

Mid-East Prophecy Update – January 4th, 2009

- 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."
- Last week we began a list of some upcoming realities that I believe are finding their fulfillment in the prophetic pages of Holy Writ.
- While this list isn't in any particular order nor exhaustive, it does collectively cover Bible prophecies that are quickly coming together.

1. Surrounding peoples, like Hamas, may further besiege Israel to their own peril (Zechariah 12)
2. Vladimir Putin's new Russia may become even more aggressive geopolitically (Ezekiel 38-39)
3. Iran's Ayatollah Khamenei and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will continue fulfilling their Islamic eschatology (Ezekiel 38-39)
4. The potentially decreasing role of United States, geo-politically, economically, and militarily. (Ezekiel 38:13)
5. The possible collapse of the world economic system ushering in a "New World Order." (Revelation 13:17)
6. The potentially increasing acceptance of Islam both globally and in the United States. (Revelation 20:4)

- Now I am keenly aware that there are those who would scoff at Bible prophecy, saying; "the end has been near for thousands of years."
- Everyone has thought the Jesus would return during their lifetime, and still, He doesn't come, where is the promise of His coming.

2 Peter 3:3-16 3 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 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 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. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. 14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. 15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. NIV