



Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An Email Newsletter

Our Times - *Prophecy in current events*

God will Protect Israel "As Birds Flying"

The Lord God is serious about His people, Israel. Right now, Israel's enemies, Hamas, are firing missiles into Israel in an effort to cause as much terror, death and destruction as possible. Israel, however is preparing to strike back decisively with a combination of air strikes into Gaza and a ground force invasion. Even as I write this edition of **Prophecy in Perspective**, tens of thousands of Israeli troops and heavy armor equipment and weapons are amassing on the boarder of Gaza.

It did not take long after the U.S. elections for the enemies of Israel to get the message that they have little to fear from our present leadership. Israel is well aware of this and is certainly showing themselves ready to do what is necessary to protect their country from the threat of harassment, terrorism and even annihilation. Even when America takes a weak stand in behalf of Israel, God is ready to be strong in their behalf and has promised long ago that He will always seek their preservation and protection and will work mightily to bring defeat to their enemies. Any nation, including the United States who ignores this fact does so at their own peril. God promises to defend Israel **"as birds flying."**

“Remember the days of old,
Consider the years of many generations.
Ask your father, and he will show you;
Your elders, and they will tell you:
When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations,
When He separated the sons of Adam,
He set the boundaries of the peoples
According to the number of the children of Israel.
For the LORD’s portion is His people;
Jacob is the place of His inheritance.

“He found him in a desert land
And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness;
He encircled him, He instructed him,
He kept him as the apple of His eye.
As an eagle stirs up its nest,
Hovers over its young,
Spreading out its wings, taking them up,
Carrying them on its wings... (Deuteronomy 32:7-11)

"As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it (Is 31:5)"

Israel, Getting Ready to Go into Gaza

Late news out of Israel is that the Israeli Cabinet has approved 75,000 reservists for a possible invasion of Gaza. Because of the seriousness of the threat that Israel considers they are under from Hamas' launching of hundreds of missiles into Israel toward Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem, an increase of the cap of reservists as been approved from 30,000 to 75,000.

PHOTO: IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE



An article from the Jerusalem Post describes the situation in Israel as of Friday 11/16/12

Defense Minister Ehud Barak approved the IDF's request on Friday evening to increase the maximum number of reservists it could enlist, seeking cabinet approval to mobilize up to 75,000 troops ahead of a possible Gaza ground operation.

On Friday morning, as Operation Pillar of Defense continued for a third day, IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen.

Benny Gantz issued draft orders to 16,000 out the 30,000 reservists the cabinet approved Thursday. Most of the reservists called up thus far serve in the IDF's Engineering Corps. The engineering corps would play a vital part in any ground operation into the Gaza Strip, enabling armored vehicles to move across the border into Gaza. The IDF operation to root out terror in the coastal territory has consisted of air raids on terror targets thus far. Debate over invading Gaza comes after three days of constant rocket-fire from the Strip, which has reached as far as Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem for the first time, and targeted Israeli strikes against terrorist leaders and weapons depots in Gaza.

Foreign Minister, Avigdor Liberman, on Friday said that only once Israel accomplishes its goals in Operation Pillar of Defense, will the IDF stop its attacks against Hamas and other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip. Israel's goals are to increase its deterrence and stop the rocket fire from Gaza into the South, Liberman told Channel 2. "Once we accomplish those goals, we will stop our operations."

Israel is operating in order to bring peace and security to its residents in the South, the foreign minister added. To those ends, "we will do everything that is necessary." "Each time that Hamas fires [into Israel], there will be a harsher and harsher response," he added.

The IDF assassinated two Hamas members in Gaza on Friday evening. The first, Muhammad Abu Jalal, was a Hamas company commander in central Gaza's El Muazi area, and the second, Khaled Shaeer, operated anti-tank missiles. Earlier, the IDF sent text messages to 12,000 Gazan civilians, warning them to stay away from Hamas members. The IDF warned that its activities would continue into the night on Friday, warning Hamas to take cover.



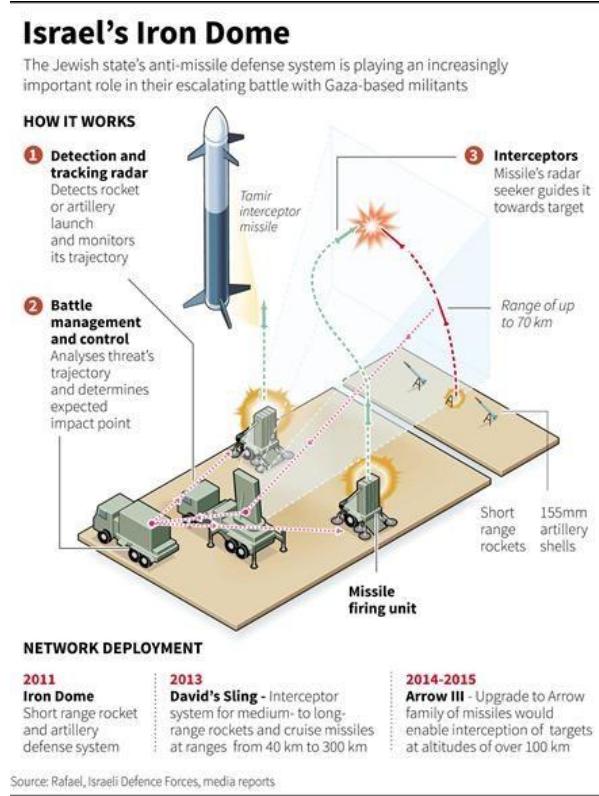
Iranian made Hamas rockets hit the ancient biblical town of Ashkelon on Friday.

"Terrorists in Gaza should hide. Tonight won't be calm in Gaza," IDF spokesman Yoav Mordechai said. "We're hitting hundreds of rocket launchers in waves of air strikes, including right now."

The IDF also revealed on Friday that it had taken out Hamas's nascent drone program.

The military recently focused its intelligence efforts on a group of Hamas terrorists who were developing and producing drones designed to strike fortified targets in Israel. The terrorists were under the instruction of Iranian technical instructors, and the 'production team' carried test flights in Gaza of the drones. The IAF struck the test flight sites in recent attacks. (The Jerusalem Post, 11/16/12)

Israel's Iron Dome



Israel's "Iron Dome" defense shield is a highly capable system which assesses the threat of the incoming enemy rockets by determining which are most likely to hit populated areas. When Hamas fires a rocket, in a matter of seconds, the Israeli Iron Dome missile defense system assesses the direction and speed of the incoming ordinance and immediately dispatches a missile to intercept the rocket and destroy it in mid-air. This remarkable system is scheduled for gradual improvement in its capabilities. Take a look at the illustration of the Iron Dome missile defense system shown below.

God is able to defend His people Israel against all aggressors. We should pray for Israel's peace and safety as well as for many Jews to come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior. Many are even now looking for the coming of the Messiah. Sadly, perhaps many more are not looking for the Messiah, but are more secular and liberal in their thinking. Still, God will not take lightly any who will threaten His people and His chosen nation of Israel. ***"As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it" (Is 31:5).***

America's Discipline for Dividing Israel

***"I will also gather all nations,
And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;
And I will enter into judgment with them there
On account of My people, My heritage Israel,
Whom they have scattered among the nations;
They have also divided up My land" (Joel 3:2).***

Below is a summary of storms that have coincided with America's attempt to divide Israel among its enemies.

The largest hurricane storm in the last 100 years, Sandy, was spoken of by secular media as a storm of biblical proportions. Hurricane Sandy started to form on the night of the last presidential debate. This massive hurricane actually merged with another winter storm coming down from Canada. Sandy came ashore in the

north east United States, coinciding with the 21st anniversary of the perfect storm, which devastated the New England coast at the same time that President George H. W. Bush hosted the Madrid Conference, from Oct 30 to Nov. 1, 1991. Giant waves from this storm came ashore causing damage to the Bush's Kennebunkport, Maine home at the same time Bush was calling upon Israel to give up the West Bank. We have seen time and again, when the US has a major meeting to call upon Israel to divide its land, some type of disaster seems to strike America, as if, right on cue. Are these judgments and warnings sent to America? I believe they are.

More recently, President George W. Bush pressured Israel to give up Gaza to the Palestinians on Sept 1st, 2005. While Bush congratulated Israel for evacuating their own people from their own Biblically covenanted lands, and as he called for Israel and Palestinians to move to a two-state plan, Hurricane Katrina struck the U.S. as one of the worst storms in US history.

In August of 2012, the Republican platform committee voted to add a "two-state" position pertaining to Israel for formal convention approval. On the same day, Hurricane Isaac formed as a tropical storm. The Republican convention had to be postponed. Isaac eventually made US landfall and caused billions of dollars in damage. Both Republican and Democratic parties have publically stated they support "two-states" on Israel's covenant land.

This latest storm, Hurricane Sandy, began to form on the last night of the presidential debate in which Mitt Romney advocated the same goals of the Madrid Conference scenario in the debates. Romney even corrected Barak Obama, for not pushing harder to accomplish these goals within his first term. Amazingly, while this presidential debate was happening another "perfect storm" was brewing off shore.

The Obama administration has also strongly supported a two-state solution even calling for Israel to return its borders to the pre-1967 boundaries. This would have insured Israel's demise. The Obama administration has strongly discouraged Israel from defending itself against Iran before the presidential elections. In view of these and other efforts on the part of the United Nations to boycott Israel, and with the great threats of Israel's enemies which surround the small nation, we must remember the Biblical warnings against dividing the land of God's people Israel. These storms certainly serve as God's warning to America. They are possibly also the beginning of God's judgment against this nation. (Largely quoted from the video, "Startling Revelations" on SodaHead.com; I highly recommend you take the time to view this well-done video.)

The Church Today - Doctrine and Prophecy

The Importance of a Prophetic Perspective of History

The Bible teaches us that there is a purpose and a direction to history. History, according to the Bible is not simply the random occurrence of events based, but the designed unfolding of God's redemptive plan. This prophetic perspective of history has largely been lost today among Christians. Yet 2 Peter 1:19 says that "***we have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.***" In other words, God has placed in the Scriptures remarkable statements about the future. This is called "prophecy" and is in reality, future history. According to this verse, prophecy's purpose is to show us light about the nature of God and His will for us and the entire world through sending His Son Jesus Christ into the world. Prophecy, then is God's light to us which, if taken seriously will be direction, wisdom, and understanding for us. This can then result in mental, emotional, and societal stability. If God's Word of prophecy is studied and obeyed, then we will be warned about what to avoid in life and which directions we should go politically and morally. When we know about something that is going to happen, we are more than just forewarned, we are also fore-assured that there is a Divine plan and that nothing that happens is merely random or meaningless. Yet, God does hold us

accountable for the prophetic word He has given. In the growing darkness of the world around us, it is good to know that God has given us "***also a more sure word of prophecy.***"

As Christians today we are living in a time and a nation that has largely forgotten about God's "***more sure word of prophecy.***" For instance many have forgotten or have never known that God told Daniel that there would be four great world empires that would rule over Israel for a period of 490 years (Daniel 9). In Daniel 2 and 7 these four empires are described as to how they will arise and how they will fall. Comparing Scriptures we can arrive at an understanding of the general timing of world events today and the meaning of them in light of Bible prophecy. As we see Israel preparing to invade Gaza today, and as we witness Iran preparing to destroy Israel, we are not taken by surprise. We are not disturbed by the outcome of the recent elections in the United States which almost assures that America will pretty much remain on the sidelines when the mighty Russian empire, along with Iran, Turkey, and other nations attack Israel in the great battle of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38). We can take heart that the nations are simply re-aligning to form the one-world, global government, and this certainly indicates that the Lord's coming for the church cannot be far off!

As we wonder why more and more teachers are not teaching the Word of God but are appealing to the flesh and using entertainment to draw crowds to hear them and follow their ministries, we are not surprised to the point of despair. But we can take heart that God's Word is true and that He has warned us that a global Babylonian church will form in the latter days (Revelation 17). Therefore, while we see events that disturb us we do not need to despair. We can confidently preach the gospel of Jesus Christ as our crucified and resurrected Lord, who is coming again! While many are turning away from truth, many are also coming to know the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ and are digging into the Bible to discover treasures of truth that will bring joy and glad expectancy of great days of victory to come.

2 Peter 3:3 tells us that "***there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?'***" Verses 6 and 7 tell us that there was a world before the flood, which we know was exceedingly wicked and which God destroyed with Noah's flood. Now, in our present day, since the flood until now, the "***heavens and the earth,***" await "***the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.***" In Revelation 2 through 3 we see the prophetic unfolding of the present church age from the early days of "Ephesus," to the latter days of the "Laodicean" church. This is the church that believes they are well off, spiritual and popular. But this is the church which God rejects because they are lukewarm regarding truth. Jesus says: "***I will vomit you out of My mouth*** (Revelation 3:16).

Daniel gave the prophecy that there would be four world empires (Daniel 2 & 7). History shows that three of these have arisen and have given way to the fourth, Rome, in Jesus Day. The fourth, the Roman empire, which fell a few centuries after Christ was predicted by Daniel to rise again in the latter days (Daniel 2:44-45; 7:8). We may consider by the predicted signs of the times that we are almost certainly at the beginning point of the revived Roman empire. This is the final global gentile government to be ruled by the Antichrist. Further, we can see that the church is apostatizing and realigning with other world religions. The church is doing this, just as the nations are realigning, to form the final Babylonian global apostate church in the tribulation period. Therefore, we are probably now living in the latter time of the Laodicean church era and can anticipate the Lord's return with a greater sense of urgency and expectancy than ever.

Needed, a Biblical World-View

It is vital then, as a believer in the soon coming Christ, that you "***sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear***" (1 Peter 3:15). The real motive for holy living and for revival in the church today is the real hope and expectation of the Lord's literal return. So it is important that we cultivate and recapture a

Biblical world-view. This means that we begin to think like the Bible and to know what it says about what is right and wrong, truth and error, light and dark. The loss of a biblical world-view is the reason why people who are Christians will actually support preachers and politicians that have anti-biblical and anti-Christian views about the definition of marriage, the sanctity of life, moral vs. immoral life styles, etc. Simply put, these types of Christians, if they are Christians at all, are letting the world influence and determine their convictions. Today, begin to take steps to regain a biblical world-view of law, of history, of science, of politics, and of real ethics and morality by beginning a systematic and consistent reading of the Bible. Mark up your Bible with your notes for future reference and for others to read after the rapture!

Note: *The delay in sending out this bi-monthly newsletter these past several issues has been due to computer glitches and unresolved computer problems....please pray against the enemy's efforts to hinder/delay getting this newsletter out. The enemy's timing has been strategic, but through your prayers we trust that the Lord will grant the victory!*

Prophecy in Perspective, Copyright, vol. no. 39 - November 19, 2012

(Note: If you would like to interact with Dr. Downing concerning this newsletter, views, etc. you can "blog" with him at prophecyinperspective.com. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter at no charge, please send your email address to: sgdowning@bellsouth.net. Also, you can purchase his book, "Good News From a Far Country", a study in the book of Daniel [\$15]; "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Revelation's Prophecies" [\$10]; or his latest book, "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Developing a Prophetic Walk...A study in the lives and ministries of Elijah and Elisha" [\$10] by contacting him.)