

Mid-East Prophecy Update – September 24th, 2017

- For today's prophecy update, I would like to address what was arguably the busiest Bible prophecy week in recent memory.
- I'm hoping you'll kindly allow me to work through and sort through all that's happened, and even not happened since Monday.
- First, I want to share something the Lord had placed on my heart this last week concerning the excitement of September 23rd.

- Six years ago, back in 2011, I became overly excited about the possibility of the rapture happening in September of that year.
- So much so, that I really emphasized the need to be watching and be ready by virtue of the convergence of significant events.
- While I was both careful and prayerful not to go anywhere near date setting, I did talk extensively about the rapture at that time.

- Sadly, as cautious as I thought I was, there were still a number of people who were very disappointed when nothing happened.
- Because of this the Lord taught me some valuable lessons as it relates to the September "high-watch time" as it's often called.
- One of the lessons I learned is the Lord doesn't fault us for overly zealous excitement for His return in the rapture of the church.

- After September of 2011, the Lord ministered to me and even confirmed this for me though a sister in Christ here in our church.
- She shared with me how that she started inviting her brother to the church prior to this, and that he was saved because of this.
- He bought a life insurance policy for his wife who wasn't saved for the rapture. Later he died of cancer and his wife got saved.

- I share that to say this, be encouraged and encourage one another, this because, the rapture can still happen at anytime now.
- Actually, I'm personally of the belief the rapture is now closer than any of us may actually believe and this for several reasons.
- What follows are just some of those reasons that as Jesus said in Matthew 24:44, He will come at an hour we do not expect.

The first reason has to do with this year's unprecedented UN General Assembly taking place last week. Because of the sheer volume of developments, you'll need to bear with me as I paint the prophetic canvass with a broad brush, starting with an email from an online member and friend who works at Fox News, Kelly Maguire. She sent it to me on Monday, which was prior to the UN General Assembly. In it she states, Told by Israeli source that for the first time Netanyahu will be in the room when a US president speaks. He's making a point to be there. Also the president will be facing the North Korean delegation as they are seated on the front row this time around. Not sure who will be in place for them. No response from mission. Also - one more note - the leaders of Russia, China and Germany skipped out on this year's UN General Assembly. Thought you'd find that interesting. Instead - today Putin attended "war games" involving his military.

- To say this was interesting is a gross understatement by virtue of what ensued at said UN General Assembly starting Tuesday.
- Time doesn't permit me to go into too much detail concerning the numerous speeches particularly from Trump and Netanyahu.
- Suffice it to say, there was a common theme throughout related to the threats of wars, and nations rising up against nations.

- What really stood out to me from all the UN speeches this year was what I'll call the demonic rhetoric, for lack of a better word.
- Chiefly from Iran's Rouhani who characterized Trump's speech the day before as ignorant, absurd and full of hateful rhetoric.
- He even said it was ridiculously baseless and unfit to be heard at the UN then threatened force if the US left the nuclear accord.

- If this weren't bad enough, Rouhani was not to be outdone by the likes of a Mahmoud Abbas, who holds the UN responsible.
- Specifically, for ending what he calls Israeli apartheid. He's even demanding the UK apologize for the 1917 Balfour Declaration.
- Then, Abbas even had the audacity to tell Trump a peace deal between the Jews and Palestinians can be reached this year.

According to Ynet News - Abbas said his meeting with Trump on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York attested to the US president's seriousness about reaching a Middle East peace deal soon. "If this is any proof to anything ... it attests to the seriousness of your excellency, Mr. President, to achieve the deal of the century in the Middle East during this year or in the coming months, God willing," Abbas said through an interpreter. Trump, meanwhile, pledged to devote everything "within (his) heart and soul" to bringing peace to the Middle East. "We're looking seriously at peace and maybe ultimately peace in the whole of the Middle East. I think we have a pretty good shot—maybe the best shot ever—and that's what we're looking to do," he said ahead of his meeting with Abbas. "It's a complex subject," the American president admitted. "Always been considered the toughest deal of all... But I think we have a very, very good chance, and I certainly will devote everything within my heart and within my soul to get that deal made." Trump said his team of advisers was working very hard on the issue, as were Israel, Saudi Arabia and other nations. "So we'll see if we can put it together. Who knows? Stranger things have happened, but I think we have a good chance," he asserted. "We're at a very important juncture, there's a small period of time, and we're going to see what we can do. There can be no promises, obviously," Trump added.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5019283,00.html>

- It's important to understand that all of this is happening with the backdrop of a Russia that's absent at the UN, present in Syria.
- While all this took place in New York this week, there were significant developments seemingly unnoticed in the Middle East.
- Not only was it under reported, it seems as though it went un-reported in the US, but Russia is a formidable threat within Syria.

In another Ynet News report, this one on Thursday, Russia is threatening to target US-backed fighters in Syria if they are provoked. Quoting the report, "Russia warned the United States it would target areas in Syria where US Special Forces and US-backed militia were operating if its own forces came under fire from them, which it said on Thursday had already happened twice.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5019468,00.html>

It may have happened twice, but according to Haaretz, "there have been many attacks attributed to Israel in the area of the Damascus International Airport. ...Earlier [Friday] morning ...some [on social media] posted that the explosions were the result of Israeli fire at a weapons depot nearby the airport. According to unverified reports, Syria's aerial defense responded to Israeli aircraft in the area. Hezbollah has not yet commented on the alleged incident. ...Israel has attacked convoys bringing arms to Hezbollah and groups on several Israeli fronts dozens of times over the last five years, a top Israeli military commander has confirmed for the first time a few weeks ago. The number of Israeli attacks on such convoys since 2012 is approaching triple digits, Maj. Gen. Amir Eshel, the outgoing commander of the Israel Air Force, told Haaretz.

<http://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/syria/1.813652>

- All of this is basically just one piece of the prophecy puzzle in the sense that there are many things beginning to come to pass.
- In my way of thinking, I see several prophetic puzzle pieces being put in place with a greater frequency and a greater intensity.
- It's not just everything that's coming together geopolitically in the world today, it's all the natural disasters taking place today.

- Consider, continuing earthquakes taking place and the hurricanes that are devastating lives that will never be the same again.
- Yesterday, as I was preparing today's prophecy update early in the morning, I saw the breaking news of another earthquake.
- This one in Mexico, where they're reeling from the earthquakes that hit that country killing well nigh 300 people and counting.

- You'll forgive the oversimplification, but scripture is replete with prophecy after prophecy about exactly what we see happening.
- Please know that I am keenly aware of how all that is happening can be very unsettling and even frightening for us Christians.
- But God! But God is taking all the evil that's happening in the world today and bringing it about for the salvation of many people.

Genesis 50:19-21 (NKJV) — 19 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? 20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. 21 Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

- If you've never called upon the name of the Lord to be saved, I would implore you today to do so and not put this off any longer.

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.