

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

- Before we get to today's prophecy update, I just want to quickly mention I'm going to be on a vacation for the next two weeks.
- This because, some dear friends of ours provided us with the finances to actually take a vacation instead of just a staycation.
- As such, I'm excited to tell you that Pastor Bud Stonebraker as well as Danny Lehmann will be filling in for me in my absence.

- For today's prophecy update I want to zero in on the meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Vladimir Putin.
- I have to say that I was rather frustrated with the lack of reporting on this important meeting between these two world leaders.
- Perhaps it was due in large part to the breaking news here in the U.S., which seems to have virtually eclipsed everything else.

- I suppose the coverage here in America needs to be on the repealing and replacing ObamaCare, though riddled with confusion.
- Also, I suppose the new travel ban order needs to be covered as well, especially given that Hawaii is the first to challenge this.
- However, while these developments do have prophetic significance on the world stage, Israel and Russia supersede all of it.

I'll begin with this Haaretz report on said meeting, in which they quote Netanyahu telling Putin that Israel would object to any permanent Iranian presence in Syria. Quoting the report, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday he had stressed in his talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin that Israel would object to any settlement that left Iran or any of its satellites permanently in Syria, for a deal to end the country's civil war. "I made this clear and I think the message was internalized," ...He added that he wanted to clarify for Putin Israel's position regarding any political settlement in Syria. "It was important for me that even if a settlement took time, that Israel's position will remain clear," Netanyahu said. "I stressed our strong opposition to Iran or its satellites establishing themselves in Syria. We see that Iran is trying to establish a naval base in Syria. "This has serious implications for Israeli security. I told Putin this would threaten stability and hurt the possibility of achieving a political settlement in Syria," Netanyahu said. At the start of his meeting with Putin, Netanyahu said that Israel does not want the radical Sunni terrorism of Al-Qaida and the Islamic State group in Syria to replace the radical Shi'ite terrorism led by Iran. After Putin wished Netanyahu a happy Purim, the prime minister responded by saying that in ancient Persia there was an attempt to destroy the Jewish people, but it failed, and that's why the holiday is celebrated to this day. "Today there is an attempt and the continuation of Persia, Iran, to destroy the Jewish state. They say it in the clearest terms possible, they engrave it into their ballistic missiles," Netanyahu said.

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.776201>

I found Putin's response to Netanyahu's Purim comparison very interesting. According to The Times of Israel, Putin not only rejected it, he is reported to have rebuked Netanyahu for dwelling on it. Here's some of what the Times had to say, Russian President Vladimir Putin told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to stop living in the past Thursday, after the Israeli premier tried to tie tensions with Iran to an upcoming Jewish holiday about a thwarted genocide of Jews in ancient Persia. In a meeting with Putin in Moscow, Netanyahu said Persia had made "an attempt to destroy the Jewish people that did not succeed" some 2,500 years ago, an event commemorated through the Jewish holiday of Purim, ... "Today there is an attempt by Persia's heir, Iran, to destroy the state of the Jews," Netanyahu said. "They say this as clearly as possible and inscribe it on their ballistic missiles." Adopting a conciliatory tone, Putin said that the events described by Netanyahu had taken place "in the fifth century B.C." "We now live in a different world. Let us talk about that now," Putin said. The exchange highlighted the radically divergent world views of the two leaders: Netanyahu has said he sees himself as the guardian of the Jewish people against existential threats, most notably from Iran and its nuclear program. Putin, on the other hand, has sought to maintain positive ties with Tehran, including by selling the country the advanced S-300 anti-aircraft system over Israel's objections. The holiday of Purim commemorates the biblical tale of Jews Mordechai and Esther thwarting a plan by Persian viceroy Haman to slaughter the Jewish people, and is celebrated by reading the Megillah of Esther, dressing up in costumes, exchanging packages of food and festive eating and drinking. ...There was no immediate Iranian response to Netanyahu and Putin's exchange.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/rejecting-purim-spiel-putin-tells-netanyahu-to-stop-dwelling-on-past/>

At about the same time Netanyahu met with Putin about Iran in Syria, "Haley's Comet," struck yet again. I'm speaking of course about our UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, who according to the Jewish Press, made it very clear in no uncertain terms that Iran and their Proxies are to get out of Syria. -- President Donald Trump's UN Ambassador Nikki Haley told reporters on Wednesday that in order to stabilize Syria, it must not be allowed to remain a "safe haven for terrorists," and that it is vital "we get Iran and their proxies out." ...Haley would not comment on the issue of forcing Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to step down. Assad enjoys heavy support from Russia, Iran, and Iran's proxy Hezbollah.

<http://www.jewishpress.com/news/us-news/un-envoy-nikki-haley-lets-get-iran-and-their-proxies-out-of-syria/2017/03/09/>

It seems that Nikki Haley had a very busy week not only addressing Iran in Syria but also the Palestinians in the UN. Breaking Israel News, on Wednesday, published an article about how Nikki Haley had warned the Palestinians that the UN won't be helping them anymore. Quoting the article, "Palestinians should not look to the United Nations for a solution to its conflict with Israel, US Ambassador Nikki Haley warned in her first meeting with the Palestinian Authority's envoy to the UN on Tuesday. Haley, who in her short tenure has already made clear at the UN that the international body's bias against Israel is unacceptable..."

<https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/84793/united-nations-envoy-haley-palestinians-dont-look-un-solution/#5WWvhP1tcRq81MDX.99>

- Here's where I'm going with this, the Russian Iranian led alliance of nations attacking Israel vis-à-vis Syria, is coming to a head.
- I'm of the belief that Syria is the catalyst (Isaiah 17), for Russia and Iran et al., launching a nuclear attack on Israel (Ezekiel 38).
- But God! But God will thwart this attack against Israel just as Esther for such a time as this vis-à-vis Mordecai thwarted it then.

- I'll bring it to a close with what I will argue is a picture of the rapture of the Church, prior to the seven year tribulation in Esther.
- Here's how I get there, Vashti, a type of the Gentile bride is removed prior to Haman a type of antichrist comes onto the scene.
- Like the antichrist, Haman demands that he be bowed down to and worshipped, which takes place during the 7-year tribulation.

- Enter Esther, who is now the focus of all the attention, like with Israel, in the tribulation, for the salvation, of the Jewish nation.
- Enter also, Mordecai, who is a type of Christ, defeating Haman, a type of the antichrist, who is killed instead of killing the Jews.
- As such, the Persian/Iranian attempt to destroy Israel is thwarted, and at the time of the end, the nations know Jehovah is God.

Ezekiel 38:23 (NKJV) — 23 Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.” ’

- This is the question before every one of us today, “do I know the Lord?” “Have I called upon the name of the Lord to be saved?”
- 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.