

Mid-East Prophecy Update – May 27th, 2018

- For today's update I want to do something different and step back from the proverbial tree, to better see the prophetic forest.
- This because, so much is happening so fast and what comes packaged with it is this tendency towards a tunnel vision of sorts.
- By that I mean, we all can get hyper-focused on specific Bible prophecy and in so doing, lose sight of the purpose of prophecy.

- Is Damascus, Syria about to become uninhabitable as a pile of rubble according to the prophecy in Isaiah 17? I believe it is.
- Is Russia, Iran, Turkey, et al, all at the ready to attack Israel in order to take a spoil fulfilling Ezekiel 38? I believe that they are.
- Is the world ripe and ready for the antichrist to usher in a seven-year peace plan, according to Daniel 9:27? I truly believe it is.

- It's for these reasons that every week we devote the second half of our time together in God's Word to God's prophetic Word.
- Well nigh one third of God's Word is prophecy, and this for good reason, which is that it points us to the person of Jesus Christ.
- It's evidenced in the very first prophecy in the Bible, which just so happens to be the first mention of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Genesis 3:15 - And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

- I'm of the belief that Bible prophecy is a means to an end, such that, it's chief purpose is to bring us to Jesus Christ in the end.

John 13:19 - "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am.

- This is why for almost two years now I have shared the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ at the end of every weekly update.
- The reason is the Lord has been ministering to me the need on my part to get from Bible prophecy to Jesus as quickly as I can.
- I'll take it a step further and suggest that for some, Bible prophecy can seem hollow if they're going through a very difficult trial.

- While the blessed hope of the Lord's soon return can be a source of encouragement, it can in some ways make it even harder.

Proverbs 13:12 - Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

- As I was seeking the Lord in prayer concerning today's update, He really impressed upon my heart those who are losing heart.
- We have so many people from our online church that send in their prayer requests for really serious matters that they're facing.
- If that describes you, then let me encourage you by saying the Lord will get you through whatever it is until He does come back.

- Let me hasten to say that in the mean time, we're going to continue watching for His soon return and talk about His soon return.
- However, we will err greatly if we don't keep the main thing the main thing and the main thing is Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
- The reason I mention this is it brings with it the responsibility for all of us to make sure we're not relying on the wisdom of man.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 - 1 And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

- Here's the bottom line, the power of the gospel is Jesus was crucified, buried, rose from the dead, and is coming back again.

1 Thessalonians 1:8-10 - 8 The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, 9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

- If you've never called upon the name of the Lord to be saved, I would like to share the good news of Salvation in Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 -- 1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

The ABC's of Salvation - 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.