

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008

- Every week, we set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings to look at Bible prophecy
- The reason for this is because the Bible predicts certain events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies.

- 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."
- Today, I believe the Holy Spirit has led me to focus on the upcoming elections both in the U.S. on Tuesday, and Israel on February 10<sup>th</sup>.
- First, I would like to talk about the prophetic significance of the elections here in the U.S., then we'll look at the elections in Israel.

- In less than 48 hours, we will vote on what is arguably the most important Presidential election in the history of the United States.
- I would like to show you a short video from Wall Builders about our personal responsibility as Christians to vote our Biblical values.

- One of the primary reasons that this Presidential election is so important is because of where the candidates stand in support of Israel.
- If we elect a President who removes our U.S. support of Israel, then in turn God will be forced to remove His blessing on America.
- I'm keenly aware that this is a very strong statement, however, it is true by virtue of God's covenant with Abraham found in Genesis 12.

**Genesis 12:1-3** 1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." NIV

- Allow me to take it a step further and connect a couple more prophetic dots, as it were, and talk more specifically about Jerusalem.
- The Bible says, in the last days there will be an international effort to "divide Jerusalem," which has always been Israel's eternal capital.
- The prophetic significance and seriousness of a prophecy in Zechariah, has unspeakably profound ramifications for the United States.

**Zechariah 12:1-3, 6** 1 An Oracle This is the word of the LORD concerning Israel. The LORD, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the spirit of man within him, declares: 2 "I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. 3 On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves. ... 6 "On that day I will make the leaders of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume right and left all the surrounding peoples, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place.

- I submit to you that we may be on the cusp of seeing this prophecy, recorded over 2,500 years ago, fulfilled right before our very eyes.
- A new U.S. President, in concert with a new Israeli Prime Minister; 2009 could see Jerusalem "besieged." Consider the following article:

**Yahoo News - Israel heads towards early election** – Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - JERUSALEM (AFP) – Israel is set to hold snap elections early next year after the leader of the biggest party failed to form a coalition, ... Both Israel and the Palestinians had pledged to try to reach a deal before US President George W. Bush leaves office in January, but the talks have made little visible progress. ... With Israel going to early elections, peace efforts are now likely to hang in limbo for several months. The issue of Jewish settlements and the question of Jerusalem are among the main stumbling points in the peace negotiations. Israel considers the whole city its eternal and undivided capital, but the Palestinians demand east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state. Israel captured mostly Arab east Jerusalem in the 1967 war and annexed it shortly afterwards, in a move not recognized by the international community. Likud, which is headed by hard line former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, claims that Kadima and Livni are willing to divide Jerusalem and to withdraw from the occupied West Bank, which Israel calls Judea and Samaria.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20081027/wl\\_mideast\\_afp/mideastisraelpolitics\\_081027130903](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20081027/wl_mideast_afp/mideastisraelpolitics_081027130903)

- It seems that these elections both in the U.S. and in Israel have the propensity to forever change the prophetic geopolitical landscape.
- Now, like never before, it is incumbent on us as believers in Jesus Christ, to both vote Biblically, and to be watching prophetically.
- Though we don't know the day or the hour of the rapture of the bride of Jesus Christ, we can know that it is nigh, even at the door.

**Luke 21:28** And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. KJV

- It's critical that we be as ready for our redemption, at the rapture, as if it were today, as we would be if it weren't for another 10 years.
- While we're waiting for Him, we need to occupy until He comes, and seize every opportunity to win souls in the urgency of the times.
- Let's be like the army of God, the "men of Issachar," who understood the times in which they lived, and thus, they knew what to do.

**1 Chronicles 12:32** ... men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do-200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command; NIV