

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – November 1<sup>st</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."
- Last Sunday, we revisited a very important prophecy that I believe has an increasing propensity to find its 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

- I believe it's possible that Israel will launch a preemptive strike against Syria and destroy Damascus thus fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy.
- What makes this so interesting is the interconnecting nature of Bible prophecy. In other words fulfilled prophecy fulfills other prophecies.

- There's this nexus that links one prophecy with another, and this prophecy in Isaiah may become a catalyst fulfilling other prophecies.
- I'm not dogmatic about this however, there does seem to be a very compelling component to this prophecy concerning Damascus.
- Frank Toyama had emailed me an article from RaptureAlert.com titled; "Doomsday for Damascus?" which tells me that I'm not alone.

**RaptureAlert.com - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009 - Doomsday for Damascus?** By Michael G. Mickey - Examining current events through the lens of Bible prophecy continues to paint a more accurate picture of the end times as detailed in Scripture, seemingly by the hour. ... events presently taking place in Lebanon may be setting the stage for Damascus, Syria - the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world - to cease to exist. ...it could happen, potentially very soon ... there is little doubt. ... In my humble opinion, one of Israel's first moves, in response to an existential threat to its survival posed by weapons of mass destruction, will, by necessity, be to demonstrate its absolute willingness to do whatever it must to ensure the survival of its nation and people. And that, believers in bible prophecy, could spell doomsday for Damascus. Bible prophecy makes it clear that Iran is going to remain militarily viable until the prophesied battle of Gog-Magog foretold in Ezekiel 38-39 occurs, but Syria? It doesn't appear the Syria we're presently familiar with is going to be a participant. In due season we'll understand why that seems to be the case, but from where we are right now? It isn't hard for me to imagine Syria's role as a troublemaker in the Middle East being greatly diminished, potentially very soon. Keep looking up, Church! Jesus Christ is Lord and He is coming soon!

<http://rapturealert.blogspot.com/2009/10/doomsday-for-damascus.html>

- Allow me to take it a step further with this thought, and again, I'm absolutely not dogmatic about this, though I find it very interesting.
- It's plausible that the destruction of Damascus may very well be the event that brings about the fulfillment of another prophecy in Daniel.

**Daniel 9:27** **He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.'** In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

- If Isaiah's prophecy is the nexus for Daniel's prophecy, then perhaps Daniel's prophecy becomes the nexus for Ezekiel's prophecy.
- Here's how; Israel destroys Damascus which fulfills Isaiah's prophecy propelling the Anti-Christ to sign a seven year peace agreement.
- Once Israel believes she's dwelling in peace and security, then the hook is placed in the jaw which fulfills the prophecy in Ezekiel 38-39.

**Ezekiel 38:4** **I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army-your horses,** your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords. NIV

- Perhaps an Israeli strike against, and destruction of, Damascus Syria in concert with a peace agreement may be that "hook in the jaw."
- Again, I'm not dogmatic about this, but it certainly does seem to fit with the overall last-days prophetic program that we find in scripture.
- Allow me to present to you another reason why I believe this to be a possibility before we bring today's prophecy update to a close.

- Ezekiel's prophecy says that before this Ezekiel 38 attack, Israel has taken down her walls, and is both resting and dwelling securely.

**Ezekiel 38:11** And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of **unwalled villages**; I will go to them that are **at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,**

- I believe the rapture of the church is closer than we can possibly imagine given the Isaiah 17, Daniel 9, and Ezekiel 38-39 prophecies.
- It is for this reason that I believe we are that final generation that will see the coming of the Son of Man when He comes for us His bride.

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