

## Mid-East Prophecy Update - February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

- Every week, we set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings to look at Bible prophecy  
- The reason for this is because we believe that the geopolitical events taking place in the world today are fulfilling what the Bible says will happen in the last days.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."  
- However, today, my heart is directed to a prophecy about the primarily the United States.  
- We are told that in the last days there will be a massive departure from the Christian faith and a turning towards other false religions.

**1 Timothy 4:1** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; KJV

**THE CHRISTIAN POST - Scholars Find Decline of Christianity in the West** - By Vivian S. Park, Sat, Mar. 06 2004 12:01 PM ET - Recently, many scholars around the world are noticing how the trend of Christianity is losing its light in the West but rising as the new light in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. ...Ed Vitagliano, news editor for AFA Journal, ... noted how Christianity is waning in the West because of the "advancing assault of secularism and New Age spirituality." ...Most scholars and Christian leaders,...who complained on the proposed constitution of the European Union, which excluded any reference to God or its Christian past, blame on prevalence of secularism for the cause of diminishing Christianity.

[http://www.christianpost.com/article/20040306/19971\\_Scholars\\_Find\\_Decline\\_of\\_Christianity\\_in\\_the\\_West.htm](http://www.christianpost.com/article/20040306/19971_Scholars_Find_Decline_of_Christianity_in_the_West.htm)

**TIMES ONLINE - Spirited away: why the end is nigh for religion** - November 04, 2004 - Christianity will be eclipsed by spirituality in 30 years, startling new research predicts. Our correspondent reports on the collapse of traditional religion and the rise of mysticism. IN THE beginning there was the Church. And people liked to dress up in their best clothes and go there on Sundays and they praised the Lord and it was good. But it came to pass that people grew tired of the Church and they stopped going, and began to be uplifted by new things such as yoga and t'ai chi instead. And, lo, a spiritual revolution was born. Study after study appears to prove that people are increasingly losing faith in the Church and the Bible and turning instead to mysticism in guises ranging from astrology to reiki and holistic healing. ... More and more people describe themselves as "spiritual", fewer as "religious" and, as they do so, they are turning away from the Christian Church, with its rules and "self last" philosophy, and looking inwards for the meaning of life. Twice as many people believe in a "spirit force" within than they do an Almighty God without, while a recent survey hailed a revival of the Age of Aquarius after finding that two thirds of 18 to 24-year-olds had more belief in their horoscopes than in the Bible.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,7-1342587,00.html>

**2 Thessalonians 2:3** Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; KJV

**TULSA WORLD - Generation: Exodus, Church dropouts a worry** - February 2nd, 2008 - American church leaders fear that the next generation of church members and leaders may be a no-show. A variety of polls suggest that 60 percent to 70 percent of high school students active in their Protestant churches drop out after graduation. Traditional wisdom says they will be back when they are older and raising their own families, but even that is uncertain.

[http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?articleID=20080202\\_238\\_A1\\_hChur86887](http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?articleID=20080202_238_A1_hChur86887)

- Two thoughts; First, There is something for us to be doing because of this,  
- Second, there is something this should be doing to us because of this.

**Romans 13:11** And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. NKJV

**Ephesians 5:15-16** 15 Be very careful, then, how you live-not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. NIV

- Here's what this should be doing to us because of this.

**1 John 3:2-3** 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. NIV

**2 Timothy 4:6-8** 6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. 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. NIV

- Lord willing, next week we'll look at the very heated debate of "Global Warming" from a Biblical perspective.