

Mid-East Prophecy Update – July 1st, 2018

- For today's prophecy update I'd like to draw your attention to a prophecy in the Bible that was written over 2,500 years ago.
- In so doing, I will argue the case that this specific prophecy is beginning to come to pass exactly as we were told that it would.
- I'm of course speaking of the prophecy in the Book of Zechariah the twelfth chapter concerning the city of Jerusalem in Israel.

Zechariah 12:1–3 - 1 The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: 2 "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. 3 And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

- What follows are a few developments from just this last week all of which point to this specific prophecy concerning Jerusalem.
- It's important to understand that all of the meetings that took place and are about to take place center on the city of Jerusalem.
- This because, God declared that He Himself would make Jerusalem the intoxicating obsession of all the nations on the earth.

I'll begin with this Jerusalem Post about Jordan's King Abdullah telling President Trump that East Jerusalem must be the capital of a future independent Palestinian state, in a meeting at the White House on Monday. ...Speaking with the president days after hosting his top aides in Amman for talks on the administration's upcoming Middle East peace plan, Abdullah told Trump that a traditional framework for a two-state solution remains a "foremost" priority for Jordanians, according to a description of the meeting provided by their embassy in Washington. "Discussing the peace process, His Majesty stressed that the two-state solution which guarantees the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil with east Jerusalem as its capital, is the only way to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and it is the cornerstone of achieving security and stability in the entire region," the statement reads.

<https://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=560867>

On the same day, Al Arabiya published a report about the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affirming their adherence to peace based on the two-state solution according to the international references, ...at the United Nations. The Kingdom also emphasized that the Arab peace initiative is "a strategic option to find a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian issue and end the Arab-Israeli conflict," according to a report by Saudi Press Agency (SPA). This came in the Kingdom's speech on Monday before the UN Security Council session in the open debate ...delivered by the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Dr. Khalid Manzlawi. "The Palestinian people have suffered a long period of unjust occupation, oppressive and racist policies of oppression and illegal settlement incursions," Dr. Manzlawi said, adding that Saudi Arabia is still in solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2018/06/26/Saudi-Arabia-affirms-adherence-to-Mideast-peace-through-2-state-solution.html>

This brings us to Wednesday and what's being dubbed a historic royal visit to the region. However, according to The Times of Israel, Prince William is said to have refused to meet with Mayor Barkat in Jerusalem. ...Apparently a meeting by the prince with the mayor in Jerusalem, however, would have implied an unacceptable degree of British recognition of Israeli rights in the city. ...Barkat refused the offer and ...conveyed the message ...that if they could not meet in Jerusalem, he would rather they not meet at all. Barkat's aides were quoted saying that the unprecedented royal visit to Israel is important and appropriate, but that Israel has only one capital, the united Jerusalem, and that he refused to meet the prince elsewhere "out of respect for Jerusalem." ...In a statement, the British foreign office did not comment directly on the Prince's words [he was "glad our two countries work so closely together"] at his meeting with Abbas but said "the UK government supports the creation of a sovereign, independent and viable Palestinian state — living in peace and security, side by side with Israel." It added: "The UK will recognize a Palestinian state at a time when it can best help to bring about peace."

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/prince-william-said-to-refuse-to-meet-with-mayor-barkat-in-jerusalem/>

- It's this last statement by the UK government that I want to talk about for the remainder of our time together before communion.
- Namely, that of living in "peace and security," and the recognition of a Palestinian state at a time to best help bring about peace.
- I would suggest that by virtue of Israel being God's prophetic clock, it would stand to reason that the time for said peace is now.
- I'll take it a step further and also suggest, because we're in that time now, it's now time to get serious about the things of God.

Romans 13:11–14 - 11 And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

- That's for believers but for those who are not believers I would like to share with you the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.
- The gospel of Jesus Christ is that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, rose again on the third day, and is coming again one day.

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).