

Mid-East Prophecy Update – May 24th, 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."
- Two weeks ago we started looking at how Bible prophecy is finding its fulfillment in the rise of Islam and its pronounced presence.

- The Bible describes certain attributes of the One World Religion under the Anti-Christ's control that, at their core, point to Islam.
- One of the main reasons for this is that Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world today, and will dominate the world tomorrow.

- Another reason is Islam's eschatology, they teach that the 12 Imam, their Muslim Messiah, will come, bring peace, and rule for 7 years.
- Perhaps one of the most compelling reasons of all is the sacred Muslim practice of beheading infidels that is commanded in the Qur'an.

- There's another reason that I would like to look at a little more closely, and it has to do with this ecumenical movement to "coexist."
- Since 9/11, Christianity has seemingly embraced Islam under the banner of unity, as a religion that believes in the same God.
- I would like to read to you what one pastor wrote shortly after the Muslim terrorists attacked the world trade center and pentagon.

"You say you brought Muslims to the church last Sunday and everyone stood and applauded them, that is in vogue right now in many churches. I have a question, one that I am processing, re: the appropriate interaction between Christians and Muslims. Are the people you brought to church considered "good, faithful" Muslims? If so, they follow the Koran, I presume? Did they comment to you re: the texts of the Koran, which call for you (as a non-Muslim) to be killed by them? Ask the Christians in Muslim jails right now in most of the 22 Arab nations if they think we should bring Muslims into our Christian worship services and applaud them. Love the Muslim "in Christ" a thousand times--Yes! Applaud them on the platform of a Christian church a thousand times--No! Last Sunday (September 23rd, 2001) at Yankee Stadium "a prayer for America" thousands gathered, Muslims read the Koran (missing the parts which called for Christians to be killed!!) the Koran was even sung, Hindu's prayed, Sikhs prayed, Oprah Winfrey the emcee, Bett Middler the "praise leader" as it were Christians on the platform were all liberals (Lutheran /Catholic/ and Council of Churches), no representation from Evangelicals, no Jim Cymbala (Brooklyn Tabernacle) who has thousands at his church, no AR Bernard (Christian Life Centre, Brooklyn) who has over 10,000 every week no David Wilkerson (Times Square Church), ...who has thousands every Sunday, and who would have been as out of place as Isaiah, Jeremiah or Amos were in their time. Why were they not there, invited, plat formed? (likely the 3 largest attended churches in NYC) the answer: they are too Jesus centered. ...Here is the amazing part, JESUS NAME WAS NEVER MENTIONED AT YANKEE STADIUM.....NOT ONCE (unless I somehow missed it....and I was listening for it) We have offended God by not naming his Son, we have tried to "blend" in putting Muslims/Jews/ Christians in the National Cathedral in Washington, DC on Fri, Sept. 14 ...one person actually prayed "in the name of Allah, Abraham and Jesus" IN ONE PHRASE. We act as if this is a Muslim/Jewish/Christian nation it is not. It's 86% Christian, 2%Jewish, 1.5% Muslim, but Jesus can't be mentioned. Love the Muslim? Yes. Do acts of compassion to them? Yes. Relate to them? Yes. Witness Christ's love for them? Yes. Put them on our platforms and give them applause, thus causing people to naively buy into the pluralistic notion that "we all worship the same God" Never! ...Do your Muslim friends acknowledge that the Koran, and the Hadith are hate-filled? If so, will they renounce them? To NOT renounce them means that they are committed to killing you, and all the applauding Christians in your church on September. 16th.

Pastor Jim Garlow, Skyline Church, San Diego California, September 25th, 2001

- It has been almost 8 years since this happened and a lot has happened! It seems a united one world religion is a foregone conclusion.
- I suggest to you that in order to be united as "one faith," one has to depart from "the" faith in Jesus Christ Who is the way, truth and life.
- Jesus spoke of this when He was teaching the parable of the persistent widow, and makes a rather astonishing statement at the end.

Luke 18:7-8 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, **when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"** (NKJV)

- Islam has become the arch enemy of Judaism and the Jewish people as God's "elect." Here, Jesus says that God will avenge His own.
- What makes Jesus' statement so remarkable is that when He does come, it will be questionable whether or not He finds faith on earth.
- Though the parable is about prayer, I wonder if there's not insight here concerning what Jesus finds when He returns at the 2nd coming.

- Paul sort of echo's this in his second letter to the Thessalonian church when writing about the rapture taking place before the tribulation.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for **that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed,** the son of perdition,4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. NKJV