

Mid-East Prophecy Update – April 15th, 2018

- I want to preface today's prophecy update with something the Lord has reminded me of over the years to help me stay on track.
- It's the simple truth of when I don't know, I can trust in what I do know, and what I do know is that God is good and in control.
- What I want to talk about today, is what we can know and do know will happen because we're told it will happen in the Bible.

- At the conclusion of today's prophecy update, I want to take it a step further and talk about what all of this means to us today.
- Specifically, what all this means to those who find themselves in a very difficult trial, and are hanging on by a thread as it were.
- Also, for those who may find themselves being paralyzed by fear concerning the uncertainty of the future in a terrifying world.

The Apostle Paul wrote in his second letter to Timothy (1:7), reminding him that the Holy Spirit that God gave us, to indwell us, does not make us fearful, rather, He gives us power, love, and a sound and stable mind, so we don't fall apart emotionally and mentally, when it seems like everything around us is falling apart.

The truth of the matter is, we shouldn't be surprised by what we see happening in the world, because Jesus told us what would happen, before it happened, so when it begins to happen, non-believers would believe and believers would look up and lift up their heads, knowing their redemption draws near.

- I share that to say this, scripture tells us that this is exactly what would happen in the Middle East, specifically related to Syria.
- While there's so much we don't know, what we do know is that Isaiah 17:1 tells us Damascus Syria will be destroyed as a city.
- While we don't know so much about what's really going on with Russia and Iran Ezekiel 38 says they will attack Israel via Syria.

- We also don't know when everything will happen but we do know in 1 Thessalonians 5:3, that destruction will come suddenly.
- Namely, while they are saying "peace and security," sudden destruction will come upon them as a women travailing in labor.
- Furthermore, we're told that they will not escape said sudden destruction, which implies that there will be those who do escape.

What follows, in no particular order are several breaking news reports that I'm convinced beyond a reasonable doubt, point to the soon fulfillment of these aforementioned prophecies in the Bible. I'll begin with Haaretz report yesterday, in which the Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said that the U.S.-led military strike on Syria will cause destruction in the Middle East.

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/iran/iran-s-rohani-syria-attack-will-cause-destruction-in-the-middle-east-1.5995512>

That was yesterday, but on Thursday, prior to the strike on Syria, The Times of Israel, quoted an Iranian official threatening that Iran would destroy Israel, adding, "Iran is not Syria and if Israel wants to survive a few more days, it has to stop this childish game." "Iran has the capability to destroy Israel and given the excuse, Tel Aviv and Haifa will be razed to the ground," he said, according to Iran's Fars news agency.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iranian-official-threatens-to-destroy-israel-if-it-continues-childish-game/>

If you think Israel is going to stand idly by with all these threats of war, think again as evidenced by this Israel Today report about how Israel is threatening to topple the Syrian regime if Iran makes any foolish moves. Quoting the report, "On Tuesday, Iran threatened harsh retaliation after Israel allegedly bombed an Iranian-held air base in central Syria. "The crimes will not remain unanswered," insisted Ali Akbar Velayati, a top adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. On Wednesday, Israeli officials returned the favor, stating that if Iran made any foolish moves then everything it has gained in Syria over the past decade would go up in a puff of smoke. Senior Israeli defense officials told prominent journalist Ben Caspit that Syrian dictator and Iran-ally Bashar "Assad's regime and Assad himself will disappear from the map and the world if the Iranians do try to harm Israel or its interests from Syrian territory."

<http://www.israeltoday.co.il/NewsItem/tabid/178/nid/33777/Default.aspx>

Enter Russia and this Ynet News report quoting Russian President Vladimir Putin as denouncing the strike on Syria launched by the United States and its allies as an "act of aggression" that will exacerbate humanitarian catastrophe in Syria. ...In a statement issued by the Kremlin, the Russian leader said Moscow is calling an emergency meeting of the United Nations' Security Council over the strike launched by the US, Britain and France. Putin added that the strike had a "destructive influence on the entire system of international relations."

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5229987,00.html>

Yesterday, The Times of Israel published the full text of Trump's address regarding airstrikes in Syria, and I want to share a quote from the US President, as I believe it is apropos given everything we've looked at up to this point. "No amount of American blood or treasure can produce lasting peace and security in the Middle East. It's a troubled place. We will try to make it better, but it is a troubled place."

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/full-text-of-trumps-address-regarding-airstrikes-on-syria/>

- As I mentioned at the beginning, I'll conclude today's update by talking about what all of this means to each and everyone of us.
- Especially those who are fearful or very discouraged. I want to take the remainder of our time together today to talk about hope.
- Hope for those who are weary and losing hope and perhaps more importantly for those who are fearful due to their losing hope.

Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 1:3-4 -- 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,