

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

- For today's prophecy update, I want to talk about the possibility of where things may be going in the weeks and months ahead.
- Specifically related to what's taking place here in the United States, as well as the Mideast developments, concerning Israel.
- At this risk of sounding sensational or provocative, I have to say that to me it does seem as if something big is likely to happen.

I'll begin with this Fox News article about the release of the much-hyped memo that shows alleged government surveillance abuse during the 2016 campaign. ...The White House responded by saying the memo "raises serious concerns about the integrity of decisions made at the highest levels of the Department of Justice and the FBI to use the government's most intrusive surveillance tools against American citizens." -- One of the reasons I'm starting with this is because it's believed there are even more memos that will be coming out and there's also talk of over 13,000 sealed indictments that will soon be handed out. In other words, it's very possible that "we aint seen nothing yet!" Regardless of what happens, this is unprecedented and it will be interesting to see the impact this will have either way.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/02/02/house-memo-states-disputed-dossier-was-key-to-fbi-s-fisa-warrant-to-surveil-members-team-trump.print.html>

This brings me to a Ynet News article on Tuesday about the IDF Chief of Staff warning of a possible calm before the storm on Israel's northern border, saying that despite the relative quiet ... "many challenges" were awaiting the army stemming from the Hezbollah terror movement's increasingly "powerful capabilities."

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5078529,00.html>

On Wednesday, The Jerusalem Post also reported on this with an editorial titled, "Signs of war." In it the writer says, "If, or – perhaps more accurately – when, war breaks out again on the northern border with Iranian proxy Hezbollah, the international community won't be able to claim it was not forewarned. ...During his visit to Moscow on Monday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made this clear to Russian President Vladimir Putin. "If Iran is not stopped," Netanyahu reportedly told Putin, "then Israel will stop it." The prime minister's message to Putin is part of a larger campaign warning of Iranian belligerence and Israel's refusal to accept it.

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=540369>

I would suggest that this is the beginning of the fulfillment of two key prophecies in the Bible, one of which is Isaiah 17, concerning Syria, and the other which is that of Ezekiel 38-39. Articles such as this one published by Arutz Sheva on Friday evidence it. In it they quote a Saudi blogger in a video that recently went viral saying, "The Palestinians can go to hell, they betrayed the Arab world." Here are a couple of quotes, "While the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is still nominally allied with the Palestinian Authority, a long-time client of the oil-rich custodian of Islam's holiest cities, recent reports suggest ties between the two have been cooling in recent years. ...According to a bombshell report in December, Saudi Arabia is even weighing its own peace agreement with the Jewish state without the establishment of a Palestinian state or final status agreement between Israel and the PA – a fundamental shift in the kingdom's position.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/241481>

Speaking of a fundamental shift, The Jerusalem Post is suggesting that what's needed is not a paradigm shift, but a change of leadership in both Jerusalem and Ramallah, and possibly in Washington, this under the banner of the two-state solution being the only game in town. It was the ominous conclusion of the article that really caught my attention, "The two-state solution may be on life support, but it remains the only game in town. The next attempt to reach a breakthrough must not fail."

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=540069>

Enter one Jared Kushner and this fascinating article in The National Interest, titled, "Don't Ignore Kushner's Quiet Mideast Gains." In it they say, ...what little coverage Kushner has received has varied from skeptical to scornful. And, tellingly, he hasn't tried to dispel the pundits' prejudices. He doesn't travel with reporters or invite press attention. His few appearances are fleeting and uneventful. ...Behind the scenes, he is making surprising progress. The article goes on to cite the reasons for Kushner's surprising progress and the reason I find this so fascinating is because one of the reasons is, "Kushner has befriended Saudi Arabia's thirty-one-year-old deputy crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman. Both are seen as tech-savvy, young disrupters of the status quo, and both favor practical solutions over symbolic displays.

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/dont-ignore-kushners-quiet-mideast-gains-24256?page=show>

- The common denominator with all these and many like them is they all point to the aforementioned disruption of the status quo.
- Actually, they paint a rather perilous picture of what the future holds, for those who do not know the One who holds the future.
- For those of us who do know the Lord, this is rather exciting in the sense that we know that our redemption draws ever so nigh.

Before we partake together of the communion table, I want to share some encouraging news by drawing your attention to this report in The Federalist about new Harvard research that found U.S. Christianity is not shrinking, but growing stronger. ...Religious faith in America is going the way of the Yellow Pages and travel maps, we keep hearing. It's just a matter of time until Christianity's total and happy extinction, chortle our cultural elites. Is this true? Is churchgoing and religious adherence really in "widespread decline" so much so that conservative believers should suffer "growing anxiety"? Two words: Absolutely not. New research published late last year by scholars ...is just the latest to reveal the myth. ... Mainline churches are tanking as if they have super-sized millstones around their necks. Yes, these churches are hemorrhaging members in startling numbers, but many of those folks are not leaving Christianity. They are simply going elsewhere.

<http://thefederalist.com/2018/01/22/new-harvard-research-says-u-s-christianity-not-shrinking-growing-stronger/>