

Mid-East Prophecy Update – December 18th, 2016

- Before we get to today's prophecy update I want to quickly apprise you of what we're going to Saturday night, New Years Eve.
- We'll have a special prophecy update with question and answer time with questions sent in advance by way of social media.
- Here's how, Twitter @jdfarag, Facebook at Wahid JD Farag or J.d. Farag, YouTube Channel, email, cckoffice808@gmail.com.

- Also, while I'm at it, I would also like to apprise you of our mailing address change now that we are in our new church building.
- This because, we have a number of online members who give financially via mail, which we're so very grateful and thankful for.
- As such, please note our permanent address: Calvary Chapel Kaneohe -- 47-525 Kamehameha Hwy -- Kaneohe, HI 96744.

- For today's prophecy update I'd like to address the breaking news last week concerning what's happening in the city of Aleppo.
- More specifically, it's prophetic significance as it relates to Bible prophecies concerning Damascus, Syria, Russia and Iran.
- What follows I would argue is the evidence proving beyond a reasonable doubt that Isaiah 17 will be the catalyst for Ezekiel 38.

- In order to do that, I first want to explain, by way of a map, why Aleppo is so strategic in terms of Assad controlling Damascus.
- It's important to understand Aleppo was once Syria's largest city located in the North next to Damascus the capitol in the South.
- This is why recapturing Aleppo strengthens Assad and this thanks to both Russia's air support, and Iran's Shiite militia forces.

- While this recent victory in Aleppo doesn't gain Assad's total control of Syria, it helps to reestablish his regime in Damascus.
- However, this comes packaged with the potential for ISIS and al-Qaeda to take advantage of Syria's moderate rebel forces.
- In other words, instead of bringing stability, the regime's retaking of Aleppo, may in fact create just the opposite as a result.

- Here's the bottom line, now that Aleppo is, as one news source said it, "reduced to rubble," Damascus can't be too far behind.
- If the experts are right, and I suspect that they are, it may be just a matter of time before the opposition regroupes and attacks.
- In addition to that possibility, you have Israel's attacks on targets in Damascus to preempt the weapons falling into their hands.

With that understanding, I'll begin with this National Review article written on Monday, prior to the fall of Aleppo, in which the writer presents five predictions about what will happen after Aleppo falls, none of which bode well for America, and all of which point to the forming of the perfect prophetic storm in Damascus. Simply put, Russia and Iran are now as emboldened as America is embarrassed. Here are a couple of brief quotes from the article, "The Bashar al-Assad–Ayatollah Khamenei–Hassan Nasrallah–Vladimir Putin axis is smiling." ...the Russians are proudly rejecting American demands that Sunni rebels be given safe passage out of Aleppo. It's Obama vs. Putin 101. Unwilling to pressure Russia, Obama is simply ignored by Putin. Through this public display of American impotence, Putin asserts his grand strategy in the Middle East. In the Middle East, where influence is defined by fear and by perceptions of power, Putin is seizing influence and control over American allies. In early October 2015, President Obama claimed that "an attempt by Russia and Iran to prop up Assad and try to pacify the population is just going to get them stuck in a quagmire, and it won't work." Aleppo's rubble has proved Obama wrong. His misjudgment has come at a heavy cost. In the lacerated lungs and starved stomachs of 200,000 Syrian civilians, American credibility has turned to ashes. In its place, Putin's KGB phoenix is rising. <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/442960/after-aleppo-falls-five-predictions-none-good-america>

It should probably come as no surprise that Russia's Foreign ministry would say that the loss of the Iran nuclear deal would be unforgivable. According to YNet News, the ministry also said it was disappointed by plans by the United States to extend its Iran Sanctions Act by 10 years. <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4893562,00.html>

Enter Israel, and Benjamin Netanyahu's most interesting 60 Minutes interview. To say that this was telling would be a gross understatement for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that it was riddled with prophetic significance. When asked about the aforementioned Iran nuclear deal, Netanyahu said the only good thing about the deal was "...that it brought the Arab states and Israel closer together. He went on to say, ...All I can tell you is that Israel's position in the Arab world has changed..." to which Leslie Stahl responded, "We hear that you have dramatically improved your relationship with Egypt. Is that correct?" Benjamin Netanyahu: Yes. -- Lesley Stahl: Jordan? -- Benjamin Netanyahu: Yes. -- Lesley Stahl: Saudi Arabia? -- Benjamin Netanyahu: No comment. -- Lesley Stahl: I have to ask you, because it's the most fascinating of all: Israel and Saudi Arabia. Are you actually developing an anti-Iran alliance in the Middle East? -- Benjamin Netanyahu: Doesn't have to be developed. It's there anyway. Israel is developing a whole skein of new alliances, in some cases with countries that have been challenging the U.S. around the world like Russia, which has placed its troops in Syria, Israel's next door neighbor. -- Lesley Stahl: How would you describe your relationship with Russia right now? -- Benjamin Netanyahu: It's amicable. But the minute Mr. Putin decided to put his military forces in Syria, I went to see him. And I said, "Look, here's what I'm doing. I'm not intervening in Syria. But at the same time, if Syria tries to intervene with us, if Iran tries to use Syria to attack us, we'll stop it. -- Lesley Stahl: You're telling Mr. Putin that you will attack? -- Benjamin Netanyahu: I said, "We should avoid this." ...Then towards the end of the article, Netanyahu reiterated his position concerning the Two State Solution with Jews and Palestinians living side by side in peace and security saying, "Two states for two peoples. And that's where I'm focused. Yeah, I'd like to have President Trump, when he gets into the White House, help me work on that. I'd like to see if the Arab states can help me achieve that. It's a new reality. A new possibility.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/60-minutes-benjamin-netanyahu-us-israel-relations-donald-trump/>

As you might imagine, this unleashed a firestorm of criticism chief of which was reported by Arutz Sheva on Tuesday, in which the question is asked, 'Why on earth did Netanyahu offer Trump a Palestinian state?' Here's some of what the report had to say, Samaria Regional Council head Yossi Dagan blasted Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu over his comments in a 60 Minutes interview broadcast on Sunday, in which the Prime Minister called for President-elect Donald Trump's help in achieving a two-state solution. ...Dagan, a supporter of Trump in the recent election, questioned the logic behind Netanyahu's dovish turn. "These comments were made right after the Republican Party itself removed the two-state solution from its own party platform," said Dagan, "as a gesture to the State of Israel." "I can't begin to understand why the leader of the national camp would place himself to the left of the US government and offer them what they haven't even asked for." Such statements, Dagan added, were not merely counterproductive, but could be seriously damaging to Israel in the long run, worsening an already precarious geopolitical position. "These comments at this time could potentially be very dangerous for the State of Israel...it could bring political disaster and cause us to miss a historic opportunity."

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/221659>

- It's for these and many other reasons with them I believe there's enough evidence to suggest that prophecies are being fulfilled.
- I'm hoping you'll kindly indulge me for the remainder of our time together as I share with you the specific reasons I believe this.
- In the interest of time, I'll present them in a rapid-fire way; so as to provide you the information you need for your own research.

Reason #1 - When Damascus becomes an uninhabitable heap of rubble fulfilling Isaiah 17:1, Ezekiel 38-39 will also be fulfilled

Reason #2 - Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia are not mentioned in Ezekiel 38 as attacking Israel

Reason #3 - The nations that are mentioned in Ezekiel 38 are today at the ready in their alliance to attack Israel via Syria

Reason #4 - The relocation of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is a priority for the President-Elect's administration

Reason #5 - The insatiable quest for peace and security vis-à-vis the Two-State Solution will fulfill 1 Thessalonians 5:13

- In conclusion, I'd like to ask a question that I think we would all do well to ponder and think about in the coming days ahead.
- Can what we're seeing come to pass in the world today be paused, or even stopped, given the current geopolitical momentum?
- I truly believe with all my heart that not only won't it be paused or stopped, it will actually rev up in its frequency and its intensity.

- This is why it's incumbent upon me to implore anyone who has never called upon the name of the Lord to be saved, to do so.
- While I in no way wish to insult anyone's intelligence, I do want to share the gospel in all of its childlike, not childish simplicity.
- Unless we come to Christ, and are changed by Christ, becoming as humble and teachable as a child we won't enter heaven.

Matthew 18:1-6 (NKJV) — 1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. 6 "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

I found a video online that I think illustrates the childlike simplicity of the gospel. Perhaps you've seen other versions of this video, but I'd like to take you through it in closing. Pictured here are three jars, one of which has tap water, which represents us. The second has water and iodine, which represents sin, and the third has water and bleach, which represents Christ. This illustration demonstrates how sin muddies us, the sinlessness and purity of Jesus, and the power He has to wash away our sins—and all sin. This because, all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and there's no remission of sin without the shedding of blood, which is why Jesus went to the cross where His blood was shed in our stead. In so doing, He paid in full for all our sins, and we are forgiven and cleansed of all our unrighteousness.

<http://aleteia.org/2015/06/29/video-a-science-experiment-to-show-how-christ-washes-away-sin/>