

Mid-East Prophecy Update – October 23rd, 2016

- For today's prophecy update I'll begin with a clarification of a comment I made last week concerning the presidential election.
- I shared that I was conflicted and I asked for prayer as I sought the Lord about this year's unprecedented presidential election.
- I regret saying this because I was grossly remiss for not expounding on exactly why I was finding myself to be so conflicted.
- Please know that I wasn't conflicted about whether or not I was going to vote, or even for which candidate I was going to vote.
- My wife and I, as Americans are absolutely going to vote, in spite of the fact that neither of us is endorsing either candidate.
- Here's why, and here's how; while we disapprove of both candidates, it is still our duty to vote for the conservative platform.
- It's for this reason that we are voting for Trump who is pro-life, pro-Israel, pro-Christian, and pro-conservative Supreme Court.
- Last week, I was in contact with Jack Hibbs, Amir Tsarfati, and Jan Markell, as Jan is doing a radio program on the election.
- The program will air on the weekend broadcast prior to the election on Saturday, November 5th and Sunday, November 6th.
- This is probably as good of a time as any to mention that Jan is already planning next year's conference on October the 7th.
- I will have the honor of being one of the speakers along with Mark Hitchcock, Jack Hibbs, Amir Tsarfati, and Michelle Bachman.
- Also, I should probably mention that I will also be one of the speakers at the Prophecy Watchers conference October 13th - 15th.
- Be that as it may, the reason I shared that I was so conflicted is because of what I see as the proverbial handwriting on the wall.
- Let me explain; on November 9th, the day after the election I fear that history will repeat itself regardless of who the president is.
- If Clinton wins, I fear that Christians will give in to hopelessness, and if Trump wins, I fear that Christians will be too hopeful.
- The fact of the matter is, our hopefulness and our hopelessness should never be predicated upon who becomes the president.
- Our hope is in Jesus Christ, and the soon return of Jesus Christ, in the pre-tribulation rapture of the church of Jesus Christ.
- However, this doesn't excuse Christians from voting, nor does it mean that Christians should write in Jesus when they're voting.

Perhaps you'll indulge me as I draw your attention to a must read Town Hall article written by Wayne Grudem, titled, "If You Don't Like Either Candidate, Then Vote for Trump's Policies." I share the following excerpts with the hope that doing so will be helpful. After I saw the shocking 2005 video with Trump talking about his sexual aggression against women, I wrote, "There is no morally good presidential candidate in this election." I condemned Trump's immoral conduct and said I did not know how I would vote. I asked Townhall.com to remove my earlier article, "Why Voting for Donald Trump Is a Morally Good Choice." I urged Trump to withdraw, hoping we could get a better candidate. The liberal media loved this. "Evangelical theologian calls on Trump to withdraw." I suddenly had more requests for interviews from mainstream news organizations than ever in my lifetime. I turned them all down. And Trump did not withdraw. Now, how should I vote? Voting for Clinton and her ultraliberal policies is not an option for me as an evangelical Christian. Therefore I am left with two options: (1) vote for Trump, or (2) vote for a third-party candidate whose hopes of winning belong to fantasy, not reality. And if these are my only two options, then voting for a third-party candidate has the clear effect of helping to elect Clinton, because it is taking my vote away from Trump. That is why the liberal media loved it when I said I was finding it hard to decide. It also means that my two options are actually this: (1) vote for Trump, or (2) help Hillary Clinton get elected. Once I put the choice in those stark terms, there is a good way to make a decision. Since I find both candidates morally objectionable, I am back to the old-fashioned basis on which I have usually decided how to vote for my entire life: Whose policies are better? Do I agree more with Trump's policies or with Clinton's? It isn't even close. I overwhelmingly support Trump's policies and believe that Clinton's policies will seriously damage the nation, perhaps forever. On the Supreme Court, abortion, religious liberty, sexual orientation regulations, taxes, economic growth, the minimum wage, school choice, Obamacare, protection from terrorists, immigration, the military, energy, and safety in our cities, I think Trump is far better than Clinton. Again and again, Trump supports the policies I advocated in my 2010 book *Politics According to the Bible*. ...Several Christian friends tell me they still have some moral objections to voting for Trump. They say evangelicals should vote for a third-party candidate. Here is why I am not persuaded by their objections. ...Grudem goes on to answer the following objections: (1) "My conscience won't let me vote for Trump." (2) "Voting for Trump means you approve of his immoral treatment of women." (3) "When faced with the lesser of two evils, choose neither one." (4) "If you vote for Trump you'll never have credibility in the future when you say that character matters." (5) "We have to send the Republican party a message that a candidate like Trump is unacceptable." (6) "It is wrong for Christians to place their trust in a morally compromised man." (7) "I could never tell my friends that I voted for Trump." (8) "We should vote for neither one and trust a sovereign God to bring about his good purposes for the nation." (9) "Are there no limits to what you will tolerate in a candidate?" (10) "My vote doesn't really matter. I don't even live in a battleground state." (11) "I can't trust Trump to do what he promises." ...After masterfully refuting all of these objections from Christians, Grudem concludes with a thorough explanation of the contrast between both candidates concerning, The Supreme Court, Israel, Iran, Russia, Abortion, Religious liberty, Christian business owners, Christian schools and colleges, Churches, Freedom of speech, The Military, School Choice, and Criminalizing dissent, as well as many other issues facing Americans today. Suffice it to say, the two candidates have virtually polar opposite positions as it relates to the future of this once most powerful and blessed nation on earth.

I would suggest that this year's presidential election has profound prophetic implications, not just for America, but the entire world, specifically concerning Israel, Russia and Iran. It's evidenced by two Jerusalem Post articles from yesterday, both of which speak to this from Israel's perspective, the first of which is about how America's foreign policy is turning Iran into a world power. Quoting the Post, The next American president will determine if Iran becomes the dominant power in the region and if it will also become a nuclear power. Most of the Israeli media coverage of the US presidential election has relied on a translation of the completely biased American media and focuses on matters that are irrelevant for Israel. If I were an American citizen, perhaps I would be worried about Donald Trump's treatment of women, but as an Israeli, I ask myself, which American president would I prefer stand before Iran? ...One can imagine how, as president, Hillary Clinton would condemn with harsh words Iran's first nuclear test. I can also imagine how Trump, as president, would inform Iran that if it dares to develop a nuclear bomb it will make the acquaintance of the American arsenal of weapons. The Iranians also believe that he is crazy enough to follow through with the threat. His contribution to world history could be far more important than the testimony of the harassed women who are dominating the American airwaves today. I am not certain that the last word in these elections has been heard. The battle that is taking place now far from Washington, in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, is liable to motivate ISIS supporters in the US and Europe to act in the coming days, and a big terror attack can have a serious influence on election results.

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=470651>

While that article was concerning Iran, this one is concerning Russia, and the return of the Cold War from Israel's perspective. Again, quoting the Post, Judging by recent weeks' events, a Second Cold War is under way. The great schism that haunted the postwar international system is staging an improbable return, albeit with different motivations, aims, tactics, and also an entirely different Israeli role. WITH RUSSIA'S warplanes slaughtering Syrians, reducing Aleppo to rubble and making a mockery of a cease-fire signed with the US; and with Washington threatening new sanctions while accusing Moscow of cyber-attacking America's political process, Russia went to the attic and retrieved the First Cold War's rhetoric. ...Meanwhile, as Russian aircraft carrier Kuznetsov headed from Norway to Syria ...Vice President Joe Biden threatened Russia with a cyber attack. "Their capacity to fundamentally alter the [US presidential] election is not what people think," he said on NBC's Meet the Press, but then warned that "to the extent that they do - we will be proportional in what we do."

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=470565>

As I was seeking the Lord this last week, He ministered to me that everything we see happening in the world today is a spiritual war for the souls of men. In so doing, it was a much-needed reminder of how our battle is not against flesh and blood, or Republican and Democrat. Kindly allow me to read Ephesians 6:10-13 - 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

On Thursday night I talked about how Muslims by the multitudes are coming to Christ, and in closing, I want to share with you a praise report from one of our missionary's about one such Muslim whose identity we have to protect. -- I happened to be a Muslim preacher. I have never killed any body but I supported the Jihad movement through preaching and encouraging those who go to the war front. Some thing occurred that changed my thinking forever. One night, I left the mosque to go to bed when from no where a little child of about 8 years stopped me and asked this question, "Preacher/teacher, my Christian friend in school told me that Jesus told them that He is the life, the truth and the way and that no one will go to God except through him. Is it true and what similar promise did our prophet told us?" From that day onward, I never set my eyes on that boy and I never had a good sleep either. I kept seeing that boy in a dream and sometimes in reality in the form of a spirit. I tried to look for the answer for one year now from the Quran to the Hadiths to no avail and this question never want to leave my mind. I consulted many other Muslim scholars as to whether there is a verse which our prophet was able to to guarantee us eternity, there is NONE! So, sir, after one year this same boy appeared to me raw! and simply gave me a paper and on it was written John 1:1 and nothing else. When I show it to a colleague cleric he simply said it is an ordinary Christian flier print out. To my conscience and judging from what happened exactly one year, this one phrase white paper is equal to the one life I have and I decided to look for Jesus to unravel the mystery of the question of leading me to God. Please this is my life and what I preached in Islam and the pains I caused to innocent lives I deeply regretted. I am so sorry for being a muslim for all my life I PRAY with you the prayer you gave me, am in tears and cant write plsae i need forgivenss, wil writ later. Our missionary sent a few more emails to him, shared the gospel, told him about God's gift of forgiveness, wrote to him the words of Jesus Himself, and more prayers. Here is his last email, I am sorry for some silence. I was trying to escape assassination attempts on me and my family. There is no time to have a proper thinking than that of running and hiding from my assassins. Please pray for us to the Lord to save us from the hands of the Jihadists chasing us and the police are doing nothing to protect us. Do we have no right to practice our religion of choice? Please pray for us especially my little children as they do not deserve this horror. I deserved it, it is my decision to follow Christ come what may. I will write back if am still alive but if They succeeded in getting me, we meet in heaven where there will be justice.. Thank you brother. Your brother in Christ.