

Mid-East Prophecy Update – February 11th, 2018

- For today's prophecy update, I'll address what I would argue is a very serious military escalation concerning Israel and Syria.
- Doubtless you have heard the breaking news about an Israeli F-16 being shot down by Syrian air defenses in Israeli air space.
- I was texting back and forth with Amir Tsarfati in Israel early Saturday morning so as to get up to speed with what's happening.

- What I'm hoping to accomplish in our time together today is to connect the prophetic dots as it were, in terms of Bible prophecy.
- I also hope to at the conclusion of our time together clearly and simply communicate what this means to every one of us today.
- More specifically, for those of us as believers in and followers of Jesus Christ and perhaps more importantly those who are not.

I'll begin with this Haaretz report about the seriousness of what the Israeli Army states is a serious Iranian attack on Israeli territory. "Israeli army spokesman Brigadier General Ronen Manelis said ...that Iran has carried out "a dangerous attack on Israeli territory" after an Iranian drone was shot down over Israeli territory. According to Manelis, Israel struck deep in Syrian territory, targeting the trailer from which the drone was launched. According to the Israeli army, Syrian anti-aircraft missiles targeted an Israeli F-16, prompting the pilots to eject. The plane went down in northern Israel. The two pilots were taken to the hospital in stable condition. ...The Syrian army and rebels in the Syrian Golan Heights are currently exchanging heavy fire.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/israel-this-is-a-serious-iranian-attack-on-our-territory-1.5806539>

I suppose we shouldn't be surprised that Syria's news reports have an entirely different spin on what's happening. According to Ynet News, Syrian state news agency SANA said on Saturday that Syrian air defenses were responding to a "new Israeli aggression" and a military source said the defenses had thwarted attacks on military positions in the south of the country. ..."The Israeli enemy has resumed aggression on some military positions in the southern region and our air defenses have responded to them and thwarted the aggression," a Syrian military source said in a statement.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5103504,00.html>

The Jerusalem Post also reported on Syria's claims adding that it was one of the most serious incidents involving Israel, Iran and Syria since the start of the Syrian civil war almost eight years ago. Another news agency noted that, "Saturday's incident marked the first time an Israeli aircraft has been shot down by Syria since the Lebanese civil war in 1982."

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=542193>

Clearly, this is serious enough that it rises to the level having profound implications in the days and weeks ahead. The Times of Israel is describing this as "large-scale" attack, in which the military is calling the drone infiltration a "severe and irregular violation of Israeli sovereignty" and said Iran would be held responsible for its outcome, marking a dramatic escalation in tensions along its northern border. The Times goes on to say that, ...Diplomatic sources said Israel has appealed to Russia to intervene and prevent further escalation. Similar calming messages were reportedly passed on to Washington. ...Tensions have been rising along the northern border recently, as Israel has warned repeatedly against Iranian efforts to set up weapons production facilities in Lebanon and establish a presence near the Israeli border with Syria. Netanyahu has said that if Iran continues to try and entrench itself in Syria, Israel will "stop it."

https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-launches-large-scale-attack-in-syria-after-drone-infiltration/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

I spent some time on Twitter reading some of the tweets particularly from anti-Israel Arabs, and happened upon an interesting post that said the following, "For sure the decision to attack the F16 is not a Syrian decision in any way, Syria does not act on its own nor takes decision on its own. It is totally under Russia's tutelage. He then provides a link to his Facebook page where he expounds further saying, "So, the attack on the Israeli airplane was with Russian green light if not according to Russia's instructions. This comes at a time...whereby Lebanon is getting its full rights on the oil embedded in the sea ...Lebanon will not be just a sovereign country, but an oil country as well..."

- It's important to understand that Russia and Iran is in control of Syria and with it, their puppet president, one Bashar Al Assad.
- The reason this is important is because of two prophecies in the Bible that we talk about often, that of Isaiah 17 and Ezekiel 38.
- In order to connect the aforementioned prophetic dots, one need look no further than to the significance of these to prophecies.
- Suffice it to say, this has profound implications for all of us, and this in two very different ways for believers and non-believers.

Luke 21:28 - Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

John 14:29 - I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

- Last week I made mention of the quote that, "Preaching is telling you what to do whereas Teaching is telling you how to do it."
- I mention it again this week because in addition to preaching the gospel, I also want to teach you how to respond to the gospel.

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 – The A is for Admit you're a sinner, (Romans 3:23).

The B is for Believe, (Romans 10:9-10). The C is for Call, (Romans 10:9-10 13).