

Mid-East Prophecy Update – August 13th, 2017

- For today's prophecy update I want to address the situation with North Korea and where all of this could in fact be leading.
- Certainly, for us here in Hawaii, as well as those living in Guam, there is much in the way of consternation because of all this.
- It's becoming quite apparent that many are taking this seriously and rightfully so, given the prophetic implications of an attack.

- It's important to understand that what's happening with North Korea has serious implications for Israel, chiefly because of Iran.
- According to one source, while everyone talked about North Korea, nobody seemed to notice what they were doing with Iran.
- Namely, that of signing a series of new military accords on the heels of a 10-day visit to Tehran on Monday by Kim's #2 man.

- The question becomes, what is it about a nation like North Korea that attracts the likes of Iran and with them Russia and China.
- For me, one possible answer to this question came after a meeting I had with a brother here in the church this last Thursday.
- It's what's known as "Rare Earth Elements," which as it turns out, North Korea possesses twice the entire current global stockpiles.

- What are rare earth elements - they're rare minerals needed for sophisticated technologies from cell phones to guided missiles.
- The problem is that North Korea sits on top of significantly higher REE reserves, than previously thought and that hurts China.
- North Korea has what's estimated to be six times the amount that Beijing does, and that could break the stranglehold of China.

- Enter Iran and with them Russia, which explains why it is that Iran in particular has invested billions of dollars with North Korea.
- The irony is Iran's multibillion-dollar investment, which came vis-à-vis the 2015 Iranian nuclear deal is keeping Kim in business.
- This after, there have been renewed efforts to increase sanctions on North Korea, which many believe will be inconsequential.

- To make matters worse, the mainstream media here in the US via one, Susan Rice are condemning Trump and coddling Kim.
- Make no mistake about it Iran watches this with the Obama nuclear deal file in their hip pocket laughing all the way to the bank.
- Not only are they laughing their way to the bank, as it were, they're also laughing their way to Israel's border by way of Syria.

In an article originally published in The Jerusalem Post, Caroline Glick offers some interesting insight as it relates to the volatility of the situation between North Korea and the US, and the Iranian involvement pertaining to Israel. In it she writes, "If the US does not attach Trump's threat to attack North Korea to a credible strategy for removing North Korea's nuclear arsenal, then Iran will draw the appropriate lessons. ... Trump's response to the North Korean nuclear crisis will directly impact the burgeoning nuclear threat of Iran ... there is strong circumstantial evidence that the two programs are connected. Indeed, they may be the same program. ... In the past, CIA officials have claimed that Iranian observers have been present at North Korean nuclear tests. Iran also reportedly financed the Korean-built nuclear reactor in Syria that Israel reportedly destroyed in 2007. Iran's Shihab-3 and Shihab-4 intermediate range ballistic missiles are based on North Korean designs. Former US ambassador to the UN John Bolton recently revealed that during North Korea's 1999-2006 missile testing moratorium, Iran conducted missile tests for North Korea. If the circumstantial evidence linking the two nuclear programs is correct, then whatever North Korea has will be possessed by Iran in short order.

<http://carolineglick.com/americas-strategic-paralysis/>

On Friday, The Jerusalem Post published an article asking the question, "Will Israel feel the heat of Trump's 'fire and fury' North Korea rhetoric?" Here's some of what the article had to say, Iran is not far from nuclear weapons and many have theorized that some of its jumps toward obtaining a weapon can be credited to North Korea. If North Korea is attacked with nuclear weapons or feels it is closer to being attacked, it may try to advance Iran close to the finish line. Iran crossing the nuclear threshold and using weapons against Israel would then be more likely. Iran may also see less value to the 2015 nuclear deal once nuclear weapons are being used again. Next, the wider Middle East nuclear arms race Israel has feared would be far more likely to happen if countries believed they were all now more at risk of being hit by nuclear weapons because the taboo was broken. An entirely different, but dangerous, possibility is that Trump continues his bellicose threats, but does not follow through. This could encourage North Korea, Iran (which could drop the nuclear deal) and others to move forward more aggressively, if they viewed Trump as full of hot air. None of this means that Trump's high stakes gamble of matching the North's fiery rhetoric will not work. In fact, most of those opposing Trump's rhetoric merely suggest alternative policies that are more of the same ideas that have not slowed North Korea until now. But right or wrong, and even as the nuclear taboo has not yet been broken, Trump has broken a taboo relating to nuclear rhetoric.

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=502130>

- Suffice it to say, this is exactly what the Bible says will happen specifically concerning an all-out nuclear war in the Middle East.
- However, other than a small number of Christians who understand the times in which we're living, people are totally unaware.
- Sadly, even amongst Christians, there is this disinterest at best, and complete ignorance at worst when it comes to prophecy.

- I want to get very real and I'm keenly aware it may be somewhat uncomfortable for some as I do, and for that I don't apologize.
- This because, this last week I was struck with this sense from the Lord that there's just no time to acquiesce to the status quo.
- By that I mean, in light of what I believe is coming in the not too distant future we as Christians cannot pretend and play church.

- Bible prophecy is beginning to come to pass in real time as the Lord's return for His bride draws nigh and we're playing Church.
- If this weren't bad enough, while the Christian plays church, the non-Christian plays the lotto. At least according to Newsweek.

On Wednesday, Newsweek published an article titled, "How to play the lottery, because the Powerball jackpot is \$300 million and with North Korea you might as well" - Playing the Powerball is, for the vast majority of people, an exercise in futility. No matter how good it may feel in the moment to buy a ticket that could land you a house in Hawaii or a private jet, it's nearly impossible to emerge victorious: The odds of winning the grand prize are roughly one in 292 million, meaning you're statistically more likely to become a saint, win an Academy Award or get killed by an asteroid. In a normal world, it's not even worth getting excited over the fact that the Powerball jackpot is at \$307 million and the Mega Millions jackpot is \$382 million. But we're not in a normal world. Everything seems to be falling apart. ...North Korea is making missiles that can carry nuclear weapons and is threatening to strike Guam, ... why not distract yourself/prepare for the apocalypse by spending a few bucks on the lottery?

<http://www.newsweek.com/powerball-mega-millions-tips-jackpot-648824>

- Here's the question before every one of us today, are we amongst those who distract ourselves with the things of this world?
- Brothers and sisters, this ought not to be, rather, as we see the day of the Lord fast approaching, we ought to live godly lives.

2 Peter 3:10-2 - 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.

Romans 13:11-14 - 11 And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

- Instead of acting like the world, we need to get the word out to the world because we have the answer of that hope within us.

1 Peter 3:15-16 - But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

- Last week I heard a most disturbing statistic that 72% of American's believe that if you are a good person you will go to heaven.
- This is one reason that I have been, and will continue presenting the gospel at the conclusion of our weekly prophecy updates.
- I do so again today with the childlike simplicity of the ABC's of Salvation, which many are using and sharing the gospel as well.

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.