

Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An Email Newsletter

Our Times - *Prophecy in current events*

God is very active in Israel these days, in fulfillment of prophecy. The nation of Israel is celebrating two kinds of Independence Days. First is their "Energy Independence Day" which is a celebration of an offshore natural gas field which has been discovered. And natural gas has begun to flow to Israel. This creates the opportunity for Israel to no longer be dependent on nations that do not like them to meet their energy needs. Look at an article from JNS.org News Service below:

'Energy Independence Day': Israel's Tamar Gas Field Begins Production

Posted on March 31, 2013 by JNS.org

In advance of this year's Israel Independence Day (April 16), Israeli officials are celebrating news that they hope will mean long-term energy independence for the Jewish state. The Tamar offshore gas field has started production after four years of exploration and drilling by Israel, *Israel Hayom* reported. Israel's Energy and Water Resources Ministry confirmed on Saturday that natural gas "is now moving from the Tamar reservoir to a new naval production rig across from Ashdod." Israel has invested \$3.5 billion in the Tamar project in order to reduce its dependency on gas imports. "This is Israel's energy independence day," Energy and Water Resources Minister Silvan Shalom said. "It is truly a historic event—Israel has received energy freedom." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement that Saturday was "an important day for Israel's economy" due to the news surrounding the Tamar field. The field, which was discovered in 2009 about 130 kilometers (81 miles) west of Haifa, reportedly has gas reserves of up to 238 billion cubic meters (8.4 trillion cubic feet). U.S. based Noble Energy as well as Israeli firms—Delek, Isramco and Dor Alon—own the field. "This is a very proud day for all of us. Our vision has become a reality," Delek owner Yitzhak Tshuva told *Agence France-Presse*. "This is a tremendous achievement for the Israeli energy market and the beginning of a new era."



A second Independence celebration is that of The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel, May 14, 1948. Many prophecies of the Bible regarding Israel's continued existence as God's chosen people have been fulfilled and reaffirmed with the new-birth of the State of Israel in 1948. The re-establishment of the State of Israel also signals the prophetic reality that we are now living in the latter days. ***Prophecy in***

Perspective readers may be interested to read a large portion of the Declaration given by then Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben Gurion:

THE DECLARATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

May 14, 1948

On May 14, 1948, on the day in which the British Mandate over Palestine expired, the Jewish People's Council gathered at the Tel Aviv Museum, and approved the following proclamation, declaring the establishment of the State of Israel. The new state was recognized that night by the United States, and three days later by the USSR.



ERETZ-ISRAEL [(Hebrew) - the Land of Israel, Palestine] was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.

Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, *ma'pilim* [(Hebrew) - immigrants coming to Eretz-Israel in defiance of restrictive legislation] and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country. This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home.



The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people - the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe - was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of its homelessness by re-establishing in Eretz-Israel the Jewish State, which would open the gates of the homeland wide to every Jew and confer upon the Jewish people the status of a fully privileged member of the comity (agreement) of nations.

Survivors of the Nazi holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz-Israel, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.

In the Second World War, the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom- and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations.

On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the



establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel; the General Assembly required the inhabitants of Eretz-Israel to take such steps as were necessary on their part for the implementation of that resolution. This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable. This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State.

ACCORDINGLY WE, MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL AND OF THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT, ARE HERE ASSEMBLED ON THE DAY OF THE TERMINATION OF THE BRITISH MANDATE OVER ERETZ-ISRAEL AND, BY VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HEREBY DECLARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ-ISRAEL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

Israel's Independence Day Celebration which is officially to be observed on Monday, April 15, 2013 will be observed with parties and fireworks. One week before this celebration, Israel observes Holocaust Memorial Day. Many stop their normal activities for a time of silence in remembrance of six to eight million Jews, and many others, including Christians, who perished under the brutal Nazi regime under Adolf Hitler. Then, a week later, the day before the actual Independence Day Celebration for Israel, the nation's citizens will observe a Memorial Day of mourning for those in Israel who were killed in war time in defense of the state of Israel. Look at the article below:

23,085 Soldiers Have Fallen Protecting Israel
By JPOST.COM STAFF 04/12/2013 09:48

Figures released by Defense Ministry includes soldiers who died over the last year, and the number of bereaved families. The Defense Ministry released its annual figures of fallen soldiers on Friday morning ahead of Remembrance Day, stating that 92 soldiers had fallen this year and a total of 23,085 have fallen in Israel's wars since 1860.



IDF soldier Netanel Yahalom is laid to rest
Photo: Marc Israel Sellem/The Jerusalem Post

Of those killed in the past year, 37 were IDF soldiers, 12 belonged to other security forces such as the police and 43 were IDF veterans who died as a result of disabilities they suffered while soldiers. The Defense Ministry added that on Remembrance Day on Monday, more than 1.5 million people were expected to pay their respects at military cemeteries.

According to the Ministry, there are currently over 17,000 families who have lost a family member serving in the IDF, included in that number are nearly 5,000 widows and more than 2,000 orphans. Recently, some of these bereaved families called on the state of Israel to bring forward the date of Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars and Terror Victims, saying the transition to Independence Day, which takes place the day after, is too jarring.



Soldiers lay flags on Graves on Remembrance Day

Photo: REUTERS

Israel, A Major Part of God's Prophetic Plan for the World

In the study of Bible prophecy, it is always important to keep Israel and the Church as separate distinct purposes of God. If we confuse these two purposes of God then we will replace Israel with the Church and this will cause great confusion and misinterpretation of the Scriptures regarding God's eternal covenant with Israel and His plans for the future.

God promised Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 that He was setting him apart as the forefather of a distinct and separate people on the earth. This covenant was eternal and also promised the land to Israel. This is the land they occupy today in small part. It is prophesied that, through Abraham's descendants (Isaac, then Jacob who was renamed "Israel"), there would arise David who would be anointed as King of Israel. This Davidic line and throne was to last forever. From this throne would come the Reigning and Suffering Messiah of the Jews, and then for the whole world, Jesus Christ (see: 2 Samuel 7:12-16 and Luke 1:32-33). Jesus offered Himself to His own people as their Messiah, but, as a nation, they rejected Him in unbelief. However, many Jews and Gentiles did believe and received Him as their Messiah and Savior as the new-born Church in Acts 2. Now, God, having stopped His prophetic clock of Daniel's 490 year prophecy for the completion of His purpose for Israel until Messiah returns, is still very active in preserving and preparing Israel for that day! (Read Daniel 9:24-27; John 1:11-13; Matthew 23:29-39; Acts 1-2; Ephesians 3). This is why we have been and are seeing such a great movement of Jews going back to their home land and the issues surrounding Israel are on the fore-front of the news these days. These are indications that the Lord is coming, and perhaps even today, to rapture His Church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Next, the Great Tribulation will begin with the rise of the Antichrist who will appear as the Messiah to the Jews and to the whole world. He will be their long awaited deliverer, no matter what religion or immoral life-style any one practices. In the middle of the Tribulation God will seal 140,000 Jews, 12,000 from each tribe of Israel! They will preach to the world about Jesus Christ, Him crucified, resurrected and coming again. Many will be saved during that time of world-wide trial. The Church will be in heaven already with the Lord during that time, only the false Church, Babylon the Great, will be on the earth. The Church as a whole is already losing its clear testimony for Christ as its focus is on self-perpetuation, self-realization, self-affirmation and not on sound doctrine and the coming of the Lord (see 2 Timothy 3:1-13; Revelation 3: 15-17).

What an amazing unfolding of the great prophecies of Scripture we are witnessing today! The rise of leftist, humanistic, pro-abortion liberalism under a president who is dangerously weak and double-minded in his support of God's people, the Jews, signal the nearness of the coming of the Man of Sin, the Antichrist who will

assert dictatorial rule with a goal to destroy the Jews entirely! Much of this signal comes in the form of strangely horrific storms that have been devastating the land in America. There are diseases that defy explanation! There is the devastation of deep racial and religious division instigated and perpetuated by our liberal and anti-Christian leadership. Even marriage and the family is under the aggressive assault! We have also seen earthquakes, perfectly timed to indicate God's displeasure with America's complacency toward God and Israel. We must always keep in mind the warning of Jesus to His disciples and to the Jews of the later days:

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. .. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:4-8, 10-12).

Many of those in the Church, by ignoring Bible prophecy and seeking to establish a global "Kingdom" before the Lord returns, have commandeered God's promises for Israel and transferred them to the Church. This is Replacement Theology. Therefore we need to pray for Israel. We should pray for the salvation of the Jews. Many are coming to faith in Jesus Christ these days. This is in spite of the fact that growing numbers are teaching, even in the "evangelical" Church the false and dangerous Dual-Covenant Doctrine, that states the Jews do not need to believe in Jesus Christ to be saved and that He did not come to offer Himself to the Jews as their Messiah. We are certainly in the last days, just as the Bible predicted when we see "another gospel" such as this being taught and accepted (Galatians 1:6-9). This is just another and even more insidious form of anti-Semitism! But, God's prophetic plan will prevail because our God is sovereign. Whatever purpose comes against His people or His own righteous plan is well stated by Ezekiel who quotes God's intention regarding the overthrow of all that offends His righteousness: ***"Overthrown, overthrown, I will make it overthrown! It shall be no longer, Until He comes whose right it is, And I will give it to Him" (Ezekiel 21:27).***

Are The Kings of the East Rising Up?

The countries of Asia certainly figure into the End Times scenario. The agitation of North Korea, under the demonic leadership of Kim Jong-Un, threatening the United States with nuclear attack goes beyond the question as to whether they have the actual capability to make good on their threat. Students of Bible prophecy should understand that the United States will continue, at least for a while to support Israel, and so long as this is happening, this nation will not be destroyed. While America's destruction for her sins might occur sometime during the Great Tribulation Period, I continue to believe that the Lord is using this nation to continue to provide defense for Israel.

North Korea and China are clearly already interested in the destruction of America. Hating America is a roundabout way to hate Israel since we are so clearly tied together as allies. Revelation 16:12 predicts that during the Tribulation Period, the latter half, an angel will dry up the Euphrates River to allow for the passing of the armies of the "kings of the east." There are literally billions of potential troops that even now can be mobilized from China, Japan, India and Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, and through massive air lift and shipping, millions from North Korea. These are nations that Satan no doubt, even now, is preparing for the last days attack on Israel at Armageddon. While this battle may be seven years, and even longer from today, it would stand to reason that the impetus for this preparation will arise through nations like North Korea causing

much instability to the countries of Asia to in turn cause them to arm, and prepare for war. China, South Korea, and Japan are three nations that certainly feel the threat of this rogue nation. It would not take much, after they arm, to mobilize for the destruction of Israel as near-future events encourage them to do so. The time of their attack on Israel at Armageddon will be at the time when the Euphrates, the historical border between the near and far east is removed as an impediment to the movement of massive numbers of troops and equipment.

You can be sure that demons are behind the scenes even now stoking the flames of ancient hatred for God's covenant people Israel. Remember that any attack against America is really an indirect attack on the Jews and Israel itself.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the salvation of Jews in America and around the world. Many Jewish individuals are already coming to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who came to offer Himself as their Messiah. He still offers Himself to them and to us Gentiles. Praise God for His wonderful grace!! He loves His people, the Jews, so much and invites them today to come to salvation in Him. In fact, He loves the whole world and desires all to come to faith in Him. Some teach that the Jesus did not come to offer Himself to Israel as their

Messiah and so Jewish people do not need to believe on Jesus Christ. This is false! He offered Himself on the cross for "the Jew first and also for the Gentile" (Romans 2:9-10). Meanwhile God calls upon all nations to support and to seek to defend His nation of Israel which is the "Apple of His eye!" (Zechariah 2:8).

I believe the kings of the east might well be preparing, stirring, agitating, and rising with the ultimate goal of the complete annihilation of Israel . As we see in the case of the wicked leadership of North Korea, the threats are already starting!! Already we are perhaps witnessing the insidious and anti-Semitic influence of the unclean and evil spirits of Muhammadanism (Islam), Communism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Shintoism, and many other "isms" of the east which stand opposed and are completely antithetical to the truth revealed in the Bible concerning "the Way, the Truth and the Life" Himself Who is, the Lord Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords! (John 7:14;1 Timothy 6:15). (prophecyinperspective.com blog, posted, April 8, 2013)



North Korean soldiers climb the stairs to a street overpass in Pyongyang
(from U.S. Politics and Policy.com)