

Mid-East Prophecy Update – July 16th, 2017

- For today's prophecy update I want to address the prophetic significance of the terror attack, taking place on the Temple Mount.
- There are three aspects of this attack that I'd like for us to focus on, the first of which is the unusual nature of this particular one.
- Second, the usual media coverage that ensued, and perhaps more importantly, thirdly, where all of this may in fact be heading.

I'll begin with the unusual nature of this attack and this Times of Israel report about how Friday's attack was something else other than the all too familiar terror in the Old City. Quoting the Times, "Nearly every aspect of Friday's terror attack in Jerusalem, in which two police officers were gunned down, stands out as irregular, even after two years of almost weekly attacks in the Old City. ...As details came out about the attack, it was immediately clear that this was not a normal shooting. Everything from its location to the identities of those involved and the responses to the attack were sui generis." (*Unique in nature, unlike anything else*). ..."For the first time in decades, Israel closed the Temple Mount to visitors on a Friday, which is ordinarily one of the most popular times for Muslims to visit the holy site. ...After attacks in the Old City in the past, the government has at most restricted entrance to the Temple Mount — typically only allowing in elderly men and women — not shut it down entirely."

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/terror-in-the-old-city-is-all-too-familiar-but-fridays-attack-was-something-else/>

While this particular attack was very unusual, the media's coverage was very usual. According to The Jerusalem Post, "As usual, some of the world media has it backwards. Three terrorists opened fire on a group of policemen at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City on Friday morning, killing two and injuring three before the attackers were killed by police, the Israel Police and paramedics said. Of course, this is not always the story being reflected by most of global media. AFP, sourcing from the Turkish Anadolu Agency, reported "Palestinians shot dead by Israeli forces at Al Aqsa Mosque." The text continues: "Israeli forces take security measures at the scene after Israeli police shot three Palestinians who allegedly carried a gun and opened fire before killed by them, [sic] near the Lion's Gate, in Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem." The New York Times avoided their common blunder of posing attackers as victims, but originally went with: "In Jerusalem, Gunmen Stage Brazen Attack Near Temple Mount." They have since updated the headline to "2 Israeli Police Officers Killed in Attack in Old City of Jerusalem."

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=499705>

The unusual attack and the usual media coverage begs the all important question of where is all of this heading, and perhaps we need look no further than to this Times of Israel article about how the aim of the three Temple Mount killers was to set the Middle East ablaze. Quoting the Times, "They knew that a shooting attack at the most incendiary spot in the Middle East would be likely to prompt a major escalation. They anticipated that a shooting spree at the Temple Mount compound, which would end with their deaths too, would gain massive media coverage — and knew that previous such incidents had set in motion a still more bloody chain of events. And indeed, very soon after their attack, social media was flowing with footage from the scene, including of Israeli Border Police shooting one of the attackers, apparently injured, as he sprung up and lunged at cops with a knife. ...Friday's trio came to the Temple Mount ready to die. ... And their intentions were wider: Not a self-contained shooting spree like Milhem's, but an attack, at the incendiary Temple Mount, intended to set the Middle East ablaze.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/temple-mount-killers-aimed-to-set-the-middle-east-ablaze/#>

I find it rather ironic that the terrorist attack meant to incite was itself incited by the likes of not only the media, but UNESCO as well. According to Deputy Defense Minister Eli Ben-Dahan, who was quoted in The Jerusalem Post, there's a direct connection between recent UNESCO decisions leaving out Israeli and Jewish connections to holy sites and the terrorist attack. "The Cave of the Patriarchs, Temple Mount and Nablus are three places that our Sages said were bought with money in the Land of Israel, and there is no denying their belonging to the Jewish People," ... "We see that in the last week there is a major Palestinian effort to erase the connection of these places to the Jewish People. It started with the UNESCO decision that the Cave of the Patriarchs is a Palestinian heritage site and continues today with the terrorist attack on the Temple Mount." ...The Knesset Caucus for the Temple Mount, ...said the terrorist attack was supported by the Palestinian Authority and the Islamic Movement in order to erase Jewish ties to the site. "We cannot stand by quietly while this happens," they stated. "Radical Muslims who violate with blood the holiness of the Temple Mount, the holiest place for the Jewish People, have no right to be there." The caucus called for security forces to find those who sent the terrorists and respond "with a painful and disproportionate strike."

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=499698>

- I would suggest and I think you would all agree that this is exactly what we're told would happen in the Bible concerning Israel.
- Specifically as it relates to Jerusalem becoming both the burdensome stone and the intoxicating obsession of the entire world.

Zechariah 12:1-3 (NKJV) — 1 The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: 2 "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. 3 And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

- I'll take it further and suggest along with Zechariah's prophecy, it's a matter of time before the fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy.

Ezekiel 38:10–13 (NKJV) — 10 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: 11 You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'—12 to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land. 13 Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, 'Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?' " '

I want to recommend an outstanding OpEd piece that was in "The Jerusalem Post" on Monday by Brian Schrauger titled, Israel and the unexpected new world order. While it should be read in its entirety, I do want to highlight some interesting assertions that I believe have fascinating implications as to why and how Isaiah 17/Ezekiel 38-39 will go down. In the interest of time, I'll first quote Schrauger then quickly cover some of the bullet points. First the quotes, "In the new and surprising economic world order, Israel could gain a degree of wealth not seen since the days of King Solomon. ...Over the past eight years, many unexpected diplomatic changes have occurred. The Islamic Republic of Iran has formed a partnership with the "infidel" nation of Russia. Less than two years ago, Russia moved into Syria, and shows no signs of leaving. And Syria, despite its own problem with radical Islam, has strengthened bonds with Iran's fundamentalist regime. ...As for Israel, how is it that this small country, a mere sliver of land, is accorded such deference? The world's only Jewish state is making deals with Turkey, Russia and China, in spite of their alliances with Iran, which is dedicated to Israel's annihilation. Why is Jerusalem pursuing such deals? And, ambivalent at best about Israel, why are these nations agreeing to them? A new world order, difficult for the West to recognize, answers many of these questions."

1. The first answer lies in what's known as the Belt and Road Initiative, which will take an estimated \$7.5 trillion to develop.
2. The benefit of this is nothing less than an explosion of prosperity, not just for participating countries but for the whole world.
3. However, Israel's huge gas and oil fields are on the verge of piping fuel directly to Europe, cutting into Russia's market.
4. Israel is transporting goods via China's land and sea roads but may use an alternate route to Egypt's costly Suez Canal.
5. Add to this the fact that all trade is controlled online, and Israel is currently positioned to guard the world's Internet.
6. Israel emerging as the world's guardian of the web means it is also positioned to be the center of both the road belts.
7. Also, many worry China could trigger a global currency collapse, which may wipe the slate clean of nation-based currencies.
8. This has the propensity to usher in a new Internet-based global currency that Israel will likely to be the guardian of as well.
9. This explains the willingness of Russia and China to negotiate with Israel today; but it may invoke resentment tomorrow.
10. Feeding that resentment will be the matter of Iran's determination to annihilate the Jewish state, which will be irresistible.
11. For the sake of trade, China does not want this war. For the same reason, neither does Russia.

Listen to Schrauger's conclusion at the end of the article, "For the sake of trade, China does not want this war. For the same reason, neither does Russia. Perhaps someone will come along and, strictly for the sake of business, bring peace to the Middle East. But if such a treaty failed, or if for any reason Israel becomes an economic threat to BRICS and One Belt One Road, it is feasible that Russia will descend, China will march and Tehran will launch. Why? To extract the sliver-sized country, to unblock the flow of commerce, and to deal with "the Jewish problem" once and for all. <http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=499310>

- I'm of the belief that the literal and digital roads economically, may in fact be that which connects the Biblical dots prophetically.

- It's for this reason that I would implore anyone who has never called upon the name of the Lord to be saved, to do this today.
- If you'll hear me out for just a few more minutes before we partake together of communion, I would like to explain how to you.
- I do so by way of the ABC's of salvation, which is a childlike simple presentation of the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

A is for Admit you're a sinner – Romans 3:23 says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The B is for Believe. Romans 10:9-10 says if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. The C is for Call. Romans 10:9-10 also says if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:13 says that all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.