

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

- For today's prophecy update we'll look at the prophetic significance of an important development, but first I need to preface it.
- I would suggest that the uncertainty of everything taking place in the world today is creating a sense of fear and hopelessness.
- Many turn to anything and everything in order to deal with that which only the Word of God and God of the Word can answer.

1 Peter 3:15–16 - 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

- The reason I wanted to begin this way is because the problems in the world are only going to get worse in these, the last days.
- While there are those who are greatly concerned with everything that's happening, there are also those who aren't concerned.
- Particularly here in America where it seems happy days are here again and America is great again in spite of how divided it is.

- The problem is that America is not the main factor in the prophetic equation as it were; rather, Israel is the determining factor.
- By that I mean, what's happening in America, even to America is not what ultimately determines where we're at prophetically.
- While I realize that the U.S. is currently the dominant world power on the geopolitical stage, it won't be so very much longer.

This Times of Israel report is a case in point, and I say that because the significance of it was not only under reported, it was virtually un-reported because of that which dominated our news feeds here in America. It's my belief that it's all a distraction and disruption creating confusion over what really matters, and what really matters is what's happening in Israel and to Israel; namely, that of the approval of the "Jewish Nation-State Law." On Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, Knesset members approved ...a controversial and long-debated law that officially defines Israel as the Jewish nation-state, ...The law for the first time enshrines Israel as "the national home of the Jewish people." ...In the final text of the law, there are basic principles, which among other things state that, "The land of Israel is the historical homeland of the Jewish people, in which the State of Israel was established. ...Furthermore, ...The capital of the state, Jerusalem, complete and united, is the capital of Israel.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/final-text-of-jewish-nation-state-bill-set-to-become-law/>

It should come as no surprise that this would arouse the ire of Israel's numerous enemies, one of which is the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas who according to Jews News, in response to the newly enacted Jewish nation-state law passed by the Israeli Knesset, declared that the city of Jerusalem shall be the everlasting capital of the State of Palestine, and that no peace or security will prevail unless the city remains as such. In a statement, he said the new law "will not change the historical situation of Jerusalem as the capital of the occupied State of Palestine, and will not discourage our people from their legitimate struggle to defeat the occupation and establish their independent state." ...He affirmed that the right of the Palestinian people to return to their land is a sacred and unshakable right guaranteed by international law, foremost of which is Resolution 194, which affirmed the right of return of Palestinian refugees to their homes.

<https://www.jewsnews.co.il/2018/07/22/more-lies-pa-president-abbas-proclaims-jerusalem-is-the-eternal-capital-of-palestine.html>

- Suffice it to say, that these are all lies from the father of lies and the purpose of these lies is to distort the truth of God's Word.
- Here's the truth, the land belongs to Israel Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel and God has an everlasting covenant Israel.
- As such, God has a prophetic and redemptive plan for Israel, which will be fulfilled after the rapture and in the 7-year tribulation.

- It's for this reason I would like to end how we began, and turn to the answer that gives us the reason for the hope that we have.
- In so doing, I hope to provide an encouraging word as it relates to God's Word have the answer to all of the problems we face.
- Not just for the world globally, but for you and I, individually, Jesus is the answer, because Jesus is the way, the truth and life.

I happened upon an interesting article in The Washington Times about how the Bible remains a fixture in American culture and lifestyle according to the "State of the Bible" report, an annual poll conducted by the Barna Group ..."The results show that, despite shifting cultural trends, Americans still read the Word, and it remains a powerful, transformative tool in their life. ..."Two-thirds of Americans express at least some curiosity to know more about what the Bible says. A similar number of adults (63 percent) are interested in knowing more about who Jesus Christ is," the survey said. "Just over half of adults who used the Bible in the past week (53 percent) say they give a lot of thought to how it might apply to their lives."

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/jul/14/the-bible-remains-a-powerful-transformative-tool-i/>

- The reason I share this is actually twofold, the first of which is we do err greatly in underestimating the power of God's Word.
- The second reason is people are looking for answers, and we as believers in, and followers of, Jesus Christ have the answer.
- Because we have the answer and know the truth, it's incumbent upon each and every one of us to share Jesus with others.

I'm hoping you'll kindly indulge me for just a bit as I share something that I know will you to share Jesus with others. What follows is a blog written by Justin Lucero who is a pastor in Japan. ...In the mid 80's a man named Timothy Kim Harris, known simply as Kim, a mechanic in Hawaii who was going through his own share of hardships, shared the Gospel with one of his co-workers and led that man to Christ. His co-worker was also going through difficulties in his marriage. But through the grace of God, the co-worker's life was changed, his wife was saved, their marriage was saved and their third child was born soon after, and many of their family members were saved. The co-worker's name was Fred. Fred and his wife, Karen, raised their children to love and serve the Lord. Always bringing them to church, teaching the Bible at home, praying together, and always doing things with the church family and relatives. The oldest son, was a good kid, but soon became the prodigal son, doing many terrible things. But because he was raised in the ways of the Lord and believed in Him since childhood, the Lord didn't let him go. Instead He safely brought the wayward son back home where he belongs. That son, started serving in youth ministry, and eventually became a missionary in Japan, and is now in the midst of planting a church. Fred and Karen are my parents, and I am the prodigal son. Over 30 years ago "Kim" shared the Gospel with my dad and they lost touch, both always wondering what happened to each other... Kim went to heaven on July 14, 2018. My parents were watching their old pastor from Hawaii preach online and they realized that the guy the pastor was talking about was the same guy that led my dad to Christ. So they contacted the Pastor JD and was able to share this story with the family and at his funeral. "I wish he could have known..." was the thoughts that both sides had. But I'm sure he knows now, and we'll get to meet him one day in heaven as well. If his family ever gets a chance to read this blog, I just want to tell them that I am so thankful that Kim led my dad to Christ, because through that more people were led to Christ, including me, and I have led people to Christ, and now a Japanese church was just planted this February as a result of Kim's love for my dad, which came from his love for Christ. Kim's fruit of personal evangelism will continue, just as he was the fruit of someone else, who was the fruit of someone else. The sharing of the Gospel to my dad, was... A simple act of love that went a long way...and is still going. Our prayer as a new church is that we will see fruit like this from each and every person. We never know how our small efforts can change this world. So do things faithfully, because God WILL multiply our little efforts into God-sized fruit so that God will receive all the glory! Also, for those reading, please pray for my dad. His health is not so great and he will need very special care. I am a fruit of my dad's personal evangelism to our family, I am thankful to him as my dad, but also as a person who taught me how to lead my family as a Christian husband and father. I am hoping and praying that my dad's best and healthiest days are still yet to come. Will you join me in prayer for him? A simple act of love can go a long way, and prayer is definitely an act of love. Love and Aloha, Justin

<https://www.thegospelcenter.net/blog/a-simple-act-of-love-that-went-a-long-way-and-is-still-going>

- This is why we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ at the end of our weekly prophecy updates, which is what I want to do lastly.
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ is that He was crucified, buried, and rose again on the third day, and is coming again one day.
- While we don't know the hour or the day, we can know Jesus in a saving way, so on that day when He comes, we'll be ready.

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.