-right-gop-for-orlando-terrorist-attack/article/2593679>

- If you're anything like me, and I suspect you are you were just as taken back as I was by the favorable coverage given to Islam.
- Imam's continued painting Islam on the canvass of a peace-loving religion, as they distanced themselves from Omar Mateen.
- This as the deception of "gun control," took center stage yet again, only this time, it appears that legislation is certain to ensue.

You'll forgive me for the silliness, with which I say this, but this Muslim terrorist did not pledge allegiance to the NRA during his murderous rampage, nor did he shout, Jesus is greater, before slaughtering his victims in Jesus name. On Wednesday, Fox News reported on the Muslim terrorist's chilling Facebook posts from inside club. Not only did Omar Mateen take to Facebook to pledge his loyalty to ISIS, he even threatened more attacks in his final post in which he made an ominous prediction saying, "In the next few days you will see attacks from the Islamic state in the USA."

http://www.foxnews.com/us/2016/06/15/orlando-terrorists-chilling-facebook-posts-from-inside-club-revealed_print.html

To me, this is clearly a fulfillment of 2 Thessalonians 2:7–12, 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (NKJV)

- The question I've had to ask myself is this, what can any of us do to convince a deceived world that this is the strong delusion?
- The fact of the matter is, I can scream and yell at my TV's, but it's not going to do any good to show them that this isn't the way.
- There's really nothing I can do to change this, by virtue of the fact the fate of a Christ rejecting world has already been sealed.

- I would suggest that any of our efforts to renovate or reform this evil world are doomed to fail because it is simply not the way.
- By way of illustration, a sign in Honolulu that says, "this is not the way to Kaneohe," does us absolutely no good whatsoever.
- Conversely, a sign that says, "this is the way to Kaneohe," not only does us good, it shows us the way to reach our destination.

- I think you would agree that this world is not our final destination. Our final destination is the new heaven and the new earth.
- This is the sign we need, to show us the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus; there's no way to the Father except through Him.
- It's for this reason that I would like to share with you why it is that as a church we're doing what we're doing prior to the rapture.

- What follows in no particular order is what I call the why behind the, what we're doing as a church by faith, until the Lord comes.
- First, we stepped out in faith and trusted God to provide a place of our own, when the SDA church notified us about our lease.
- If there was ever a time to trust God, and step out of ones comfort zone by faith, it is now, in these evil days in which we live.

- Secondly, as stewards of God's money, we were becoming increasingly uncomfortable having it in a bank earning little interest.
- Not only was it doing absolutely nothing to further the Kingdom of God, it was also vulnerable to great uncertainty economically.
- Large amounts of money in a bank can evaporate overnight were something to happen. With real property, this is not the case.

- It's for this reason that we see the acquisition of this property and the renovation of the building on it as a matter of stewardship.
- I think of the parable of the talents that Jesus taught and I shudder to think that we would ever be like the one who just buried it.
- Moreover, we also saw this as literally "occupying" a building until He comes, knowing that He could use it for those left behind.

- Here's the bottom line, as a church and personally as a Christian first and pastor second, we must continue being salt and light.

Matthew 5:13–16 -- 13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- I believe it's incumbent upon every believer in, and follower of, Jesus Christ, to reach the lost and make disciples of the saved.
- I'll take it a step further and say God's Word is very clear that we'll give an account for what we did with what he entrusted us.
- In Luke's gospel 12:48, Jesus says that from everyone who has been entrusted with much, much more will be required in turn.

- Perhaps you'll allow me to share one last thought as it relates to being good stewards of that which God has entrusted us with.
- Often times I'm asked the question concerning the possibility of some catastrophic event that might happen prior to the rapture.
- The answer I give is twofold, and both come from the gospel of Matthew, the first of which is the Olivet Discourse in chapter 24.

Matthew 24:37-42 -- 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. 42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Matthew 6:19–34 (NIV) — 19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? 28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Psalm 37:25–26 (NKJV) — 25 I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread. 26 He is ever merciful, and lends; And his descendants are blessed.

- I'll close by simply saying nothing I've just shared applies to you if you have never come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- This because, you must be born again to enter the kingdom of God in heaven, and be blessed and provided for here on earth.
- If you don't know Jesus Christ as your Savior I implore you to call upon Him today, and not put it off any longer. Here's how:

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."