

Mid-East Prophecy Update – June 7th, 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."
- Today's prophecy updates sort of dove tails and ties into our current series in the book of Acts titled; "Hope in Perilous Times."

- It was timely when, this last week, we went through the book of 2nd Timothy at our annual Calvary Chapel Senior Pastor's Conference.
- The theme was "Hold Fast the Word!" While this may be a firm grasp of the obvious, the last days in which we live indicate otherwise.

- It seems now there's a form of Christianity that has a low regard for the Word of God, resulting in what the Bible calls, "perilous times."
- I want to draw your attention to a passage in Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy where he talks about this peril that will come in the last days.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 1 But mark this: There will be terrible (perilous) times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God- 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. NIV

- These perilous times will be marked by self love and a form of godliness that is self-centered not God-centered thus it will be powerless.
- Paul, by the Holy Spirit, warns Timothy that when one denies the Word of God, they are in fact denying its power, becoming powerless.
- When a church denies God's Word it will lose its power, and so too, when a nation denies the Word of God, it will lose its power.

- Last week, I watched in disbelief, as the President of this, once the most powerful nation on earth, in effect, denied the Word of God.
- His speech in Cairo Egypt seemingly had a form of godliness when he quoted scriptures, but he denied God's Word and its power.

THE JERUSALEM POST - Obama's Cairo address, Thursday, June 4th, 2009 - ...We have the power to make the world we seek, but only if we have the courage to make a new beginning, keeping in mind what has been written. The Holy Koran tells us: "O mankind! We have created you male and a female; and we have made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another." The Talmud tells us: "The whole of the Torah is for the purpose of promoting peace." The Holy Bible tells us: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." The people of the world can live together in peace. We know that is God's vision. Now, that must be our work here on Earth. Thank you. And may God's peace be upon you.

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- I believe the United States of America is even now losing its status as the most powerful nation on earth. Actually, it may already have.
- The reason: We have denied God, we have denied the Word of God, and in so doing, we have a form of godliness, but it's powerless.
- I would like to quote for you from Mark Hitchcock's most recent book; "The Late Great United States." Here's what he has to say:

The future of America that we can deduce from Scripture is exactly what we see beginning to materialize before our eyes in today's headlines. America is encountering serious problems at home and abroad. We're oppressed by a sense of some impending crisis. When the trumpet sounds and all the believers in the United States vanish, America's final days will be like so many pages dangling from a December calendar. Like the great powers before it, the United States will collapse under the weight of its own sin, self-indulgence, and excess. In this light, here are seven conclusions we have reached up to this point.

1. America is not mentioned in the Bible.
2. America is Israel's main defender.
3. It appears that America must remain strong until the end times to continue its defense of Israel as the Jewish state tries to stay afloat in a sea of enemies.
4. The scriptural silence concerning America in the end times (after the Rapture) indicates that America will fall from its position of world prominence.
5. World power in the end times is centered in the reunited Roman Empire (Europe).
6. European prominence can only be explained in light of U.S. decline.
7. The United States will suffer its decline and its fall at the Rapture of the church, probably in combination with a series of other harsh setbacks.

Mark Hitchcock, "The Late Great United States" p. 123

- Perhaps you're getting a little fearful right about now, but you don't need to be. Here's why: "The Lord will take care of us as His Bride."
- Even if the Rapture does not precede the collapse of the United States as Mark Hitchcock and others like him, myself included, believe.
- It's been said that; "when we don't know what our future holds, we can know Who holds our future," especially during the perilous times.