

Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An Email Newsletter

Our Times - Prophecy in current events

Will Jerusalem become the new capital of Egypt?

The presidential elections in Egypt this week will be very interesting to say the least. Joel Richardson, writing for "WorldNetDaily - Faith" notes: "According to a prominent Egyptian cleric, if Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohammed Morsi wins the presidential election next week, Egypt's new capital no longer will be Cairo...it will be Jerusalem." (see WorldNetDaily [WND], <http://www wnd com/2012/06/muslim-cleric-jerusalem-to-be-egypt's-capital/>, and view the video)

The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt is a radical Islamic organization whose purpose is to establish an Islamic Caliphate [a system of government in Islam where the head of state or the Caliph, must govern according to Sharia law]. They want to establish a United States of the Arabs and they want the capital of this new USA to be Jerusalem. Safwat



Safwat Hegazy
WND - Faith



Mohammed Morsi
Reuter

Hegazy, in a speech to a crowd in Cairo said, "Our capital shall not be Cairo, Mecca or Medina. It shall be Jerusalem with God's will. Our chants shall be: 'millions of martyrs will march towards Jerusalem'...Yes, we will either pray in Jerusalem or we will be martyred there."

While Mr. Hegazy may feel that he is intimidating the Jews and believers in Jesus Christ by these threats, according to the Word of God, he is actually partially correct. One day, Jerusalem will be the capital of Egypt. In fact, Jerusalem is going to become the capital of all the nations. Micah clearly details the joyful time of the fulfillment of all of God's covenant promises to Israel, and to the nations at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to Jerusalem to establish it as the highest point on the earth and the center of political and spiritual hope, life, and worship. Micah says:

But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more (Micah 4:1-3).

What we are seeing in Egypt today is just the same old vile hatred of Israel and all believers of the One True God of Israel and of the Church. Islam has denied Jesus as the Son of God and has consistently denied the cross upon which the Savior died for their sins and the sins of the whole world. Their solutions always consist of subjugating people to the oppressive laws of Shariah. Yet the Lord in His love still reaches out to them in grace and offers to them salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In a speech, Hegazy in promoting Mohammed Morsi as Egypt's next President, told an enthusiastic crowd in Cairo:

"We can see how the dream of the Islamic Caliphate is being realized, Allah willing, by Dr. Mohammad Morsi and his brother, his supporters, and his political party. We can see how this great dream, shared by us all. The United States of the Arabs will be restored, Allah willing. The United States of the Arabs will be restored by this man and his supporters. The Capital of the Caliphate, the capital of the United States of the Arabs, will be Jerusalem, Allah willing."

According to the WND article, President Obama has expressed enthusiastic support:

Only one year ago, Obama enthusiastically got behind what would come to be the Iranian Revolution of this generation, by stating: "The people of Egypt have spoken. Their voices have been heard, and Egypt will never be the same. By stepping down, President Mubarak responded to the Egyptian people's hunger for change, but this is not the end of Egypt's transition. It's the beginning."

Joel Richardson continues the article by noting:

"Some analysts of Islamic apocalyptic tradition see in Morsi's and Hegazy's calls for Jerusalem as the capital of the Islamic Caliphate a harkening to Islamic prophecy and Islam's messiah figure known as the Mahdi. According to Islamic apocalyptic tradition, the Mahdi is the awaited and coming Caliph [ruler] of Islam."

Authors of a book entitled "Al-Mahdi and the End of Time," state:

The Mahdi will be victorious and eradicate those pigs and dogs and the idols of this time so that there will once more be a Caliphate based on prophethood as the hadith states. Jerusalem will be the location of the rightly guided Caliphate and the center of Islamic rule, which will be headed by Imam al-Mahdi. That will abolish the leadership of the Jews.

According to various Islamic hadith, both Sunni and Shi'a, the armies of the Mahdi are believed to march to Jerusalem and plant the black flags of Islam on the Temple Mount. Jesus clearly spoke of God's intention for the world when He stated to the Samaritan woman at the well: "Salvation is of the Jews (John 4:22)." Therefore, clearly, Jesus would not support Islam nor its presumptuous teachings that the one true God has spoken through them. If He had, He would have contradicted Himself, and this is one thing the Lord will never do! Jesus said of the trustworthiness of God, "Thy Word is Truth (John 17:17).

We have heard a great deal of bluster from Islamists especially in recent years. There seems to be no inhibitions on their part to deride the Jews and the nation of Israel as though the future belongs to Islam. And, of course they believe that it does. This is why I believe that Islamic teaching and teachers are among the false teachers that Jesus predicted would arise in the last days (Matthew 24:24). What a sad time in the United States of America to have those placed into leadership of our country who believe the Moslem Brotherhood in Egypt is a harmless organization that simply has the best interest of Egypt at heart.

The future belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ, His people, the Jews, and His nation, Israel. The Church will be blessed as the Lord's heavenly Bride and Israel as His earthly people. One day there will be a new heaven and a new earth and there will be no people there to curse Israel (2 Peter 3). In fact, the Bible is clear about what God plans for those who come against Israel. Zechariah prophesies concerning Israel's enemies who today seek to destroy God's people:

And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth (Zechariah 14:12).

The Bible does say that there will be a seductive and dominant leader who may well be of Middle Eastern origin. He will be the Antichrist who will position himself in the temple in Jerusalem during the great tribulation and will "exalt himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped" (Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:4). Interestingly, the Islamic descriptions to their Mahdi fit well with the Bible's description of the activities of the future Antichrist.

Yet, the true Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, will be the One true God who will return to Jerusalem and rule as the world's true King. Egypt, which will still be a nation, but submissive to the Lord at that time will actually have a monument erected to the Lord. Isaiah prophesies of this with these words: ***In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD (Isaiah 19:19).*** We will watch with great interest as the events in Egypt and in the world unfold as we approach the time of the coming of Jesus Christ for His church.

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***"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." (Matthew 24:7)***

***"...nation shall rise against nation..."***

A DEBKAfile report states that "A Russian special forces unit is on its way to Syria to guard Russia's deep-water port at Tartus, according to Pentagon officials Friday, June 15. DEBKAfile sources say that these special forces are made up of naval marines and is due to land within hours. In a separate statement, US Defense Department sources in Washington reported that the US military had completed its planning for various operations against Syria, including a no-fly zone. The two steps move the Syrian civil conflict onto a new plane of major power intervention." (Prophecy Tracker)

***The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap... And behold at eveningtide trouble; and before the morning he is not. This is the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us. (This is Isaiah's prediction of the overnight destruction of Syria, Isaiah 17:1,14)***

***"...and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."***

There has been a strange report of an attack on a group of people in a village in India by Tarantulas. As this group was concluding a celebration in the Chaulkhowa Nagaon village in Upper Assam, "swarms of spiders suddenly descended from nowhere and started biting the people." Two people were reported to have died. Scientists who have examined

the spiders say they cannot identify the species. They believe it is similar to the Tarantula, but think it is perhaps a new species altogether. It is seen to be "a highly aggressive spider which leaps at anything that comes close." Some of the victims claimed the spider latched onto them after biting. It is especially difficult for the scientists to assess the type of poison the spiders injected into their victims as all of the bite patients first went to witch doctors. "They cut open their wounds, drained out the blood and burnt it." Also, since the victims were cremated there was no way to test the venom. They do know that the cause of death of the two victims, one of which was a schoolboy, who died of cardiac arrest. (Times of India)



**"...and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven" (Luke 21:12b)**

"To avert a possible catastrophe – this time set for February 2013 – scientists suggest confronting asteroid 2012 DA14 with either paint or big guns. The stickler is that time has long run out to build a spaceship to carry out the operation.

NASA's data shows the 60-meter asteroid, spotted by Spanish stargazers in February, will whiz by Earth in 11 months. Its trajectory will bring it within a hair's breadth of our planet, raising fears of a possible collision." (Prophecy Tracker)



## **The Church Today - Doctrine and Prophecy**

I have found in my investigations, that the Insider Movement, which I have reported on in previous issues of *Prophecy in Perspective*, is still active and growing. Remember that the "Insiders" teach that Muslims who become "followers of Isa," which is the Koran's name for Jesus Christ, should continue to live, worship, and refer to themselves as Muslims.

This movement is certainly picking up steam. Some Bible translations are now corrupting the Scripture so as not to offend Muslims. Yet these translations are offending Bible believing Christians in Turkey and elsewhere in Muslim countries where they are fighting the good fight of faith against the errors of Islam. They want translations to reflect the truth of God's Word and not be made to dilute it.

Some examples of corrupted translations are as follows:

- Wycliffe/SIL produced *Stories of the Prophets*, an Arabic Bible that uses "Lord" instead of "Father" and "Messiah" instead of "Son."
- Frontiers worked with an SIL consultant to produce *True Meaning of the Gospel of Christ*, an Arabic translation which removes "Father" in reference to God, and removes or redefines "Son," e.g. the Great Commission in Mt 28:19 reads, "Cleanse them by water in the name of God, his Messiah and his Holy Spirit."
- Frontiers produced a Turkish translation of Matthew, distributed by SIL, that uses "guardian" for "Father" and "representative" or "proxy" for "Son."
- SIL consulted on the Bengali *Injil Sharif*, which translated "Son" as "Messiah" and "Son of God" as "God's Uniquely Intimate Beloved Chosen One."

By replacing or removing "Father" or "Son" from the text of Scripture, these translations fail to portray God as who he is: the familial, eternal, loving God the Father, Son and Spirit. The deity of Jesus is obscured, and thus the self-sacrifice of God on our behalf. In June 2011, the Presbyterian Church in America explicitly declared such translations as "unfaithful to God's revealed Word" because they "compromise the doctrines of the Trinity, Scripture, and the person and work of Jesus."

Perhaps most importantly, national Christians say these translations are harming their work, even producing a short video expressing their concerns. Yet Western proponents condone removing *Father* or *Son* because they say Muslims can only see sexual connotations to these terms. Numerous missionaries and national believers, however, strongly assert this is not the case. Further, church leaders in places like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Turkey, and Malaysia have called for an end to these translations, but to no avail.

Adding fuel to the fire, these agencies have raised millions of dollars for these projects, yet donors are unaware their gifts are being used for translations that remove *Father*, *Son* and *Son of God* from the text. (See change.org, "Lost In Translation: Keep "Father" & "Son" in the Bible")

There is a growing inclusivistic and syncretistic tendency in the latter day church as is prophesied in Scripture. This inclusivistic and syncretistic tendency has brought about Chrislam, and has promoted the Insider Movement. I believe

this is why the Holy Spirit included His warning in the closing verses of the book of Revelation not to add to or take away from "***the words of the prophecy of this book***" (*Revelation 22:18-19*).

Churches have already begun to show this inclusive tendency by sharing their pulpits with Muslim teachers and are allowed to characterize themselves as being better believers in Jesus than Christians themselves. One example of this happened at the Willow Creek Church as reported by Dr. Tom White in a Voice of the Martyrs Newsletter from December 2001 entitled: "Have we shamed the face of Jesus? Muslims in our Pulpits" ([www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com)):

I cannot take it any longer. How many of our brothers and sisters must be beaten, tortured, burned or decapitated, before we realize that Christians and Muslims DO NOT serve the same God?

We love the Muslims. Many of our co-workers put aside their own safety to reach them for Christ. We print special literature in their languages; we produce and broadcast special programs into the Middle East. We are willing to give our own lives to win the soul of a single Muslim. But we will never, never align ourselves with Islam and its militant teachings. To do so would destroy the very witness many of our brothers and sisters are dying for.

Across America pastors and Christian leaders are allowing representatives of the Islamic faith to freely speak in their pulpits. This happened at Willow Creek Community Church, the largest church in America, where a Muslim man named Faisal Hammouda was allowed to share the pulpit. During the interview with Pastor Bill Hybels, Hammouda claims: "As a matter of fact, we, all of us...believe in Jesus. I believe in Jesus. I believe in Mohammed and all the prophets. So our mission here is to introduce people to God." He also stated, "We believe in Jesus more than you do in fact."

Faisal went on to say, "Jihad means striving to improve oneself, striving to change conditions to better conditions, striving against evil." Even the *Chicago Tribune* noted that laughter could be heard "rolling" through the audience as Hammouda discussed the "true" definition of a "jihad" saying, "It even could refer to a personal holy war to overcome, say, a desire to eat more candy."

How foolish have we allowed ourselves to become? Three Sundays after Faisal Hammouda gave his "enlightening" presentation, 16 of your brothers and sisters were gunned down in a church in Pakistan. You may blame this on the war against terrorism, but you would be mistaken. If it was against America, why did the gunmen target their countrymen? If Faisal is right and the Islam is "peace-loving", why are our brothers and sisters in ALL Islamic-controlled countries facing severe persecution? Unfortunately, in his interview, Pastor Hybels left that question out. This may sound harsh; it isn't. The treatment that the Body of Christ is facing in Islamic countries is harsh. We feel truly sorry for Willow Creek. In an effort to "love," they left out the truth.

The Lord foresaw how Satan would influence the minds of people to think they can make the Bible better than it is. But the truth is that if God's Word is changed, then it loses its power to convict and to convert the hardened and deceived hearts of man. Psalm 119:9 asks and answers the key question about the power of the Word to convict and convert the sinner: "***Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.***" Changing the Word of God to fit the tastes and presumptions of false religions is only accommodating their error and it is yet another sign of the soon coming of the Savior. While growing numbers of preachers are giving into the "Gay" agenda, the Insider Movement, and other false movements, Christians need to stand firm for truth and not allow the Word of God to be changed. Time is short! The Lord is coming! Will you be ready?

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(Note: If you would like to interact with Dr. Downing concerning this newsletter, views, etc. you can "blog" with him at [prophecyinperspective.com](http://prophecyinperspective.com). If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter at no charge, please send your email address to: [sgdowning@bellsouth.net](mailto:sgdowning@bellsouth.net). Also, you can purchase his latest book, "Good News From a Far Country", a study in the book of Daniel [\$15] by contacting him.)