

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

- For today's prophecy update I want to talk about what I see as an unprecedented two weeks that lie ahead starting on Monday.
- By that I mean, we've never before witnessed what's now taking place on the world stage both geopolitically and prophetically.
- Please know that I in no way wish to sound sensational, rather, I simply state the factual, and Biblical as it relates to prophecy.

- There are three prophecies I want to draw your attention to, the first of which is 1 Thessalonians 5:3 about peace and security.
- Second is Isaiah 17:1, which is a prophecy concerning the city of Damascus, Syria becoming an uninhabitable ruinous heap.
- The third is Ezekiel 38, which is a very detailed prophecy about Russia, Iran and Turkey launching an allied invasion of Israel.

I'll begin with this Observer report quoting UN Ambassador Nikki Haley talking about the upcoming UN General Assembly, which commences this Tuesday. After comparing the General Assembly to "speed dating," Haley was quoted as saying, "What I can tell you is that this is the week we all wait for, where we can all put U.S. interests in the spotlight, make it a really big prominent thing with all the administration coming in," said Haley. "They are going to come and do their thing and we're all going try to see if we can get some good peace and security and agreements passed."

<https://observer.com/2018/09/nikki-haley-compares-united-nations-general-assembly-speed-dating/>

The reason I wanted to begin this way is because of all that's happened between last years and this years UN General Assembly, chief of which was the relocating of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on May 14<sup>th</sup>, Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. While there were many other developments of prophetic significance this year, the one that has students and teachers of Bible prophecy watching very closely is the situation in Syria with the three main countries mentioned in Ezekiel 38. On Thursday, Breaking Israel News published a report about how Israel is upgrading their nuclear defenses in response to Iranian, Syrian threats. Quoting the report, "In a highly unusual and unprecedented move, the director general of Israel's Atomic Energy Commission made a public statement about explicit threats by Iran and its proxies to attack Israel's nuclear sites. The timing of the Iranian request was ironic. It came on the back of an Israeli missile strike in Syria at Latakia, which is thought to have targeted a regime military weapons warehouse, said to contain a cache set to be transferred to Hezbollah in Lebanon.

<https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/114075/israel-upgrading-nuclear-defenses/>

It's important to understand that this Israeli missile strike in Syria led to the downing of a Russian plane killing 15 servicemen over Latakia, which according to The Jerusalem Post, Russia had indirectly blamed Israel for. The problem is it was the Syrian air defense that mistakenly shot down the Russian military plane on Monday night while the Syrian regime was targeting multiple missiles flying over Latakia, according to reports.

<https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Syrian-air-defense-mistakenly-shoots-down-Russian-plane-567479>

If this weren't bad enough, according to YNet News, Russia is threatening Israel that the Russia would take all necessary measures in order to eliminate any threat to life and security of Russian military, which assists the Syrian regime.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5354432,00.html>

As you might imagine, amidst all the blaming and threatening, Netanyahu and Putin might deem it necessary to have a talk, which is exactly what they did according to The Times of Israel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke Tuesday with Russian President Vladimir Putin amid rising tensions between the two countries ... "The prime minister ... conveyed sorrow over the deaths of the Russian soldiers and said that the responsibility for downing the plane falls on Syria," a statement from Netanyahu's office said. ... The Kremlin said that Putin emphasized that the Israeli attack violated Syria's sovereignty and also breached the Russian-Israeli agreements on avoiding clashes in Syria. The Russian leader urged Netanyahu "not to allow such situations in the future."

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-putin-talk-amid-tensions-over-downing-of-russian-spy-plane/>

- All of this begs what I submit are two questions we would do well to ask ourselves as it relates to what's quickly coming to pass.
- First, what are the odds that everything taking place in today would line up exactly, and with such specificity as the Bible says?
- Second, wouldn't it stand to reason, with everything happening as fast as it's happening, that the Lord's return is at the door?

Matthew 16:2-3 - 2 He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; 3 and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.

Luke 12:39-40 - 39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 40 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

- Here's the bottom line in closing, the Lord's return will not be as a thief in the night for those who know Him and watch for Him.
- This is why we present the gospel of salvation in the person of Jesus Christ at the end of our prophecy updates every week.
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ is that Jesus was crucified, buried, and 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).