

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – April 19<sup>th</sup>, 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."
- As of late, I've been thinking a lot about how close we are to the soon return of the Lord for His bride in the event we call the rapture.
- Just look at what's happening in Israel, what's happening with Iran, and Russia, and what's happening to the U.S., Jesus is coming!!!!

- I want to take it a step further, and submit to you that the Lord's return for His church may even be closer than we think or expect.
- To do that, I want to draw your attention to the answer Jesus gave to the disciples when asked what the signs of His coming would be.

**Matthew 24:3-14** 3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" 4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. 9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. NKJV

- Notice in verse six Jesus says; "these things must come to pass but the end is not yet." It's in verse 14 that He says the end will come.
- In other words, all these things will come to pass like birth pangs, but the end will not come until the gospel has reached all the world.
- I suggest to you that this is happening even now. Do you know how many people from all over the world are coming to Jesus Christ?

"...the big, untold story is that more Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus Christ today than at any other time in history. After criss-crossing the Islamic world over the last several years and interviewing more than 150 pastors and ministry leaders operating deep inside the most difficult countries for Inside The Revolution, I can report that in Iran, more than 1 million Shia Muslims have turned to Christ since 1979. In Pakistan, there are now more than 2.5 million followers of Jesus Christ. In Sudan, there are now more than 5 million followers of Christ. Not every country has seen millions leave Islam to become adherents of the New Testament teachings of Jesus. In Syria, there are between 4,000 and 5,000 believers, but this is up from almost none in 1967. In Saudi Arabia, there are about 100,000 followers of Jesus now, up from almost none in 1967. But overall, the trend has been dramatic and largely unreported."

Joel Rosenberg, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- Paul, in what is perhaps one of the most powerful, provocative, and prophetic passages writes about this to the church in Rome.

**Romans 11:25-27** 25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. 27 And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins." NIV

- I believe that we are now witnessing this fulfillment right before our very eyes because of the number of the Gentiles getting saved.
- If this is true, and it is, but don't take my word for it, be a Berean and search the scriptures yourself, then Jesus is 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