

Mid-East Prophecy Update – June 17th, 2018

- For today's prophecy update I want to talk about something the Lord put on my heart to share concerning "End Times Fatigue."
 - By that I mean it seems there's this weary exhaustion on the part of non-Christians, and more concerning, Christians as well.
 - This for a number of reasons, chief of which is that there have been many false predictions of when the rapture would happen.
- Several weeks ago, a brother, Brian Schrauger, of the Jerusalem Journal, who lives in Israel, sent me a very interesting article.
 - However, after I had read it, I found myself somewhat disturbed by it, so much so, I just chose to archive it, and pray about it.
 - Then, last week, I revisited it and re-read it, this time through a different lens of sorts, as I once again sought the Lord about it.

The article was published in The Guardian back on May 19th and the writer suggests, "For many on the Christian right, the state of Israel has been seen as a key to fulfilling prophecy. A new generation has other ideas." The article was written the week that the Trump administration completed its move of the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Here are a few excerpts from the article. "At the opening ceremony, two of the American speakers were evangelical superstars: Pastor Robert Jeffress, the author of several doomsday books about Israel, and John Hagee, who interpreted recent lunar eclipses as evidence that the end times were nigh. The Fox News personality Jeanine Pirro, meanwhile, declared that Trump had "fulfilled biblical prophecy". ... In the 1970s, ... millions ... purchased a book called The Late Great Planet Earth, which interpreted events in Israel as evidence that the great war of Armageddon would happen by the late 1980s. ...it was followed by the wildly popular end times conspiracy ...The New World Order, by the televangelist Pat Robertson, and then the Left Behind novels and films, which concerned violent clashes in Israel that would bring about biblical prophecy. To outsiders, these pieces of doomsday pop culture seem like far-fetched lunacy. For millions of Christians, they are a roadmap to the end of the world. ..."We've been through all this before," said Bruce McCluggage, a former evangelical who now identifies as a "follower of Christ". ...But for McCluggage, after a slow-burn of things not coming to pass, that conviction slowly faded. "It was a classic tool used to witness to people," he recalled. "We'd ask: 'If Jesus returned today, would you go to Heaven?' It was kind of a threat ... and we thought, with Israel coming together, we could hasten the return of Jesus." ...McCluggage ...has slowly distanced himself from the Christian right. Today, he sits in ...a venue known for its "post-evangelical" or "progressive evangelical" contingent. It looks like any other hip modern coffeehouse, serving expensive pour-over coffee and craft beers to an indie rock soundtrack. Books with titles like Christianity After Religion and The Rebirthing of God line the shelves; events like What Would Jesus Brew? – beer-centric Bible study – regularly take place. ...the shop is representative of a shifting attitude toward Christianity ...one that doesn't have much interest in the apocalyptic rhetoric surrounding Israel. "There are plenty of young millennials downtown that would call themselves evangelical, even conservative, but are a very different breed from their parents," ...who grew up evangelical but no longer identifies that way. "They're mostly not Trump supporters; they have a spectrum of views on LGBT issues, and they're not on board with the end times theology ... There is definitely a kind of end times fatigue with this generation." This "post-evangelical" generation was raised on a steady diet of low-budget movies and pulp novels that injected a potent fear of the coming Rapture, a dynamic most eloquently described by the late Billy Graham. "I pick up the Bible in one hand," he said, "and I pick up the newspaper in the other. And I read almost the same words in the newspaper as I read in the Bible. It's being fulfilled every day round about us." In the 1990s, Christopher Stroop was one such evangelical. He has now abandoned his faith and leads a social media campaign seeking to galvanize "exvangelicals" with hashtags like #emptythepews and #raptureanxiety.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/may/19/evangelicals-israel-usa-end-times>

- I have to say that I've been conflicted as of late, as it relates to what I see as an antagonistic shift away from Bible prophecy.
- It's for this reason I've inquired of the Lord as to why there's a growing disdain at a time of significant prophetic developments.
- In so doing, the Lord, as only He can, settled and encouraged my heart concerning this aforementioned "End Times Fatigue."

2 Peter 3:3-13 - 3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.

- Dare I say this prophecy in concert with all the other Bible prophecies are beginning to come to pass swiftly and simultaneously.
- As such, instead of being discouraged and disheartened by what's happening, we can be excited and expecting of His coming.
- However, if all of this is terrifying to you, then that's an indication that you need to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.