

Mid-East Prophecy Update – May 7th, 2017

- For today's prophecy update I'm hoping that you'll bear with me as I address three matters in the time we have together today.
- The first matter is that of my comments last week concerning spiritual departure vs. physical departure in 2 Thessalonians 2:3.
- The second matter has to do with the significant developments last week, and the third is regarding the pre-tribulation rapture.

- First, concerning 2 Thessalonians 2:3, please know that I'm hoping to speak with both Dr. Andy Woods & Dr. Mark Hitchcock.
- I have the utmost respect for these men who I see as true Bible scholars, and have the privilege of joining them this October.
- As such, I would humbly and kindly ask both sides of this discussion to take the higher road of agreeing to disagree agreeably.

Now for the second matter concerning I'll start with the meeting between President Trump and Mahmoud Abbas at the White House. What follows are statements made by both men. First, Trump, "Mr. President, you signed your name to the first Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. ... And I want to support you in being the Palestinian leader who signs his name to the final and most important peace agreement that brings safety, stability, and prosperity to both peoples and to the region. ... And I will do whatever is necessary to facilitate the agreement — to mediate, to arbitrate anything they'd like to do. ... And we will get this done. We want to create peace between Israel and the Palestinians. We will get it done. We will be working so hard to get it done. It's been a long time, but we will be working diligently. And I think there's a very, very good chance, and I think you feel the same way. — Abbas, "Mr. President, our strategic option, our strategic choice is to bring about peace based on the vision of the two-state — a Palestinian state with its capital of East Jerusalem that lives in peace and stability with the state of Israel based on the borders of 1967." After stating that "ISIS ... has nothing to do with our noble religion," Abbas went on to say, "Mr. President, we believe that we are capable and able to bring about success to our efforts because, Mr. President, you have the determination and you have the desire to see it become to fruition and to become successful. And we, Mr. President, inshallah, ... we are coming into a new opportunity, a new horizon that would enable us to bring about peace in that regard. ... Mr. President, it's about time for Israel to end its occupation of our people and of our land after 50 years. We are the only remaining people in the world that still live under occupation. We are aspiring and want to achieve our freedom, our dignity, and our right to self-determination. And we also want for Israel to recognize the Palestinian state just as the Palestinian people recognize the state of Israel. Mr. President, I affirm to you that we are raising our youth, our children, our grandchildren on a culture of peace. And we are endeavoring to bring about security, freedom and peace for our children to live like the other children in the world, along with the Israeli children in peace, freedom and security. Mr. President, I bring with me today ... the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people from the Holy Land, from that land where the three monotheist religions thrived, and the Jewish faith, the Christian faith and the Muslim faith, where they all coexist together to foster it in an environment of security, peace and stability, and love for all." Then, Trump made the following closing statement in response to Abbas saying, "Over the course of my lifetime, I've always heard that perhaps the toughest deal to make is the deal between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Let's see if we can prove them wrong. Okay?"

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/full-text-of-trump-abbas-joint-white-house-statements/>

That was Wednesday, then on Friday, Ynet News published a report that Western sources allegedly claimed that Donald Trump's government rejected an Israeli offer to postpone his visit to the region to June, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War. This was reported in the Arab newspaper Al-Hayat on Saturday. The same sources claimed that the Israeli side proposed to change the date of the visit, which is expected to take place on May 22, to the beginning of June, but the White House refused the proposal. They argued, among other things, that the timing could harm the American position because it places the United States in a very biased position alongside Israel.

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4957982,00.html>

What's interesting about Trump's upcoming visit is that speculation abounds concerning his recognizing of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and perhaps more importantly, the relocating of the US Embassy to Jerusalem. On Tuesday, The Times of Israel reported that Israeli President, Reuven Rivlin called on the world's nations to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and move their embassies to the city. Minutes after the United Nations' cultural agency voted on a resolution denying Israel's ties to the city, the president told foreign ambassadors stationed in Israel that it was "absurd" that the world refuses to recognize that Jerusalem is the capital of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. ... Foreign dignitaries have been coming to Jerusalem for 70 years to participate in official meetings at the Knesset, the President's Residence and the Prime Minister's Office, Rivlin said. Addressing the gathered diplomats directly, the 77-year-old Rivlin said that when most of them were born, Jerusalem was already Israel's capital city. "You were born to the fact of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. You know no other reality. Since the days of King David, there was not, there is not, and there never will be any other reality," he said.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/president-urges-world-to-recognize-jerusalem-move-embassies/>

- In the interest of time and at the risk of an oversimplification, I would submit these developments are fulfilling key prophecies.
- Specifically, Zechariah 12, Daniel 9, which are interconnected with other key prophecies such as Isaiah 17 and Ezekiel 38-39.
- It's for this reason that I believe we are so close to the rapture by virtue of these prophecies fulfillment in the 7-year tribulation.

- This brings us to the third matter, which is that of why the rapture of the church has to take place before the 7-year Tribulation.
- In 2011, I did a series by that title, and talked about the typology woven into the fabric of the ancient Jewish wedding customs.

- The reason I wanted to revisit this today is because today is Communion Sunday, and the Lord's Table is part of this typology.

| The Jewish Wedding | Our Wedding | Scriptures |
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| The groom's father makes the match (Shiddukhin) and chooses the bride, and the groom approves the choice. | The Father chooses us the bride, and Jesus approved the choice. | John 10:28, 15:16 |
| A marriage covenant (Ketubah) is made in writing for the bride as a promise to the bride that it will be fulfilled. | A new covenant is made in the written Word of God, for us the bride. The Old Covenant Promise is fulfilled. | 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 |
| They would then break bread and drink from the cup to seal the betrothal (Kiddushin) and new covenant. | He breaks bread and drinks from the cup at the last supper sealing His New Covenant in His blood. | Matthew 26:27-29 Luke 22:14-20 |
| The groom pays the price (Mohar) showing the bride his love for her. | Jesus paid the price for us on the cross. This shows us the bride how there's no greater loves for us. | 1 Corinthians 6:20 John 15:23 |
| The groom makes a speech of promise to his bride that he would come for her soon. | Jesus' speech is recorded as a promise to us His bride, that He will come again for us soon. | John 14:1-3 |
| The groom prepares a place for His bride and builds a room addition on his father's house. | Jesus says He goes to prepare a place for us in His Father's house where there are many rooms. | John 14:1-3 |
| The Father is the only one who knows the day or hour of the grooms return for his bride. | Jesus said that no one but the Father knows the day or hour of His return for us, as His bride. | Mark 13:32-33 |
| The groom gives the bride love gifts (Mattan). | Jesus our groom gives us His bride gifts of love, eternal life, peace, etc. | John 10:22-28 John 14:13-14, 27 |
| The Father gives the bride gifts (Shiluhim) to equip her for her new life, as an inheritance. | We are given the gifts of the Holy Spirit and our spiritual gifts are from the Father for us in our new life in Him, and with Him. | John 14:16-17 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Galatians 5:22 |
| The bride would then take a purifying bath or Mikveh which is the Hebrew word for baptism. | We are baptized in the Holy Spirit Who cleanses and purifies us. | Acts 1:4 |
| The bride's unmarried friends (bridesmaids) attend to the bride and provide light for the groom Who will come as a thief in the night. | We prepare the bride by letting our light shine so the bride is ready for the groom who will come as a thief in the night. | Matthew 25:1-13 |
| The bridegroom comes, the grooms' men run ahead and shout that He is coming by blowing the Shofar. | When our bridegroom comes, it will be with a shout of the trumpet that Jesus is coming. | Rev. 4:1 / 1 Thes. 4:16-17 / 1 Cor. 15:51-52 |
| The groom snatches away and abducts his bride. | Jesus, our groom will rapture us away as He abducts us as His bride. | Luke 17:34-36 |
| The groom takes his bride to the chamber: they consummate (Nissuin), and celebrate for a period of seven (Shavuah) days. | Jesus will take us to His bridal chamber where we will consummate and celebrate for a period of seven (Shavuah) years. | Joel 2:15-16 Daniel 9:27 |
| The party waits outside until the groom tells the best man that it is consummated. Then the guests rejoice for a period of seven days. | During our seven year celebration, the world goes through the seven year tribulation. | Revelation 19:7-8 |
| There is a big feast, (the wedding feast), after the wedding celebration. | We too, after the seven year celebration, have the Marriage Feast of The Lamb. | Revelation 19:9 |
| There were three groups present at the wedding: the groom, the bride, and the invited guests. | There will also be three groups of people involved in the marriage of the Lamb: The Groom –Jesus, The Bride-Church and the Guests- those saved after the Rapture, at the end of the seven year tribulation. | 2 Corinthians. 11:2, Ephesians 5:23-27 Revelation 21:9-10 Rev 7:13-14 |
| The new home of the bride was Jerusalem and it was the bridegroom who came to the bride to dwell with her. | It is from the new Jerusalem that the believers in the Messiah during the Messianic age, or Millennium, will reign with the Messiah. | Rev. 21:1-4 Ezekiel 43:1-2,7 Isaiah 2:2-4 Micah 4:1-5 |