

Mid-East Prophecy Update – December 11th, 2016

- For today's prophecy update I will address the significance of an important development that for the most part went unreported.
- What I'm speaking of are the air strikes in Syria by Israel specifically targeting the city of Damascus, taking place this last week.
- For those who are students and teachers of Bible prophecy, this has profound prophetic implications as it relates to Isaiah 17:1.

Isaiah 17:1 -- A prophecy against Damascus: "See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins.

Jeremiah 49:23–27 (NKJV) — 23 Against Damascus. "Hamath and Arpad are shamed, For they have heard bad news. They are fainthearted; There is trouble on the sea; It cannot be quiet. 24 Damascus has grown feeble; She turns to flee, And fear has seized her. Anguish and sorrows have taken her like a woman in labor. 25 Why is the city of praise not deserted, the city of My joy? 26 Therefore her young men shall fall in her streets, And all the men of war shall be cut off in that day," says the LORD of hosts. 27 "I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, And it shall consume the palaces of Ben-Hadad."

The fact that the aforementioned Israeli strikes is not being reported, is telling for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that it would expose that which many have suspected all along concerning the cache of weapons of mass destruction underground in Damascus. According to Ynet News, Israel's posture is that of preempting the transfer of said weapons to Hezbollah, who I would argue, already controls Syria, and the weapons with it. Here's some of what Ynet News reported quoting Israeli Defense Minister, Lieberman, "We act primarily to protect the safety of our citizens and defend our sovereignty, and we're trying to prevent the smuggling of sophisticated weapons, military equipment and weapons of mass destruction from Syria to Hezbollah," ...He reiterated that Israel had no intention of interfering in the civil war in Syria, but noted that "when I am asked, time and time again, what should be the nature of a possible future accord in Syria, I say and repeat that it doesn't matter what accord it reached because in any case, the Iranians and Assad cannot be part of the accord."

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4889749,00.html>

On Wednesday, The Jerusalem Post also published a report on the strikes in which they quote a military source via Syria's SANA state media, who said, "The Israeli enemy launched at 3:00 am Wednesday a number of surface-to-surface missiles from inside the occupied territories to the west of Tall Abu al-Nada (hill) that landed in the surroundings of al-Mezzeh Airport west of Damascus." ...According to Syrian reports the strike would "only make the Syrian Arab Army even more determined to cut off the hands of the terrorists agents of the Zionist entity, which should be held fully responsible for the repercussions and consequences of these criminal attacks." ...The IDF has neither confirmed nor denied the alleged strikes, as is their policy regarding foreign reports on purported Israeli strikes. Damascus has still not confirmed the report. The allegations mark the second instance of suspected Israeli strikes against targets in Syria in two weeks. ...In April, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu admitted for the first time that the IDF had carried out strikes in Syrian territory. "We will not agree to the supply of advanced weaponry to Hezbollah from Syria and Lebanon," he said at the time. "We will not agree to the creation of a second terror front on the Golan Heights. These are the red lines that we have set and they remain the red lines of the State of Israel."

...On Tuesday night the IDF Spokesman's twitter account posted a map showing over 200 towns and villages which Hezbollah uses as operations bases, as well as thousands of potential targets that Israel could strike. Speaking at the Jerusalem Post Diplomatic Conference in late November, Brig.Gen. Ram Yavne, Head of the IDF Strategic Division said that almost every Shiite village of neighborhood in southern Lebanon is being used Hezbollah fighters. One civilian village pointed out by Yavne, Chakra which has 4,000 Shiite inhabitants, "reflects the situation every neighborhood, town, or village of Shiite in Lebanon. In that village, 1/3 of the homes includes a military assets of Hezbollah." Several weapons warehouses, rocket launching sites, anti-tank positions, underground infrastructures and a command post in Chakra was identified on the map.

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=474672>

- I suppose the question becomes one of, where is all of this going and perhaps more importantly, what does all this mean to us?
- While I in no way wish to come off as sensational or provocative, I'm personally of the belief that the stakes couldn't be higher.
- This because of none other than Russia and Iran, both of who are positioning themselves at the ready in real time as we speak.

- Perhaps it goes without saying, but this is further evidence of Bible prophecy concerning Syria being a catalyst for Ezekiel 38.
- I would suggest that once Isaiah 17 is fulfilled it will become the trigger of sorts that brings about the fulfillment of Ezekiel 38-39.
- That's not to say that it's happening now, but it's also not to say that it's not happening now. The problem is most are unaware.

- I'm hoping you'll kindly indulge me for the remainder of our time together, as I share three main reasons people are oblivious.
- The first reason people are unaware of the seriousness of the geopolitical significance prophetically, is because they're asleep.
- Just as we're unaware of our surroundings when sleeping physically, so too are we unaware when we're sleeping spiritually.

Romans 13:11–14 (NIV) — 11 And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

- The second reason people are unaware is they're caught up with the things of this world, and gratifying the desires of the flesh.
- Simply put, people love the world and the things of this world, and this makes disables them spiritually in their love for the Lord.
- In other words, if you love the world or the things in the world, you're unable, or disabled, when it comes to the things of God.

1 John 2:15-17 (NKJV) — 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

- This actually ties into the third reason as well, however, this reason is dangerously subtle in the sense that it can blindsides you.
- This third reason for people, specifically Christians, being unaware of that which is coming, is because it's a time of celebration.
- Instead of trepidation or tribulation, Christians see this as a time of celebration, by virtue of Trumps inauguration in just 39 days.

- I'm keenly aware that I could be accused of being a killjoy when I say this but 39 days in terms of the Middle East is a long time.
- As such, anything could happen, and were that to be the case, Christians who let down their guard, would be totally blindsided.
- It's for this reason that we as Christians in the midst of our celebration should hear and heed the warning that's now sounding.

We saw this on Thursday night in our midweek Bible study through 2 Chronicles, where in chapter 7:11-14, God appears to Solomon to warn him while he and all of Israel with him are in the midst of the grand and glorious celebration of the temple dedication, 11 Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's house; and Solomon successfully accomplished all that came into his heart to make in the house of the LORD and in his own house. 12 Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. 13 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, 14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

- I find it interesting that God would appear to Solomon at night and say this to him during their grand and glorious celebration.
- One has to question the timing of God's warning. To me it speaks to how we're vulnerable to a great fall, after a great victory.
- This is what the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:12 he says therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

- In closing, let me say, if you've never called upon the name of the Lord Jesus to be saved, I would implore you to do so today.
- I'll explain how, by sharing with you what one has called the ABC's of Salvation. The A is for Admit. Admit that you're a sinner.
- The B is for Believe. Believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord. The C is for Call. Call upon the name of the Lord; you'll be saved.