

Mid-East Prophecy Update – January 18th, 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."
- For what would be deemed obvious reasons, we've been looking at the prophetic significance of the war with Hamas in the Gaza strip.

- I want to take a different approach as it relates to this ongoing situation in Gaza. Let's approach this as if we weren't prophecy savvy.
- In other words, let's suppose that we are new to Bible prophecy, and aren't really aware of what the Bible says about the last days.
- For the moment, let's revisit Bible prophecy as if what's currently happening on the geopolitical landscape wasn't taking place now.

Prophecy: The Bible says that in the last days, that God will return Israel as a nation to their land. (Ezekiel 37, Mark 13:28- 31)

Fulfillment: May 14, 1948, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion raised the Israeli flag, proclaiming Israel a sovereign and independent state.

Prophecy: Once back in the land, they'll declare that Israel has no right to exist, and will want to wipe Israel off the map. (Psalm 83)

Fulfillment: October 26, 2005, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying; "As the Imam said, Israel must be wiped off the map."

- Someone may want to tell Ahmadinejad that he will never succeed in doing this, and to know why, he should read Jeremiah 31:35-36.

Jeremiah 31:35-36 35 This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar--the LORD Almighty is his name: 36 "Only if these decrees vanish from my sight," declares the LORD, "will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me." NIV

Prophecy: Russia and Iran will unite politically to eventually lead an alliance of nations in a nuclear attack on Israel. (Ezekiel 38-39)

Fulfillment: November 8th 2001, the AP reported that the central support for the Iranian nuclear project is provided by Russia.

Prophecy: Those in close proximity to Israel, both geographically and genetically, will attack Israel besieging Judah. (Zechariah 12)

Fulfillment: In 2006, and now in 2009, both Hezbollah, (Southern Lebanon), and Hamas, (Gaza), continue to launch attacks on Israel.

- It's good to step back and look first at Bible prophecy, then look at what's happening in the world, so the prophetic dots get connected.
- One of the reasons for Bible prophecy is that it can have a profound impact on us and how we live our lives in this world.

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