

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- 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 began a series looking at a number of prophecies to keep an eye on in the New Year, as a "watch-list" of sorts.
- Let me hasten to say once again that this list is not in any particular order, nor is it an attempt to make any predictions or set any dates.

### 1. America becoming more vulnerable to Islamic terrorist attacks

**Jerusalem Post - US can't authenticate bin Laden tape** – Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - ...In the message released early Sunday, bin Laden threatened more attacks on the United States. ...Speaking on "Fox News Sunday," Gibbs said, "Everybody in this world understands that this is somebody that has to pop up in our lives over an audio tape because he's nothing but a cowardly murderous thug and terrorist that will some day - hopefully soon - be brought to justice." The minute-long recording was carried by the Al-Jazeera Arabic news channel. Bin Laden addresses US President Barack Obama and says the failed Christmas attack was meant to send a message similar to that of the September 11 attacks. "The message delivered to you through the plane of the heroic warrior Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was a confirmation of the previous messages sent by the heroes of the September 11," he said. "America will never dream of security unless we will have it in reality in Palestine," he added. "God willing, our raids on you will continue as long as your support to the Israelis will continue."

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1263147964395&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

### 2. Global economies continuing to decline even going bankrupt

### 3. U.S. Dollar continuing to decline even collapsing

### 4. Christians will be increasingly persecuted and Muslims will become increasingly accepted

**Richmark Sentinal - Muslim outrage over US rifle scopes with New Testament inscriptions in Afghanistan - Thursday, January 21, 2010** - Muslim groups in the United States have reacted angrily to the news that rifle sights supplied by manufacturer Trijicon, which were being used in Iraq and Afghanistan, bore coded inscriptions from the Christian New Testament. The Muslim Public Affairs Council called upon US Defense Secretary Robert Gates to immediately withdraw them from combat. ...New Zealand, like Britain, claim to have been unaware of the inscriptions and have ordered that the offending sights be removed. They confirmed that they had ascertained that Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight rifle sights used by New Zealand troops, which allow them to pinpoint targets day or night, were marked with "JN8:12," a reference to John 8:12: "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, 'I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life,'" according to the King James version of the Bible. Trijicon, a defense contractor, was founded by devout Christian Glyn Bindon, and has confirmation on its website that it follows "Biblical standards" which it says makes America great.

[http://www.therichmarksentinel.com/rs\\_headlines.asp?recid=3726](http://www.therichmarksentinel.com/rs_headlines.asp?recid=3726)

**Breitbart.com - Muslim anger over military 'Jesus' scopes - Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 2010** - [Muslim groups](#) reacted angrily Wednesday after it emerged that the [US military](#) in [Iraq](#) and [Afghanistan](#) were using rifle sights inscribed with coded Biblical references. ... The [Muslim Public Affairs Council](#) (MPAC) called on US Defense Secretary [Robert Gates](#) to immediately withdraw from combat use equipment found to have inscriptions of Biblical references ... The [Pentagon](#) sought to defuse the brewing controversy, saying it was "disturbed" by the reports. "If determined to be true, this is clearly inappropriate and we are looking into possible remedies," Commander [Darryn James](#), a [Pentagon](#) spokesman, told AFP. ...The shocking revelation raises fresh fears of [Christian fundamentalism](#) seeping through the US military's ranks. "It's got to stop. It's wrong on a million levels," said Weinstein. "This is massively endangering the lives and well-being of our members of the military." His foundation, he added, represents nearly 16,000 troops, the bulk of them Christians. A Muslim-American soldier, who declined to be named due to fears of persecution, said he was "ashamed" and "horrified" by the writings on the gunsights of weapons he used during deployments in [Iraq](#) and [Afghanistan](#). "There are many other soldiers who feel as I do. Many are Protestant and Catholic and they fear reprisal just as much as I do for trying to stand up to the Christian bullies in uniform who outrank us," he said in a letter dated January 14 and addressed to Weinstein and his foundation. The Secular Coalition for America demanded the US military end its contracts with [Trijicon](#). "[Trijicon](#) knew that the scopes they were producing were for the use of the US military and their decision to keep these engravings shows a flagrant disregard by a private contractor of the laws that govern our land," said the group's director [Sean Faircloth](#). According to photographs seen by AFP, the coded inscriptions include JN8:12, an apparent reference to John 8:12: "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

[http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=CNG.8209c5f0688eb7742f1cdf3a0b00513.211&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=CNG.8209c5f0688eb7742f1cdf3a0b00513.211&show_article=1)

**USA TODAY - Some say schools giving Muslims special treatment (7/26/2007)** - Some public schools and universities are granting Muslim requests for prayer times, prayer rooms and ritual foot baths, prompting a debate on whether Islam is being given preferential treatment over other religions. The University of Michigan at Dearborn is planning to build foot baths for Muslim students who wash their feet before prayer. An elementary school in San Diego created an extra recess period for Muslim pupils to pray. At George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., Muslim students using a "meditation space" laid out Muslim prayer rugs and separated men and women in accordance with their Islamic beliefs. Critics see a double standard and an organized attempt to push public conformance with Islamic law. "What (school officials) are doing ... is to give Muslim students religious benefits that they do not give any other religion right now," says Richard Thompson, president and chief counsel at the Thomas More Law Center, an advocacy group for Christians. Advocates say the accommodations are legal. "The whole issue is to provide for a religious foundation for those who are observant while respecting separation of church and state," says Salam Al-Marayati, executive director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council, based in Los Angeles. Many schools accommodate the Christian and Jewish sabbaths and allow Jewish students to not take tests on religious holidays, he says. Barry Lynn, of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, says however that the law is murky on these expressions of faith. And the American Civil Liberties Union says overt religious symbols like crucifixes are not legal, but whether Muslim foot baths and prayer rugs fall into that category is not clear. "That's a difficult one, and it's right on the edge," says Jeremy Gunn, director of the ACLU program on freedom of religion and belief in Washington, D.C.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-07-25-muslim-special-treatment-from-schools\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-07-25-muslim-special-treatment-from-schools_N.htm)

- To those who are students of Bible Prophecy this doesn't come as much of a surprise because we know what it all means prophetically.

**1 John 3:13** Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. NIV

**John 15:18-22** 18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. 21 They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. NIV

**Matthew 5:10-16** 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. 13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. NIV

- Perhaps the question now becomes this; "Is the persecutions of Christians in the last days prophesied in the Bible?"

- For the answer to that, I would like to draw your attention to a booklet titled; "101 Prophecies," because it's prophecy #71.

**Prophecy #71 of "101 Prophecies"** - Jesus said Christians would be hated for His name's sake ...The banning of the Bible, prayer, the Ten Commandments, nativity scenes, Christmas songs, etc., reflects this trend. Also consider that more Christians were martyred during the past century than during all of history.

<http://www.understandthetimes.org/101prophecy.shtml>

- I am keenly aware that this may create some fear and trepidation in the minds and hearts of many, even seemingly strong Christians.

- So, in light of this, I would like to encourage you with the promises in God's Word, as we look at what we can do when persecuted.

- First, we have to understand that whenever we commit to living godly lives, we will suffer persecution, but we need to press on.

**2 Timothy 3:11-14** 11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. 14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; KJV

- Second; when we suffer hardships and persecution we can't be separated from God and His love because we're more than conquerors.

**Romans 8:35-39** 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. NIV

- Third; suffering hardship and persecution can serve as a reminder that God's Word predicted it beforehand so that we would believe.

**John 14:29** "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. NKJV

- Fourth; suffering hardship and persecution wakes us up and shakes us up so that we will get right with the Lord and ready for the Lord.

**Romans 13:11-12** 11 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. NIV

**1 John 3:2-3** 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. NIV

- Fifth; when we go through hardship and persecution as Christians, it has a way of making us long for His appearing in the rapture.

**2 Timothy 4:8** Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. NIV

**Luke 21:28** When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." NIV

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

- As I'm sure you've figured out by now this ties into our current study in the Book of Acts titled; "When a Christian Suffers Persecution."