

Mid-East Prophecy Update – June 24th, 2018

- For today's prophecy update I want to address the much-anticipated Middle East peace plan dubbed "The Deal of the Century."
- I do so for a number of reasons not the least of which is the false sense of peace and prosperity that comes packaged with it.
- By that I mean there seems to be this belief that happy days are here again, under the banner of a prosperous U.S. and Israel.

- The problem with this is that anyone who dares talk about the coming judgment from the hand of God is summarily dismissed.
- What's interesting to me is whether I'm studying or teaching the Bible I'm seemingly directed to scripture about God's judgment.
- Specifically, the coming judgment of God in concert with and in spite of everyone saying, peace, peace, when there's no peace.

Jeremiah 6:13-14 - 13 "Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest, Everyone deals falsely. 14 They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace.

Ezekiel 13:10-12, 15-16 - 10 "Because, indeed, because they have seduced My people, saying, 'Peace!' when there is no peace—and one builds a wall, and they plaster it with untempered mortar ... 15 "Thus will I accomplish My wrath on the wall and on those who have plastered it with untempered mortar; and I will say to you, 'The wall is no more, nor those who plastered it, 16 that is, the prophets of Israel who prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and who see visions of peace for her when there is no peace,' " says the Lord GOD.

- While I realize we live in a day when it's unpopular for pastor's to preach about God's judgment, I must be true to God's Word.
- The truth is that God's judgment is coming upon this Christ rejecting world, vis-à-vis this insatiable quest for peace and security.
- If you'll kindly permit me to, I want to argue the case that based on what happened just this last week, it's sooner than we think.

I'll begin with this Jerusalem Post report about Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meeting with Senior Advisor to President Donald Trump Jared Kushner and Special Representative for International Negotiations Jason Greenblatt in Jerusalem on Friday. ...King Abdullah II of Jordan met with Kushner and Greenblatt on Wednesday and stressed the importance of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Abdullah said the "US has an important role" in any such future talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority and that, in his view, the Palestinian state must include a section of Jerusalem as a Palestinian capital. The king also met Prime Minister Netanyahu in a surprise meeting in Amman on Monday and explained again the importance of Jerusalem to Muslims and Christians, emphasizing that the only path to peace and stability in the region is a two-state solution. ...The blueprint for a Middle East peace deal is also expected to be discussed when Abdullah meets Trump next week in Washington for a visit announced Thursday by the White House. The two leaders, the statement said, "will discuss issues of mutual concern, including terrorism, the threat from Iran and the crisis in Syria, and working towards a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians." <https://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=560627>

On Thursday, Fox News published an article about how Trump's Mideast team is getting a close up view of some of the towering obstacles to their yet-to-be-released blueprint for an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal. In it they ask and attempt to answer a number of questions, one of which relates to the purpose of the trip. Quoting Fox News, President Donald Trump's Mideast team, led by son-in-law Jared Kushner, has been tightlipped about the tour, ...Kushner and envoy Jason Greenblatt issued vague statements, saying they are talking about the "humanitarian situation in Gaza" and U.S. efforts to "facilitate peace between Israelis and Palestinians," but didn't even release an itinerary. They met Tuesday with Jordan's King Abdullah II and Wednesday with Saudi Arabia's crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, acknowledging the talks only after the fact. They are then expected in Qatar, followed by Israel toward the end of the week. ...Another question they ask is, "what's in the U.S. peace plan?" The Kushner team won't say. Abbas aides, relying on Saudi information, say they suspect the aim is to get Palestinians to settle for a "mini-state" in Gaza and parts of the West Bank, with a foothold in Jerusalem. This would fall far short of long-standing Palestinian demands for a state in the entire West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem, lands Israel captured in 1967, with minor border adjustments. <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2018/06/21/trumps-mideast-team-gets-close-up-view-peace-obstacles.html>

- Doubtless you've heard the expression "strike while the iron is hot." I would suggest the Middle East iron has never been hotter.
- I'll take it a step further and also suggest that it's almost a "now or never" proposition by virtue of all the players being in place.
- For those of us who are believers in and followers of Jesus Christ, we need only to persevere until the time the trumpet sounds.

In Revelation 3:7-13 Jesus has John write to the angel of the church in Philadelphia to encouraging them by saying, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. ...He then goes on to say that "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."'

- That's for those of us who are believers, however, for those who are not, I would implore you to take heed to the Word of God.
- The judgment is coming, and only those born again of the Spirit of God will be kept from the aforementioned hour of tribulation.
- In the remainder of our time, I'd like to present the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ by way of the ABC's of Salvation.

Last week I retweeted a tweet on Twitter from a follower who really blessed me concerning the simplicity and efficacy of the ABC's of Salvation. Here's what he tweeted: "Thank you for your teaching. Such a blessing and through your ABC's of Salvation, last year I recommitted my life to the Lord and my then girlfriend, now wife, also gave her life to Christ. God bless you."

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.