

Mid-East Prophecy Update – February 28th, 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."

- Needless to say, we're coming off of a very interesting weekend having just been spared of what could have been a massive Tsunami.
- This earthquake in Chile was one the most powerful earthquakes ever recorded in history, which then resulted in the Tsunami warnings.
- What's so interesting is that these major earthquakes are seemingly increasing in various places both in their frequency and intensity.

- On the heels of the Haiti Earthquake, in the last three days we've had three major earthquakes in Japan, Chile, and then Argentina.
- According to the USGS website, as of yesterday, Saturday, February 27th, there had been 239 Earthquakes just in the past 7 Days.
- This really shouldn't come as a shock, (no pun intended), because Jesus said that this would happen just prior to "the end of the world."

Matthew 24:3-8 3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" 4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains. NIV

- It's believe that Jesus not only describes earthquakes as being a sign of His soon return, but He also describes tsunamis that follow.

Luke 21:25-28 25 "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." NIV

- It seems that Jesus is describes events like "the roaring and tossing of the sea," as "coming upon the world" prior to His second coming.
- What makes this so exciting is that; "when these things begin to take place," we're to look up "because our redemption draws near."

- Be that as it may, for today I had planned something else for our prophecy update because February 28th is a holiday called Purim.
- Some of you may be asking; what is Purim, it's not a holiday on my calendar! Well, it most certainly is a holiday on God's calendar.
- Purim is a celebration of God delivering Israel from the hands of the Iranian's, though then they were known to be in the area of Persia.

Joel Rosenberg – Flash Traffic Email Update – Tuesday, February 9th, 2010 - [A CALL TO PASTORS: THIS "PURIM," PLEASE CONSIDER PREACHING ON THE MODERN-DAY LESSONS OF THE BOOK OF ESTHER](#) - This is not the first time in history when the Jewish people have been threatened with annihilation from Persian/Iranian leaders who hated them without cause. The Book of Esther tells the story of how two heroic believers — Mordechai and Esther — prayed and fasted and encouraged others to do the same. In response to those faithful prayers, the Lord intervened in a dramatic and powerful way. The evil Prime Minister of Iran (Haman) was removed from power and hanged. The heart of the Supreme Leader of Iran (King Ahausuerus) was miraculously changed. The Jews did have to fight. But they were saved from destruction and scores of Iranians converted and became true followers of the God of Israel. This year, the holiday of "Purim" commemorating these events falls on Sunday, February 28th. If you are a pastor or Bible teacher, may I ask you to prayerfully consider preaching and teaching on the Book of Esther that Sunday? May I ask you to help followers of Jesus Christ remember how the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob saved the Jewish people from Iran once in history, and how He will do so again if His people will pray and fast as never before? <http://flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com/>

- One doesn't have to be a rocket scientist, pun intended, to see the parallels between Iran's threat to Israel then, and the threat now.
- It's vital we understand that from the beginning of man's history, Satan demonically possesses men to destroy God's chosen people.
- I believe that, like Adolph Hitler, Ahmadinejad is demon possessed, as evidenced by his plan exterminate Israel wiping her off the map.
- Let me say it this way; "because Satan is not omniscient, he's always had to have a man and a plan in place. Same plan, different man.

"Make no mistake: If the world does nothing to stop him, and Ahmadinejad really acquires nuclear warheads and can attach them to the high-speed ballistic missiles they already have, Ahmadinejad will be able to do in about six minutes what Adolf Hitler took six years to do, and that is kill six million Jews. That is just about how many Jews there are in Israel today, and they have all been targeted by the Radical Shia Islamic regime in Iran." <http://joshuafund.wordpress.com/>

- Here's the question; "why does Satan want to annihilate the Jewish people, what would he accomplish were he to actually succeed?"
- Because; hypothetically, had Satan succeeded in the Old Covenant, theoretically, he could have thwarted Jesus Christ's first coming.
- Furthermore; were he to succeed now under the New Covenant, theoretically, he could attempt to thwart Jesus Christ's second coming.
- In other words; "At His first coming, Jesus came through and as a Jew, and at His second coming, Jesus will come for and to the Jew.
- If there is no Jew for Jesus to come through, as, for and to, then in effect, you could nullify both the first and second coming of Christ.

"...if the Jews had not survived, neither would we have the Messiah come. So [the Feast] of Purim is for all of us too."

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Esther 9:26-32 26(Therefore these days were called Purim, from the word pur.) Because of everything written in this letter and because of what they had seen and what had happened to them, 27 the Jews took it upon themselves to establish the custom that they and their descendants and all who join them should without fail observe these two days every year, in the way prescribed and at the time appointed. 28 These days should be remembered and observed in every generation by every family, and in every province and in every city. And these days of Purim should never cease to be celebrated by the Jews, nor should the memory of them die out among their descendants. 29 So Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter concerning Purim. 30 And Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews in the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Xerxes-words of goodwill and assurance- 31 to establish these days of Purim at their designated times, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had decreed for them, and as they had established for themselves and their descendants in regard to their times of fasting and lamentation. 32 Esther's decree confirmed these regulations about Purim, and it was written down in the records. NIV

- While the practical applications and lessons from the book of Esther are many, I don't intend to do a study of this most amazing book.
- However, I do want to quickly connect the dot between Bible History and Bible Prophecy, related to the Feast of Purim then and now.
- Just as the Jews were miraculously delivered by God from Haman then, so too will the Jews be miraculously delivered from Satan now.