

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

- I want to begin today's prophecy update by reiterating that the purpose of prophecy is to point us to the person of Jesus Christ.
- While I realize that saying this may sound like a firm grasp of the obvious, my sense from the Lord is that this needs to be said.
- This because we're all prone to get caught up, (pardon the pun), in Bible prophecy and in so doing we lose sight of the purpose.

- I'll take it further and suggest that we're also prone to focus on Bible prophecy teachers like myself and also lose site of Jesus.
- By that I mean; we're all eager to hear what a Bible prophecy teacher has to say, when we really should hear what Jesus said.
- Please know that I in no way wish to come off confrontational, rather, I only seek to get back to the main thing, which is Jesus.

- Simply put, we should never put our trust in any man, and when it comes to teachers, we should always search the scriptures.
- That's not to say that there are not trustworthy men who are fully grounded in and sound in rightly dividing God's Word of truth.
- However, we do err greatly when we look to man, or put our hope in man, at the expense of looking to, and hoping in, Jesus.

- You'll know that your hope was misplaced in something or someone by how devastated you become when it doesn't work out.
- The truth of the matter is man will fail, but Jesus never fails, which sometimes becomes the catalyst for putting our trust in Him.
- In other words, when man fails, it can have the affect of pointing us to the one who will never fail, and that man is Jesus Christ.

This last week I retweeted a tweet from Pastor Jim Cymbala of The Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York because it was so apropos as it relates to what the Lord has put on my heart as of late. Here's his Tweet, "Does anyone really believe that the Republicans, Democrats, White House, Supreme Court or Congress will transform even one human heart? Are these civil servants supposed to be light & salt, or is that the task of the church of Jesus Christ?"

- This hits the proverbial nail on the head, so much so, that these prophecy updates are futile if they don't point people to Jesus.
- Dare I say that often times, prophecy can point people to the messenger instead, which is why we have this celebrity mentality.
- There's a very interesting account in the book of Revelation, where John fell at the feet to worship the messenger of prophecy.

Revelation 19:9–10 - 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." 10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

- Lest one think that I'm going to change my approach to these weekly Mid East prophecy updates, let me hasten to say, no way!
- Unless and until the Lord shows me otherwise, I'm staying the course and if do so with a sanctified strengthening of my resolve.
- The reason being is God is using these prophecy updates to reach the lost, while there is still time, and that time is very short.

1 Peter 4:7 - But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

- Suffice it to say, we'll continue to take Bible prophecy very seriously as we carefully and prayerfully watch for the Lord's return.
- Specifically, by looking at the current events of prophetic significance through the lens of scripture pertaining to the end times.
- Even more specifically, concerning Israel, which is God's prophetic clock in order to know what time it is in this very late hour.

- Be that as it may, I cannot think of a better way to end our prophecy update today than with the Gospel and then communion.
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ is that Jesus was crucified, buried, and rose again on the third day, and is coming again one day.
- While we don't know the day or the hour, what we do know is that His soon return for His bride in the rapture, draws very nigh.

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.

Luke 22:14-20 - 14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. 15 Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.