

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

- For today's prophecy update, I'd like to begin by having you turn in your Bible's to Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians.
- What I want to talk about today is what I see as the unrighteous deception and with it the strong delusion already at work today.
- I'm hoping you'll allow me to argue the case of said deception and delusion as a sign of how close we are to the Lord's return.

2 Thessalonians 2:5–12 (NKJV) — 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- What follows, in no particular order are, what I would suggest are just a few of the many lies that are believed by the masses.
- First, however, I think I would be grossly remiss were I not to mention something that really caught my attention this last week.
- Not only did it catch my attention it was brought to my attention by many watchers who sent emails and messages about this.

- Trending on Twitter and really all over social media was this declaration of sorts by the newly elected French president Macron.
- Namely, that of his announcing that he will govern like a Roman God, specifically referring to the ancient Roman god, Jupiter.

Quoting a Reuters tweet, "Macron himself has said he plans a 'Jupiterian' presidency – as a remote, dignified figure, like the Roman god of gods, who weighs his rare pronouncements carefully.

- Then there's this magazine cover published by The Economist with a picture of Macron suggesting that he's Europe's savior.
- Please know that I in no way am implying that this man is the antichrist. However, it indicates the world's readiness for a man.
- It's really only a matter of time before, as Paul writes to the Thessalonians, that this man called "the lawless one" is revealed.

This brings us to the first deception and delusion, which is the so-called Palestinian's legitimate claim to the land belonging only to Israel. Yesterday, The Times of Israel, reported on how the Palestinian Authority was hailing the UNESCO vote as legitimizing Palestinian sovereignty in Hebron. Quoting the Times, "The Palestinians hailed a UNESCO decision Friday to declare the Old City of Hebron an endangered Palestinian world heritage site, a move that sparked outrage from Israel, which condemned the resolution as 'delusional,' and from the US. <http://www.timesofisrael.com/pa-hails-unesco-hebron-vote-as-diplomatic-success/>

The second lie is that of anyone who speaks against Islam or more specifically Islamic migration is a racist or an Islamaphobe. I actually first saw this on Fox News then found this article from The Times of Israel, which I would like to quote in part concerning this Palestinian-American activist, Linda Sarsour, who really needs Jesus by the way, and her speech at the Islamic Society of North America convention in Chicago. In addition to her vocal opposition to Donald Trump and to Israel and Zionism, she has likened opposition to the US president to "jihad." Muslims, she said, were "struggling against tyrants and rulers not only abroad in the Middle East or in the other side of the world, but here in these United States of America where you have fascists and white supremacists and Islamophobes reigning in the White House." Sarsour railed against Trump's travel ban on six Muslim-majority countries, calling it a "Muslim ban" and saying the Trump administration was "relentless" in wanting to see "how much the Muslim community can endure." "Our number one and top priority is to protect and defend our community, it is not to assimilate and please any other people and authority," she said. "Our obligation is to our young people, is to our women, to make sure our women are protected in our community." "Our top priority and even higher than all those other priorities is to please Allah and only Allah," she added. <http://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-american-activist-says-standing-up-to-trump-like-a-jihad/>

It's important to understand that the Qur'an not only commands but also promises a reward to Muslims who will immigrate for the cause of Allah. This is in Qur'an 4:100 – "And whoever emigrates for the cause of Allah will find on the earth many [alternative] locations and abundance. And whoever leaves his home as an emigrant to Allah and His Messenger and then death overtakes him - his reward has already become incumbent upon Allah . And Allah is ever Forgiving and Merciful.

It's also in Surah Al-Hajj - verses 58 -59, which says "And those who migrate in the cause of Allah and are then slain or die, certainly will Allah provide them with a goodly sustenance, and verily Allah is the best of providers. "Certainly He will admit them into a place of entrance which they shall be well pleased with; and verily Allah is All-Knowing, Most Forbearing."

The third and last deception we'll look at today is concerning Syria. Doubtless you have been following President Trump's first meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the G20 summit in Hamburg Germany. It seems, according to The Jerusalem Post, that a partial ceasefire deal was reached in Syria. The ceasefire, due to start at noon Damascus time on Sunday, was announced after a meeting between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Post went on to report that "...Russia and Iran are the main international backers of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad while Washington supports some of the rebel groups fighting to topple him." <http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=499090>

- As we looked at last week, this is clearly the Isaiah 17 prophecy concerning Syria as the catalyst for the Ezekiel 38 prophecy.
- In other words, when, not if, Damascus Syria becomes a ruinous and uninhabitable heap, Russia, Iran, et al, will attack Israel.
- It's only a matter of time before yet another flimsy cease-fire will fail, and when it does, it will fulfill these and other prophecies.

- It's for this reason that I would implore anyone who has never called upon the name of the Lord to be saved, to do this today.
- If you'll hear me out for just a few more minutes before we partake together of communion, I would like to explain how to you.
- I do so by way of the ABC's of salvation, which is a childlike simple presentation of the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

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.