

Mid-East Prophecy Update – April 21st, 2019

- For today's prophecy update, I think I would be grossly remiss were I not to address the massacre of Christians in Sri Lanka.
- Doubtless you know this took place on Resurrection Sunday and the death toll has reached 253 plus many that were injured.
- Sadly, it's an undeniable fact that today, Christians are the most persecuted people of faith in the world, and it's getting worse.

On Thursday CBN News had an article about how in spite of the warnings emerging of new Sri Lanka church attacks, that global Christian persecution is still obscured. Quoting the article, "Last Sunday's bombings were one of the world's worst terrorist attacks ...but there's still a sense that Americans don't grasp that Christians around the world are so targeted. In fact, the New York Times ran an opinion piece this week asking "Are Christians Privileged or Persecuted?" Doug Bandow, an analyst at the CATO Institute answers that question writing, "Christianity's dominant role in American culture has obscured the fact that it is the most persecuted faith globally." <http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/cwn/2019/april/sri-lanka-says-easter-attack-leader-died-in-hotel-bombing>

Also on Thursday, Fox News had a segment on the rise of anti-Christianity around the world, noting the number of recent attacks on Christians just in Africa. It's important to understand that the attacks against Jews and Christians come from Islam, vis-a-vis the Quran, which actually commands the Muslim to strike terror in and kill the "people of the book."

On Tuesday, Arutz Sheva published a report about how the Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the bombings. You might remember, former president Barak Obama said that the Islamic State was neither Islamic nor a State.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/262223>

It should come as no surprise according to The Washington Times, Obama and Clinton tipped their anti-Christian 'Easter worshippers' hats. "Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton avoided using the word "Christians" while commenting on Twitter about the horrific attacks on — yes, let's call it what it is, please — Christians on Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka that left hundreds dead and injured. Instead, the ex-prez and former secretary of state called the victims "Easter worshippers." That's not just strange and unnatural. It's a political calculation. Here's what Obama tweeted: "The attacks on tourists and Easter worshippers in Sri Lanka are an attack on humanity. On a day devoted to love, redemption, and renewal, we pray for the victims and stand with the people of Sri Lanka." And Clinton wrote this: "On this holy weekend for many faiths, we must stand united against hatred and violence. I'm praying for everyone affected by today's horrific attacks on Easter worshippers and travelers in Sri Lanka." My gosh, people. It was an attack on Christians. It was an attack on Christianity. Calling them "Easter worshippers" is a political ploy designed to tamp down realities of radical Islamic terror targeting of Christians and Christianity.

https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/apr/22/barack-obama-hillary-clinton-tip-anti-christian-ea/?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=socialnetwork

- If you're anything like me and I suspect that you are, the reaction to all of this is one of anger, and certainly a righteous anger.
- Another reaction can be fear, which can lead to discouragement and despair as we see that things could get even worse for us.
- Thankfully, we need not react in any of these ways by virtue of the promises that are ours for the asking in these, the last days.

1. Be Patient - James 5:7–11 - 7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! 10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

2. Be Encouraged – 1 Thess. 4:14–18 - 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

3. Be Godly – 2 Peter 3:10–12 - 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

- Here's the bottom line in closing, Christ's return for His bride is at the door, which is our only hope for salvation and redemption.
- 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).