

## Bible Prophecy Update – January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- For today's update I want to talk about the stunning developments in the Middle East with the breaking news this last Thursday.
- Doubtless you have heard about the U.S. strike that killed Iran's top military official, General Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad Iraq.
- I'm hoping to answer the question everyone is asking concerning, what happens next, given that this is a global game changer.

Let's start with this Fox News report about President Trump ordering the game-changing U.S. military attack that killed Soleimani, the head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' elite Quds Force, among other military officials at Baghdad International Airport early Friday. ...Their deaths marked a potential turning point in the Middle East, and are expected to draw severe retaliation from Iran and the forces it's backed in the Middle East against Israel and American interests. ...The nighttime attack occurred amid tensions with the U.S. after an Iran-backed militia attacked the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, which was targeted Tuesday by angry mobs who were protesting recent U.S. airstrikes. <https://www.foxnews.com/world/rockets-baghdad-airport-injuries-reported>

As you might imagine this has raised the ire of Iran for whom this killing is unthinkable. According to Al Arabiya, Iranian President Hasan Rouhani was quoted as saying that Iran and the free nations of the region will take revenge on the United States for killing Revolutionary Guards commander Qassem Soleimani and the deputy commander of Iran-backed militias Abu Mahdi al-Mohandes. <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2020/01/03/Iran-and-free-nations-of-region-to-avenge-general-s-killing-Rouhani.html>

On Friday, The Jerusalem Post published a report about Netanyahu returning to Israel from Athens due to security concerns. The Foreign Ministry and security officials have placed Israeli embassies and consuls around the world on high alert following the targeted killing of Soleimani. ...Netanyahu lauded US President Donald Trump said he "deserves all the credit for acting swiftly, forcefully and decisively. Israel stands with the United States in its just struggle for peace, security and self-defense."

<https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Bennett-Kochavi-meet-embassies-placed-on-high-alert-following-US-strike-612973>

What's interesting is the purpose of Netanyahu being in Greece in the first place. It was to sign a "mega gas pipeline deal with Greece and Cyprus. According to The Times of Israel, Israel, Greece and Cyprus on Thursday signed an agreement for a huge pipeline project to ship gas from the eastern Mediterranean to Europe despite Turkey's hostility to the deal. The move comes amid tensions with Turkey over its activities in the area and a maritime deal with Libya expanding Ankara's claims over a large gas-rich area of the sea. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-inks-mega-gas-pipeline-deal-with-greece-cyprus/>

- This brings us to the aforementioned question of "what happens next?" and thankfully, we have the answer in the Word of God.
- We're told Russia, Iran and Turkey will invade Israel via Syria in order to take the oil, natural gas, and gold that's today in Israel.
- Then, after God Himself swiftly defeats this alliance of nations, the world will scream for a leader to bring "peace and security."

- It is my personal belief that we may very well be on the cusp of this coming to pass, which means the rapture draws very near.
- 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).