

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

- For today's prophecy update I made the decision, after much prayer, to address a matter I mentioned briefly on Thursday night.
- The reason I mentioned it on Thursday night is because it was germane to our midweek Bible study through the Old Testament.
- It's for this same reason that I deem it necessary to address it today for our prophecy update, such that, it concerns prophecy.

- What I'm speaking of is a recent Calvary Chapel pastor's conference and the comments made by a prominent Calvary pastor.
- Please know I'm only addressing this so as to provide assurance to this church locally, as well as our online church globally.
- Specifically as it relates to teaching through all 66-books of the Bible expositively, and doing a Bible prophecy update weekly.

- While I in no way wish to be derogatory towards any Calvary Chapel pastor, I have to confess I was so grieved by what I heard.
- This because, it was what I see as an attack on the teaching of the whole counsel of God's Word and teaching bible prophecy.
- What follows is some of what was said during a question and answer session that took place at the aforementioned conference

- I think we can preach the whole counsel of God without teaching all 66 books of the Bible"
- I don't think teaching all 66 books of the Bible is what Paul meant about the whole counsel of God.
- Don't you think that the New Testament is the whole counsel of God?
- There is enough information built into the new that it gives you the essential information about the Old.
- Pastor Chuck's messages were "Doom and Gloom" and he preached too much on prophecy, end-times and the rapture.
- I'm challenging you guys – if every week you're beating the Ezekiel 38 prophecy drum, tone it down...!

- Again, I'm only addressing this because I want to assure everyone that I have absolutely no intention of toning anything down.
- As I mentioned on Thursday night, I will continue teaching all 66-books of the Bible expositively and Bible prophecy weekly.
- Perhaps you'll indulge me for just a bit as I share with you three passages of scripture that speak very specifically to all of this.

2 Peter 3:3–10 (NIV) — 3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Acts 20:26–28 (NKJV) — 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

2 Timothy 3:16–4:5 (NKJV) — 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

By the way, I find it rather ironic that according to a post on Joel Rosenberg's blog, Israeli leaders are urging Jews to read through the entire Bible, verse-by-verse, chapter-by-chapter. Kindly allow me to quote some of what Rosenberg had to say, "Amazing, but true. You probably haven't heard this in the mainstream media, but Israel's most senior leaders are urging the Jewish people to read through the Bible, the whole Bible, verse-by-verse, chapter-by-chapter. Can you imagine President Obama or any other U.S. leader calling on American people to read through the Bible? Neither can I. Given the general trend here in Israel towards secularization, this is quite a surprising yet thoroughly encouraging development. I'm sure many of you are skeptical, but it really is true. Here's the latest. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu kicked off the new school year here by encouraging children to rediscover the Word of God and Biblical roots of their Jewish heritage.

<https://flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com/2016/10/17/have-you-heard-that-israeli-leaders-are-urging-jews-to-read-through-the-entire-bible-verse-by-verse-chapter-by-chapter-amazing-but-true-heres-the-latest/>

Speaking of Joel Rosenberg, some of you may remember when he spoke at Calvary Chapel Honolulu back in August of 2012. The reason I mention this is because what he spoke about was rediscovering the purpose and power of Bible Prophecy where talked about the main reasons why pastors are not teaching Bible prophecy today, and how can we help pastors rediscover the purpose and power of Bible prophecy. I would encourage you to read the notes he posted on his blog because he points to four main reasons pastors today aren't teaching Bible prophecy, which is what I would like to share with you now.

<https://flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com/2012/10/11/sermon-notes-rediscovering-the-purpose-power-of-bible-prophecy/>

WHY AREN'T PASTORS TEACHING BIBLE PROPHECY TODAY? - I would point to four main reasons. First, many pastors don't teach prophecy because they have a lack of belief in the power of God's Word. Second, many pastors don't teach prophecy because they have a lack of knowledge of — and/or sound training in — Bible prophecy. Third, many pastors don't teach prophecy because they have a fear of being lumped in with "prophecy nuts" and those who peddle sensationalism. Fourth, many pastors don't teach prophecy because they have a lack of understanding of the times in which we live and the increasingly close return of Christ.

<https://flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com/2012/10/11/sermon-notes-rediscovering-the-purpose-power-of-bible-prophecy/>

- You'll forgive the abrupt close but I'll end by listing specific prophecies that I'm convinced prove that our redemption draws nigh.
- First, the prophecy in Isaiah 17 concerning Syria is about to be fulfilled. Second, Isaiah 19 concerning Egypt is being fulfilled.
- Third, the prophecy in Ezekiel 38 & 39 is also about to be fulfilled, which means the rapture is closer than any of us may think.

- If you have never called upon the name of the Lord Jesus to be saved, I'm imploring you to choose this day who you will serve.
- By way of illustration, here's a simple way to communicate a simple message called, "the Gospel," which means "Good News."

- In the beginning, God and man were together, however, through Adam sin entered the world and separated man from God.
- Because sin entered the world through the first Adam Jesus entered the world as the last Adam to die for, and pay for our sin.
- The finished work of the cross, and subsequent resurrection of Christ bridged the gap restoring man's relationship with God.