

Mid-East Prophecy Update – January 11th, 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."
- I want to take a closer look at the current situation in Gaza, because there now seems to be more to this than what first meets the eye.
- It's incumbent on us who are watching for the rapture to be aware of certain prophecies that may point to what's happening in Gaza

1. Zechariah 12 prophecies how that the surrounding people will besiege Judah and Jerusalem.
2. Isaiah 17 is an oracle describing first how Damascus Syria will be destroyed in one day.
3. Ezekiel 38-39 is a prophecy listing an alliance of nations, led by Russia and Iran, who will attack Israel.
4. Psalm 83 is a prophetic Psalm of Israel's enemies declaring that Israel should be wiped off the map.
5. 1 Thessalonians 5:3 has Paul telling the church that sudden destruction comes when they say peace and security.

- The common denominator in just these five prophecies is; it seems to foretell the use of nuclear weapons which brings the destruction.
- I found it interesting this last week; The History Channel had "Armageddon Week," which was about prophecies and earth's last days.
- There was also some new intelligence that came out recently, which I believe may actually connect more of these prophetic dots.

Jewish World Review - Iran's Gazan diversion? January 6, 2009 / 10 Teves 5769 By Caroline B. Glick - ...it is important to note that the war today, like the war in 2006, is a war between Israel and Iran. Like Hizbullah, Hamas is an Iranian proxy. And just as was the case in 2006, Iran was instrumental in inciting the current war. Iran prepared Hamas for this war. It used Hamas's six-month cease-fire with Israel to double both the range and the size of Hamas's missile arsenal. It trained Hamas's 20,000-man army for this war. And as the six months drew to a close, Iran incited Hamas to attack. [It appears that Iran may have started something it may not be able to finish] ...There are many possible explanations for [this]. First there is the fact that war is an expensive proposition and Iran today is in trouble on that score. In the summer of 2006, oil cost nearly \$80 a barrel. Today it is being traded at \$46 a barrel. Iran revised its 2009 budget downward on Monday based on the assumption that oil will average \$37 a barrel in 2009. ...And the loss of billions in oil revenues may simply have priced Iran out of running a two-front terror war. ...Then too, Washington-based Iran expert Michael Ledeen from the Foundation for Defense of Democracies argued on Monday that Iran's apparent decision to sit this war out may well be the result of the regime's weakness. ...There is also the possibility that Iran simply miscalculated. It believed that ahead of Israel's February 10 elections, the lame-duck Olmert-Livni-Barak government, which was already traumatized by the 2006 war, would opt not to fight. This would have been a reasonable assumption. ...Alas, there is another possible explanation for Iran's apparent decision ...On Sunday, Iranian analyst Amir Taheri reported the conclusions of a bipartisan French parliamentary report on the status of Iran's nuclear program in Asharq Alawsat. The report which was submitted to French President Nicolas Sarkozy late last month concluded that unless something changes, Iran will have passed the nuclear threshold by the end of 2009 and will become a nuclear power no later than 2011. The report is notable because it is based entirely on open-sourced material whose accuracy has been acknowledged by the Iranian regime. The report asserts that this year will be the world's final opportunity to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. And, as Taheri hints strongly, the only way of doing that effectively is by attacking Iran's nuclear installations. In light of this new report, which contradicts earlier US intelligence assessments that claimed it would be years before Iran is able to build nuclear weapons, it is possible that Iran ordered the current war in Gaza for the same reason it launched its war in 2006: to divert international attention away from its nuclear program. It is possible that Iran prefers to run down US President George W. Bush's last two weeks in office with the White House and the rest of the world focused on Gaza, than risk the chance that during these two weeks, the White House (or Israel) might read the French parliament's report and decide to do something about it. So too, its apparent decision not to have Hizbullah join in this round of fighting might have more to do with Iran's desire to preserve its Lebanese delivery systems for any nuclear devices than its desire to save pennies in a tight economy. And if this is the case, then even if Israel beats Hamas, we could still lose the larger war by again having allowed Iran to get us to take our eyes away from the prize.

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- Does what's happening in Gaza have prophetic significance? I believe so. Perhaps we'll know in the next few months and even weeks.
- What does this mean to me now? It means, be watching, be ready, and be salt and light in a rotten and dark world before it is too late!