

## Mid-East Prophecy Update - October 25<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."
- For today's update, I would like to revisit a prophecy that I believe has an increasing propensity to find it's fulfillment at virtually anytime.
- It's a prophecy in the Old Testament that's sort of forgotten geopolitically as it relates to Syria's role in the end times prophetic program.

**Isaiah 17:1-3** 1 An oracle concerning Damascus: "See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins. 2 The cities of Aroer will be deserted and left to flocks, which will lie down, with no one to make them afraid. 3 The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim, and royal power from Damascus; the remnant of Aram will be like the glory of the Israelites," declares the LORD Almighty. NIV

**Jerusalem Post – Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 - In the fight against nuclear proliferation, don't forget about Syria** - Renewed international efforts to reign in Iran's atomic program have shrouded another unresolved Middle East nuclear challenger, Syria. The [International Atomic Energy Agency's](#) failure to get Damascus to reveal the history of its secret nuclear reactor and related elements raise troubling questions not simply about the Assad regime's nuclear intentions but, more fundamentally, about the ability of the IAEA to act as an effective watchdog. Unless Syria provides a full accounting, its successful stonewalling will only serve further to undermine international efforts to curb proliferation. International awareness that Syria poses a nuclear threat emerged only in September 2007 when it is believed that Israeli aircraft destroyed the nuclear plant under construction in the country's remote northeast desert. The attack generated a surprisingly muted response from Damascus and Jerusalem, but in Vienna, the IAEA condemned the strike arguing that Israel should have informed the agency about Syria's installation. Israel's unwillingness reflected a common and growing uneasiness that the IAEA has become a hollow instrument to ferret out nuclear cheaters or reverse them once revealed. The result - Jerusalem, unwilling to risk international dithering, allegedly took matters into its own hands.

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1256037268491&pagename=JPost/JPArticle/ShowFull>

- I suggest to you that it's possible that, to quote the Jerusalem Post article, Israel may again take "matters into its own hands" with Syria.

**Amir Tsarfati – Prophecy Speaker and Israeli Tour Guide at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa** - "As I stated before: The next biblical event I can see that will be fulfilled is Isaiah 17:1. Syria will be dealt with first to cause the others to be exposed and then act in reaction with aggression!" [http://www.beholdisrael.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogsection&id=0&Itemid=9](http://www.beholdisrael.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=0&Itemid=9)

- What makes an Israeli preemptive strike against Syria so provocative is that it would explain Syria's absence from Ezekiel's prophecy.
- Damascus Syria being destroyed and fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy could very possibly be the nexus in the fulfilling of Ezekiel's Prophecy.

- Given the likelihood of this prophetic fulfillment, I believe the rapture of the church of Jesus Christ is closer than any of us think.
- Let me hasten to say that we need to be as ready for the rapture as if it were today, as we would if it weren't for another 10 years.
- Jesus taught this truth in a parable to the disciples because they thought that the Kingdom of God was going to appear immediately.

**Luke 19:11-13** 11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. 12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. 13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. KJV

**Matthew 24:44** Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. NKJV