

Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An Email Newsletter

Our Times - *Prophecy in current events*

"Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, 'Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land'" (Exodus 1:8-10).

These words ring true today, as a new king has recently arisen over Egypt. His name is Mohammed Morsi. During a speech in 2010 this new president of Egypt, in the spirit of ancient Pharaoh, stated that he believed that the Jews are descendants of pigs and apes. In an effort to diplomatically find out more about his views, a number of U.S. Senators recently went to Egypt and spoke with Morsi.

This visit is most important to find where Morsi truly stands with Israel, because the U.S., with President Obama's approval, is about to send him sixteen F-16 fighter jets (one of the most advanced versions of fighter planes in the world) and 200 of the world's best and most advanced tanks, the A1M1 Abrams. In an article from Israel Matzav we can see where our diplomacy with Egypt is getting us, in our weak attempts to protect the interests and safety of Israel:

Obama's buddy Mohammed Morsi to Senators: 'Jews control US media'

Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi, President Obama's best friend in the Middle East after Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, told seven US Senators (John McCain (R-AZ), Chris Coons (D-DE), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)) last week that the American media is controlled by Jews. But inside the meeting, the discussion over Morsi's 2010 remarks was much more heated than either side publicly acknowledged afterwards, according to Coons. Addressing the comments was the first item on the senators' agenda, and the discussion did not go well, he told *The Cable* in an interview.

"We tried to give President Morsi an opportunity, now that he is the president, to put his comments in a different context because he was claiming that he was taken out of context. On their face they seemed to be very offensive and inappropriate," Coons said. "It was a difficult conversation."

Morsi told the senators that the values of Islam teach respect for Christianity and Judaism, and he asserted repeatedly that he had no negative views about Judaism or the Jewish people, but then followed with a diatribe about Israel and Zionist actions against Palestinians, especially in Gaza.

Then Morsi crossed a line and made a comment that made the senators physically recoil in their chairs in shock, Coons said. "He was attempting to explain himself ... then he said, 'Well, I think we all know that the media in



the United States has made a big deal of this and we know the media of the United States is controlled by certain forces and they don't view me favorably," Coons said.

The Cable asked Coons if Morsi specifically named the Jews as the forces that control the American media. Coons said all the senators believed the implication was obvious. "He did not say [the Jews], but I watched as the other senators physically recoiled, as did I," he said. "I thought it was impossible to draw any other conclusion."

"The meeting then took a very sharply negative turn for some time. It really threatened to cause the entire meeting to come apart so that we could not continue," Coons said. Multiple senators impressed upon Morsi that if he was saying the criticisms of his comments were due to the Jews in the media, that statement was potentially even more offensive than his original comments from 2010.

"[Morsi] did not say the Jewish community was making a big deal of this, but he said something [to the effect] that the only conclusion you could read was that he was implying it," Coons said. "The conversation got so heated that eventually Senator McCain said to the group, 'OK, we've pressed him as hard as we can while being in the boundaries of diplomacy,'" Coons said. "We then went on to discuss a whole range of other topics." (From <http://israelmatzav.blogspot.com>)

Morsi has already made a power grab in an attempt to secure absolute dictatorial powers over Egypt. He was essentially seeking to become "Pharaoh." In Exodus we see that there was a "Pharaoh" once who noticed the growing power of Israel. This seems to be true now. Therefore, Morsi, is almost exactly stating, as the Pharaoh of old: ***"Come, let us deal shrewdly with (Israel), lest they multiply, (in power and alliances) and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us" (Exodus 1:10).*** It now looks like the United States will help enable Egypt to fulfill the dream of Islam: to destroy Israel and the Jews. We may be sure that God will hold us accountable as a nation for our willful actions against the peace of Jerusalem, by strengthening the sworn enemies of God's nation, Israel.

The Threat of Dhimmitude: Time For The Church To Take A Stand!

The notion of *dhimmitude*, which means the submission of non-Muslims to Islamic control as second class citizens, is a real threat today especially since church leaders and political leaders are ignoring its reality and danger. Andrew Tucker writes for, whyisrael.org, on the threat of dhimmitude:

"In countries or regions ruled by Islamic governments, non-Muslims basically have three choices. First, they can accept Islam and become Muslims. If they refuse to do so, they should either be killed, or (the "third choice") they can choose to become dhimmis. There is no other way. Dhimmis are those who voluntarily accept the position of dhimmitude, an Islamic institution offered to non-Muslims under jihad conditions. In essence, dhimmis are second-class citizens in an Islamic society.

Author, Bat Ye'or, writes about dhimmitude:

Too few Westerners grasp that the concept of dhimmitude is crucial to understanding the relationship between Islam and non-Islam. As Durie, (in his book on the Islamic concept of dhimmitude, [Choice](#)), argues, [through a conspiracy of silence, the heads of state, church and community leaders, universities and media smother its reality under a blanket of ignorance.](#) With numerous examples, the author denounces this intimidated concealment (by religious and political leaders), which, he affirms, is undermining Western Judeo-Christian civilization and is contrary to human freedom and dignity....

[T]his specific type of evil is not something of the past, something that its promoters have renounced or agreed to relinquish; rather, this violation of human psychological and physical rights continues to develop freely in

local and international politics, whether by violent jihadist threats and terrorism, or through entrenched and chronic religious discrimination.”

Dhimmi Church Leaders

Durie argues, in effect, that our understanding of, and response to, Islam tells us a lot about our understanding of our own identity as Christians. He recounts many alarming stories in the book that to my mind sum up the appalling failure (refusal?) of Church leaders to this day to either understand Islam or respond in a meaningful way. They have unwittingly adopted a dhimmi attitude towards Islam, and in so doing betray a deep misunderstanding of their own identity as Christians and the calling of the Church in this world. For example:

- “In March 2003, Archbishop Frank Griswold, leader of the American Episcopalian church, was interviewed for an Islamic website www.soundvision.com. He stated that the US should not be a superpower but a “super-servant.” This well-meaning but naïve statement was consequently reproduced on a number of American Muslim websites, and applauded as a victory of Islam over Christianity.”
- “In 2007 a letter entitled 'A Common Word Between Us and You' by 138 Muslim scholars was addressed to the Christian world. A group of Yale theologians responded by placing a full-page advertisement in *The New York Times*, which was endorsed by 300 Christian leaders including Yonggi Cho, Bill Hybels, Robert Schuller, Rick Warren and John Stott. “Consistent with the worldview of dhimmitude, the Yale theologians adopted a tone of grateful self-humiliation and self-inculpation, using expressions such as:
 - 'it is with humility and hope that we receive your generous letter';
 - the Muslims’ letter was 'extraordinary' and written in 'generosity';
 - 'we ask forgiveness of the All-Merciful One [an Islamic reference to Allah] and of the Muslim community around the world'.

No comparable expressions of humble gratitude or expression of guilt were offered from the Muslim side. No doubt the Christians believed they were relating from a position of strength, by invoking Christian virtues of humility and self-examination. However they appear not to have taken account of the dynamics of dhimmitude and the possibility that these statements could be understood by Muslims as a display of self-acknowledged inferiority.

Ironically, while this dialogue was being conducted on the pages of the *New York Times*, the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic thought, which had initiated and hosted the Common Word process on the Muslim side, was broadcasting fatwas [a formal legal opinion or religious decree] on its website by its Chief Scholar which condemned converts from Islam to Christianity as apostates, characterizing them as deserving of death or else they should be stripped of all legal rights and treated legally as non-persons (because they ought to be dead).” (From <http://www.whysisrael.org>)

The Church Today - Doctrine and Prophecy

Will Islam Take Over The World?

"Then Jesus replied to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and they will deceive many. You are going to hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, because these things must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these events are the beginning of birth pains" (Matthew 24:4-8).

Today it appears that Islam is taking over the world. Sad to say, even Church leaders have grown spiritually dull about where Satan is attacking God and His truth and refuse to address the hot button issues of the day. They are not addressing the attacks on marriage by homosexuals and other anti-Christian groups, as well as the holocaust of abortion. Further, Christian leaders are evading other important issues such as the advance of Islam and other dangerous non-biblical religions from their pulpits or in their books. This is inexcusable! I believe it is high time to stop compromising and to speak up. The Lord will, and is now holding the Church accountable for not giving voice to the truth and defending God's Word precisely where it is being attacked!

But, while it does appear that Islam is gaining victory over the world and the Word of God, in reality it is not! Its demise as a world power and religion is predicted in prophecy. Islam has already over reached itself by centuries of distain and persecution of God's covenant people, the Jews. Judgment, manifest in their blind hatred of Israel, is already occurring and will only grow worse. Yet, there are many coming to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and who are thus leaving Islam. Praise God for those who believe in Jesus Christ without compromise!

Ezekiel 38-39 predicts that the powers of Russia and many key Islamic nations will be broken by God's supernatural intervention when they attack Israel in the battle of Gog and Magog. The context of this prophecy indicates that this attack can happen any day, either prior to or just after the rapture of the church. Ezekiel 38:8 says, ***"After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people...they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely..."*** Today, Israel is just about at the point where a messianic figure will be accepted to introduce peace to the region. This battle may well help to bring this about. The breaking of the power and spirit of Islam will, I believe, be key to the rising and empowering of the coming Antichrist and His revived Roman Empire. Here is what Ezekiel 38:19-23 says will happen to Russia and her Islamic allies through God's intervention:

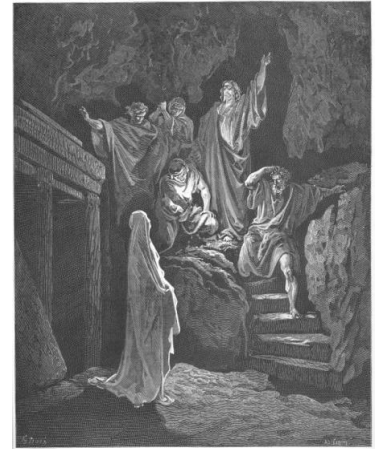
"But this is what the Sovereign LORD says: When Gog invades the land of Israel, my fury will boil over! In my jealousy and blazing anger, I promise a mighty shaking in the land of Israel on that day. All living things—the fish in the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people on earth—will quake in terror at my presence. Mountains will be thrown down; cliffs will crumble; walls will fall to the earth. I will summon the sword against you on all the hills of Israel, says the Sovereign LORD. Your men will turn their swords against each other. I will punish you and your armies with disease and bloodshed; I will send torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur! In this way, I will show my greatness and holiness, and I will make myself known to all the nations of the world. Then they will know that I am the LORD" (NLT).

As Christians, we see that the victory is already ours through our Lord Jesus Christ. Islam, and all other religions in the world that claim to be true will all fail. But God and His truth of the Scriptures will never fail. And while so many are ignoring the signs of the times, we still can and should take a stand for God's truth! We should be reading our Bibles daily and marking them up in preparation for the time when we are taken up at the rapture. The Bibles we leave behind will be a part of our testimony to the people who will be alive during the Great Tribulation. They will see fearful things that are even more intense and threatening than what we are seeing today. But today, we are sure witnessing the fulfillment of the prophetic Word of God in the increase of earthquakes, pestilences, wars and rumors of wars and the growing apostasy of the church. Are you standing for truth today, and telling people the good news that Jesus has died for sinners, has risen again from the dead and is coming again? While it is true that our country and many in the Church are abandoning God, you and I can renew our surrender to the Lord and humbly seek Him in prayer to empower us to be mighty in Spirit for these days. The world needs to hear the wonderful and even the fearful truths of the Word of God in these days, that they might be warned of the things to come.

Is Jesus Christ Really the Only Savior? Or Should We Consider Others?

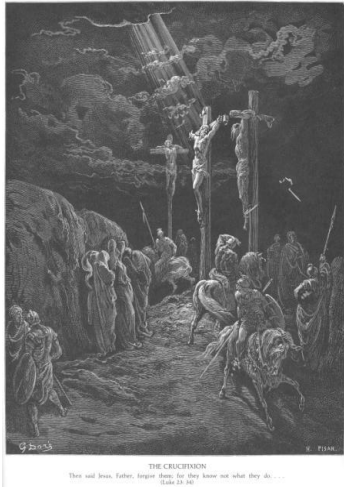
There has never been a Savior like Jesus Christ! No founder of any religion has ever even come close to His spiritual stature, moral purity, supernatural insight, wisdom, or amazing power. In Mark 1:27 we read how people were astounded by Jesus' supernatural abilities. They saw that there has never been any one like Him, the Son of God!

"Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, 'What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.' And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee"(NKJB).



RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS
And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth... (John 11:41)

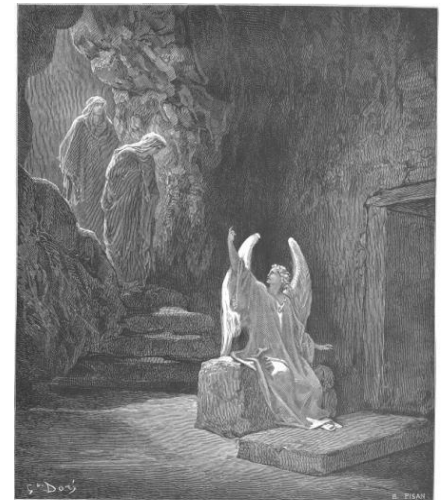
Jesus, as John records for us, was the Word who was ***"in the beginning...with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men..." (John 1:1-4).*** The fact is, neither Muhammad, nor Confucius, nor



THE CRUCIFIXION
Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do... (Luke 23:34)

Buddha, nor any other religious leader or founder, no matter how many followers say they are the only way, can compare with the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus gave us prophecies that no other leader could possibly give. He did mighty miracles which none other ever did or even attempted to do. He healed the sick because He loved them. He had the authority to forgive sins! He even raised the dead. Above all, He died on the cross for the whole world, and then, three days later, He rose from the dead. When He is measured against all other religious leaders, they are seen to be only men, who perhaps had some ideals, but, all things considered, they were still, only men. They were born, they lived, and they died. None of them rose from the dead and they certainly could not forgive sins. Muhammad gave the world a religion of the sword. Jesus said to Peter who drew his sword to protect Him when he was being betrayed: ***"Put away your sword,"***

Jesus told him. "Those who use the sword will die by the sword" (Matthew 26:52, NLT). Buddha would have us look inward, But Jesus called us to look upward, to the Father. Confucianism teaches that the way of heaven is known by the way of the earth, but Jesus said: ***"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"(John 14:6).*** Jesus has and will conquer by His love and sacrifice. Jesus will convict by His truth. His is not simply one philosophy among many, but the whole and pure truth of His Father. Jesus, is God in the flesh, now in heaven, and perhaps, even now, preparing to return for His Bride, the Church. He is the only Savior, the hope for the lost, and the only hope for the world. Have you trusted in Him as your personal savior for the forgiveness of your sins? If you have, are you serving Him faithfully? Are you seeking to live for Him without compromise? Are you telling others about Him?



THE RESURRECTION
And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified: He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. (Matthew 28:5, 6)

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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. 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.)