

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

- For today's prophecy update I want for us to try a somewhat unique approach concerning Christians as it relates to prophecy.
- The reason I want to do this is because of something the Lord ministered to me this last week as it relates to the church today.
- I'm hoping all of us myself included, will examine ourselves by way of what Jesus had John write to two churches in Revelation.

Revelation 3:10–11 (NKJV) — 10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Revelation 3:15–20 (NKJV) — 15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

- The reason I'm starting with these two letters to these two churches is because they both speak to two types of churches today.
- Perhaps more specifically, they speak to two kinds of Christians in the church today in this the very last hour of human history.
- While I realize that this may be an oversimplification, all of us are either Philadelphia Christians, or we are Laodicea Christians.

- What's striking to me in these letters to these last two of the seven churches in Revelation is the stark contrast between them.
- The Laodiceans are very rich by the world's standards and become lukewarm because of it, while Philadelphia is persevering.
- So much so, that Jesus encourages them by telling them He is coming very soon, and that they need to hang on to their crown.

2 Timothy 4:6–8 (NKJV) — 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

- For Laodicean Christians, this crown of righteousness for those longing for His appearing is the furthest thing from their minds.
- This because, they're not watching for the Lord, they're watching the stock market be "great again" at historic and record highs.
- As such, they see themselves as being rich, having become wealthy, and in need of nothing, not realizing how blind they are.

- As I was pondering all of this, I wondered what it would be like if you were to bring a Philadelphia and Laodicea Christian here.
- What would their response be if you were to ask them questions about all the prophetic signs of the times in the year 2017?
- Actually, let's do that with what I would argue are the just two of the most significant developments in terms of Bible prophecy.

The first one has to do with the ongoing conflict concerning the Temple Mount and this Israel Today article about how Israelis are marching and demanding access to Temple Mount as well as the building of Third Temple. Quoting the article, "Monday evening marked the beginning of the Jewish fast of Tisha B'Av, which commemorates the destruction of the First and Second Temples. Thousands of Israelis participated in an annual march around the walls of Jerusalem's Old City, with a special focus on the Temple Mount. Though it is Judaism's holiest site, Jews are still not allowed to pray there due to threats of Muslim violence. Government officials participating in the march noted that the people of Israel are seeking much more than just the right to pray atop a Muslim-occupied Temple Mount. They want the Third Temple. "Everyone who came here tonight proved with his feet that we want the Temple back - and quickly," Deputy Defense Minister Eli Ben Dahan told Arutz 7.

<http://www.israeltoday.co.il/NewsItem/tabid/178/nid/32094/Default.aspx>

- Now if we were to ask the Philadelphia Christian what they think about this news they would probably express their excitement.
- They may even cite specific prophecies in the Bible like the books of Daniel and Revelation, which point to the fulfillment of this.
- Then conversely, were you to ask the Laodicea Christian about this, they would likely not even know what you were talking about.

The second one has to do with the a Wisconsin Company's recent decision to embed microchips into the hands of employees who were willing to have one. I found this USA Today article most interesting, starting with the headline, which read, "'Mark of the beast?' Microchipping employees raises apocalyptic questions." Here's some of what the article had to say, "The end times account in the New Testament's Book of Revelation warns believers about being marked on the right hand and the forehead by the Antichrist. But inserting rice-sized microchips under the skin of Three Square Market employees does not fulfill the prophecy, said Chris Vlachos, a New Testament professor at Wheaton College in Chicago. "I think that this is more of a fulfillment of end times novels and movies than the Book of Revelation itself," Vlachos said. ... Randall Balmer, the chair of the religion department at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, said the Book of Revelation presents a real challenge for those like evangelical Christians who take the Bible seriously and often try to interpret it literally.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/08/04/mark-beast-microchipping-employees-raises-apocalyptic-questions/541869001/>

- So once again, let's ask the Philadelphia Christian what they think about this. I would suggest that they'd take it very seriously.
- I'll take it a step further and suggest that they would even go on to explain how the Book of Revelation is easy to understand.
- Then conversely, were you to ask the Laodicea Christian about this, they would likely not even know what you were talking about.

- The question becomes, what kind of a Christian am I? Would I be a Philadelphia Christian or would I be a Laodicean Christian?
- Maybe you're neither a Philadelphia Christian nor a Laodicean Christian because if the truth were known you're not a Christian.
- Here's the bottom line in closing, whether you're a Laodicean Christian or a non-Christian, you can do something about it today.

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.