

Mid-East Prophecy Update – February 3rd, 2019

- For today's prophecy update, I need to kindly ask you to bear with me as I address a very disturbing matter, of grave concern.
- Actually, there were two serious matters, both of which are very difficult for me personally, as one has to do with abortion law.
- I would covet your prayers as I continue seeking the Lord about addressing New York's new law legalizing abortion up to birth.

The matter that I find myself compelled to address is what a prominent pastor said to radio listener who called into the program. The caller, speaking of Bible prophecy said she was one of the original Jesus people and for many years has been a watcher waiting for Jesus to come back. She said she sees what's happening in Syria and it becoming a ruinous heap, and it's happening before our eyes and she said she's terrified. Her question was how do you handle what's going on in society? The pastor's response was that "maybe this type of teaching may not be all that healthy for you," and he went on to quote Acts 1:7-8, where Jesus said, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." He then went on to say, "That is what Christians are to be focusing on, not what's happening in Syria or what's happening in Iraq, because quite frankly, none of us know what is happening or going to happen. For over 50-years, ever since the establishing of the State of Israel every six months we hear, it's all coming down this week, and to me, it's a just a huge distraction." Then the pastor, in a reference to the recent Proximity Bible prophecy conference the caller had watched online, said, "I would stop listening to and watching that and just get into your Bible and that will make you happy."

- I'll start by providing more of a context to the Acts 1:7-8 reference because of what happened after Jesus had said this to them.
- It's important to understand that Jesus had appeared after the resurrection over a period of forty days giving convincing proof.
- Namely, proof concerning the kingdom of God, because they were intently focused on His return, which Jesus is speaking to.

Acts 1:9-10 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

- Time does not permit me to quote the numerous references in scripture to the blessing that comes for those who are watching.
- The Savior Himself in Luke 21:28 said when we see prophecy beginning to come to pass, look up, our redemption draws near.
- I think of the Apostle Paul, who at the end of his life, referred to the crown of righteousness, that the Lord had in store for him.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 - 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

- I would suggest the Apostle Paul was including the longing for Christ's return in finishing of the race and fighting the good fight.
- I'll take it a step further and suggest that absent this longing for the Lord to return the urgency of the gospel can be gutted out.
- It's my belief that the return of Christ is a vital part of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which brings many to salvation in Jesus Christ.

- This has been our experience in doing these weekly prophecy updates, such that, it's reaching the uttermost parts of the earth.
- It seems that by focusing on the significant events in the Middle East people are connecting the dots with prophecy in the Bible.
- Moreover, Israel will come to a saving knowledge of their true Messiah, vis-à-vis looking for the first coming of their Messiah.

This past Wednesday, Breaking Israel News, had a most interesting article about whether Russia was a friend of Israel or a prophetic enemy from the North in which they quote from Ezekiel 38. Here's some of what they had to say, "With a major military presence in Syria, it is essential to understand Russia's intentions for the region. Russia's role takes on apocalyptic implications when considering verses that identify the pre-Messiah War of Gog and Magog which, according to the prophet Ezekiel, will be a war against Israel fought by a multi-nation coalition led by a nation from the north. ...They then go on to quote a teaching from the 18th century Rabbinic sage known as the Vilna Gaon who singled out Russian aggression as a precursor to the Messiah. "When you hear that the Russians have captured the city of Crimea, you should know that the times of the Messiah have started, that his steps are being heard," the Vilna Gaon told his followers just before his death in 1797. "And when you hear that the Russians have reached the city of Constantinople (today's Istanbul), you should put on your Shabbat clothes and don't take them off, because it means that the Messiah is about to come any minute."

<https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/121187/russia-friend-israel-prophetic-enemy/>

- Dare I say that we need to clothe ourselves in Christ, and this because He is about to come any minute and rapture His bride.
- This is why we do these weekly prophecy updates and end with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the simple ABC's of Salvation.
- The Gospel, or good news is that Jesus was crucified, buried, rose again on the third day, and is coming back for us one day.

The ABC's of Salvation

- The A is for Admit you're a sinner and your need for the Savior, (Romans 3:10, 23 – 6:23).
- The B is for Believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord and God raised Him from the dead, (Romans 10:9-10).
- The C is for Call upon the name of the Lord and confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord, (Romans 10:9-10, 13).