

Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An Email Newsletter

Our Times - Prophecy in current events

Israel Is Tired Of Waiting For Obama

Several days ago Israel executed pinpoint airstrikes in areas on the outskirts of Damascus. They are apparently fearful that Syrian President, Assad, will give Hezbollah Forces the use of some highly accurate missiles with ranges over 100 miles to use against Israel. Iran has a vested interest in securing the Assad regime as Syria is a firm Shiite ally of Iran, whose government is also Shiite. The Shiite Muslims are much more apocalyptic than their Sunni Muslim counterparts. The Shiites believe that the future holds a great war which will see final victory and world conquest for them over their enemies through the arrival of a leader called the Mahdi. The coming Mahdi, like the biblical Antichrist, will seek to destroy the Jews and establish a global Caliphate. Iran is definitely looking for a war with Israel. Iran reportedly has 150,000 troops ready to be deployed into Syria. Israel knows this, yet President Obama, whose father was known to be a Shiite Muslim in Kenya, is really dragging his heels on following through with commitments to Israel regarding providing weapons and standing with them against Syria and Iran. Is there a relationship between Obama's Shiite background through his father and his own Muslim schooling and his almost complete silence on Shiite Iran's threat and his hedging on action against Shiite-led Syria? I think so.

Several things work to Israel's advantage through these recent attacks against Syria. In attacking Damascus, Israel is showing President Obama that they will take action to defend themselves even if he will not help them. They are also indicating to Iran that Israel will be pushed for only so long. They may be planning an attack on Iran's nuclear sites which could come at any time. While Iran and President Obama would be dumbfounded at their audacity, Israel will have further amazed their enemies at just how well they are able to

effectively accomplish their mission. In addition, with Israel dropping what reports indicate are huge nuclear-like bombs on targets just outside of Damascus, they are, perhaps unwittingly showing how easily and how soon they could fulfill a particular biblical prophecy. In Isaiah 17:1, there is stated these words: ***"The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap."*** The Islamic nations threatening Israel will be astounded when this happens. Yet, an attack of this magnitude, which will almost certainly involve nuclear weapons, will bring the wrath of Israel's enemies, and their retaliation. But, according to the prophet Ezekiel, God will intervene to protect the tiny nation: ***"I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains," says the Lord God. 'Every man's sword will be against his***



Israeli jet preparing to attack Damascus-Syria

brother. And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many Peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord” (Ezekiel 38:21-33). Zechariah describes in graphic detail God’s actions against Israel’s enemies one day who seek the destruction of the Jewish state: “And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people who 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).

Events of recent days seem to indicate that the prophecies of the Bible have a great deal of relevance to the current unfolding of world events. No amount of denial on the part of the skeptics will make the Bible have any less credibility for our days. Jesus told His disciples that He would be returning. The Bible indicates that Jesus’ return will be in two phases. **First** He will return in the clouds to rapture His Church to heaven. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18); and **Second**, Jesus will return to the earth, specifically, to Jerusalem to secure His rule of the entire earth from there for a period of 1,000 years (Revelation 19-20, Zachariah 14). In between the coming of Jesus Christ FOR His saints and His coming WITH His saints to the earth, will be the seven-year great tribulation period when the Antichrist will rise to power. The Antichrist, through his false prophet, will cause everyone to receive his diabolical mark indicating complete loyalty to him and his satanic regime: 666. Those not taking this mark will be hunted down and many will be killed. Revelation tells us about the Antichrist at that time: **“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six (666)” (Revelation 13:16-17).**



Damascus-Syria after Israeli Strike
<http://www.previous.presstv.ir/photo/20120719>

I believe we are seeing events preceding and preparing the world for the fulfillment of these Divine predictions occurring at this time. Are you a believer in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? In Matthew 24:33, Jesus said about these very times: **“So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.”** Trust in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior by asking Him to save you today and to forgive you or your sins through His dying for you on the cross and rising from the dead. The Bible promises that: **“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (John 1:12).** (Posted on [May 6, 2013](#) by [prophecyinperspective.com](#))

Will the World Soon See The Last Wars on Planet Earth?

The country of Syria, the civil war raging there, and the help the Assad regime is receiving from Russia and Iran is very much in the news. Based on some clear predictions in the Bible, these events could develop into a scenario that brings about one of the final battles on planet Earth: The Battle of Gog and Magog. The Bible predicts that at least two significant wars are to occur in the earth’s future. These will be the battle of Gog

and Magog, described in Ezekiel 38-39 and the Battle of Armageddon predicted in numerous places in the Bible (among these are, Malachi 4:1-5; Revelation 14:14-20; 16:12-16; 19:19-21).

A reading of the unfolding of the battle of Gog and Magog will show that it will involve the key players of Russia, Iran, and several other Islamic nations teaming up to invade Israel in the latter days. Many students of prophecy believe that this battle probably will occur sometime before the final Battle of Armageddon. In other words, these actually will be the two last wars on Planet Earth. While there may be small wars and battles to occur in the Middle East and elsewhere on the earth, these will be wars that will have a global impact unlike any since WWII. Both of these battles, Gog and Magog and Armageddon will result from the efforts of Russia, along with the Islamic nations, conspiring to destroy Israel. A few years after the battle of Gog and Magog, all other nations, including the “Kings of the East,” namely, China, will gather against Israel for a final global battle. They will assemble in the expansive valley of Megiddo in the last days of the Great Tribulation period.

It is interesting to note that the list of Islamic nations that will join with Russia to attack Israel in the Battle of Gog and Magog does not include Syria. Many believe the prophetic verse in Isaiah 17:1 which predicts the over-night destruction of Damascus indicates that some nation, probably Israel, will destroy this Syrian capital. This will essentially decapitate Syria from effectively being a future threat to God’s Jewish nation. This strategic military strike on the part of Israel may induce Russia, along with Iran, to attack Israel. Both Russia and Iran are presently supporting Assad’s brutal Shiite regime with weapons, radar, and troops to attack Israel. Recently Assad is known to have used chemical weapons against the Syrian rebels fighting to topple his regime.

Jesus predicted that in the last days there would be “wars and rumors of wars” (Matthew 24:6; Mark 13:17). Of course, Satan will instigate these wars which will arise because of demonic hatred of Israel and the Jews. We may be witnessing the set-up and build-up of the end times scenario of the Battle of Gog and Magog.

Late last year there were reports that weapons were being shipped from Libya to Turkey so that they could be brought into Syria. These weapons are reported to be a covert effort on the part of the Obama administration to aid the Syrian rebels. It is believed by a growing number that Ambassador Christopher Stevens was actually meeting with a Turkish official on the evening of September 11th at the consulate in Bengazi as a part of negotiations to ship more of these weapons to Syria. These were weapons that the United States provided in the Libyan conflict, but which were never recovered after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi. The problem with covertly shipping weapons to Syria to help the rebels there is that there is a known and growing presence of al-Qaeda forces who are fighting among the rebels. Consequently, if these reports bear out, America could actually be assisting al-Qaeda to infiltrate and gain a significant foot hold in Syria to control that country in the event that Assad falls.

This leads many to believe that this is the reason that the Obama administration is stone-walling all questions on Benghazi. Even today, there are new reports of “whistle-blowers” who have some potentially damaging information as to what was going on in Benghazi when the attacks occurred, and how they could have saved the lives of our people there if they had wanted to. Reports are increasing from insiders that these witnesses were threatened to keep silent. Remember that Obama promised to



Terrorist Attack at Bengazi
Washington Times

get involved in helping the Syrian rebels if Assad crossed the “red line” by using chemical weapons against them. He now seems to be backing away from that promise. Could President Obama be hesitant to get involved with the Syrian conflict because it would blow the cover as to what was really going on in Benghazi? It is too bad that the liberal news media is helping the President in this apparent cover up. (See “The News Media, False Prophets of our Time?” in this newsletter.)

A few days ago, the Syrian Electronic Army (SEA), many of whom are working to corrupt news reports by attacking the Associated Press and other news outlets, caused world stocks to plunge. The news systems hacked by the SEA put forward a false report that President Obama had been injured in a bomb attack on the White House. This was, of course, a false report. But it shows the incredible power that hackers possess to corrupt truth and to threaten the national security of the United States.

In parallel to this, prophecies of the future Antichrist indicate that he will understand the awesome power that can be gained by anyone who controls the world’s computer networks. He will gain full control of the world’s computers and will rule “cyber-space” with propaganda to manipulate the world’s economies and news media outlets. The world will know only what the Antichrist will want them to know. Revelation says: ***“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666” (Revelation 13:17-18).***

Most likely, the Battle of Gog and Magog will occur sometime at the beginning of the Great Tribulation period, after the Rapture of the Church. The Bible predicts that the coming of Jesus Christ to rapture away the Church from the earth to heaven could occur at any time (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The Tribulation period, which is the 70th week predicted in the book of Daniel, chapter 9, is not a time of judgment for the Church, because the sins of all born-again believers, who make up the true Church, were completely judged and paid for through Jesus Christ on the cross. The Tribulation will be a time of God’s finishing up the unfolding of prophecy for the Jews and the Gentiles (Daniel 9:24).

The Battle of Gog and Magog will end with God supernaturally destroying Russia and the majority of the Islamic nations. This will certainly bring peace to Israel and will be a prime time for the future Antichrist to capitalize on this peace to guarantee continued peace for Israel for a seven-year period (Daniel 9:27). Most of Israel and the other nations will view the Antichrist as the Messiah. Eventually, from the location of Israel’s rebuilt temple, he will demand worship as God (Matthew 24:15). He will seek to dominate the world with the help of a ten-nation confederation.

When we look at the many events of our day, such as the Nazi-like abortion doctor in Philadelphia murdering children after they are born, political cover-ups such as “Fast and Furious” and Benghazi, a man in Ohio who kidnapped and imprisoned three women and a girl for ten years, a young woman convicted of brutally murdering her boy friend, a sudden terrorist bombing in Boston, and more, we should be aware that the Lord’s coming grows near. Christians need to be aware of Bible prophecy so that they are not surprised at the present day intrigues, cover-ups, evil perversions of immorality, rising crime rates, confusion among nations, earthquakes, and pestilences. These troubles all



Victims of Benghazi Terrorist Attack Brought Home
Washington Times

indicate that the Lord is coming, just as He promised. We can therefore be confident, faithful and prayerful as we continue to serve the Lord. Jesus told His disciples: ***“Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28).*** (Posted on [April 30, 2013](http://prophecyinperspective.com) by prophecyinperspective.com)

The Church Today - Doctrine and Prophecy Today

What Will the Church Look Like in the Last Days?

To understand the Latter Days of the Church we should look at 2 Timothy 3. This entire chapter is worth studying for the student of prophecy who desires to be discerning in the end times, to the glory of God! Timothy shows us three characteristics of the Church in the last days. We need to be effective preachers of the gospel, missionaries, teachers and dynamic servants of our soon coming Bridegroom. Understanding these three characteristics of the last-days-Church will help us to effectively fulfill God's call for us. But, before you begin reading below, first may I suggest you pray and then carefully read through **2 Timothy 3**.

I. The Perilous Times (3:1) The Bible predicts that the ***“last days”*** will be ***“perilous times”*** for Christians who are true to the faith. They will see awful developments in the Church that will cause many to be led astray into error. The purity of the Christian life will be compromised by immoral behavior. Activities and lifestyles that were once renounced by Christians will be tolerated and even embraced as truly enlightened. There can be little doubt that we are now in the latter days of the Church Age. The more the Word of God is ignored in teaching, ministry, and public life in these days, the more we are seeing that there are new dangers that Christians should be aware of. For example, American leaders in politics and religion are ignoring the real threat of Islamic Jihadist teachings that are flooding the internet. Young and impressionable men and women are reading these toxic doctrines and some are even plotting attacks against American people. We have seen this recently in the Boston Bombings and in the plots that have recently been uncovered in Canada. Christians should know their Bibles and their faith and be able to defend what they believe. Also, they should be able to tell others the wonderful way of salvation through Jesus Christ, the Son of God and our only Savior.

II. The Perverted Traitors (3:2-13) Look carefully at the attitudes that prevail in the Church and society in the latter days. Paul warns Timothy that men and women of the latter days will have 20 specific and fleshly characteristics which will produce perilous times which will affect the entire culture for evil. ***“For men shall be...”*** (2-5) ***–1) Lovers of themselves*** –2) ***lovers of money***- Jesus said: ***“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Matthew 6:24, NET).*** The global debt we see today is the result of the love for wealth in America and the other nations that have forgotten God. –3) ***boasters***, –4) ***proud***, –5) ***blasphemers***- The Greek: ***“blasphemoi”*** means ***“abusive and evil speaking”*** –6.) ***disobedient to parents***, –7) ***unthankful***, –8) ***unholy***, –9) ***unloving*** Jesus predicted that in the last days: ***“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold,”*** (Matthew 24:12) –10) ***unforgiving***, –11) ***slanderers***, –12) ***without self-control***, –13) ***brutal***, –14) ***despisers of good***, –15) ***traitors***, they will be like Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus (Luke 6:16), –16) ***headstrong***, –17) ***haughty, or conceited***, –18) ***Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God***, –19) ***having a form of godliness***, –20) ***but, denying the power of godliness***, that is, denying the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. This will be a denial of a living relationship with Jesus Christ. The Church will trust its own methods, plans and wealth rather than have a real dependence on the power and authority of Jesus Christ and His Word, the Bible. This will be the way of the Church of Laodicea of the last days, lukewarm with Jesus outside the door and knocking to be allowed into His own Church! Yet they will refuse to welcome the true Son of God into their fellowship. It will be the Babylonian global church of the latter days. It will consist of a fellowship of demons (Revelation 3:14-19; Revelation 18:3).

Notice Paul's instruction to Timothy and to those of the latter days, ***“from such turn away.”*** (5), For these apostates will think nothing of boldly sneaking (***“creep”***) into homes and ***“make captives of gullible women***

loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (6-7) False teaching is always connected with immorality in the Bible. Today, much false teaching is coming through women who aspire to be on the same level with men as pastors which is forbidden (see 1 Timothy 2:11-15). The apostasy of the latter days will come through the defiant and demonic efforts of both “men” and women “**of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith.”** (8)

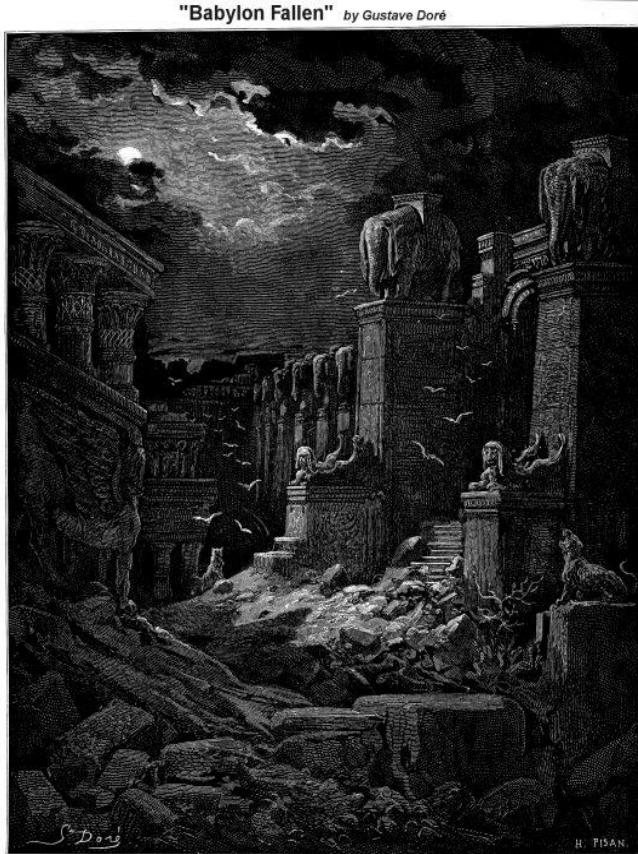
We can think of “**men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith**” such as Charles Taze Russel, inventor of the false doctrines of the Jehovah’s Witnesses cult. Another is Joseph Smith, who rejected sound Bible doctrine and claimed to have a special vision of an angel called Moroni. He created a cult of the Mormons, founded upon many fictions, among which is the claim that God was once a man who became a god, and Lucifer and Jesus were brothers. I will name one more of the many hundreds that could be named: Mary Baker Eddy, the inventor of the demonic myth of Christian Science. All three of these that I have named wrote their own authoritative additions to the Bible. Why did they write these? Because they did not believe that the Bible was sufficient to support their teachings. Again, these are among many of the latter days false prophets who are “**men (and women) of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith.**”

III. The Persevering Teacher (3:10-13) Paul says to Timothy, “**But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions.**” (10) Paul’s desire

is for Timothy, and all pastors and believers of the latter days, to be willing to “**suffer persecution.**” (12) A clear distinguishing mark of the latter days apostasy of the Church will be the rapid increase of the presence of “**evil men and impostors,**” who will “**grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.**” (13) The Greek word for ‘impostors’ is “goes” (only here in the New Testament), which originally meant ‘A wailer, howler,’ and then ‘a juggler, enchanter’ because incantations used to be uttered in a kind of howl: – and so finally ‘a deceiver, impostor (‘swindler, cheat’) Such men are ‘**deceiving and being deceived.**’ Having been deceived by false teachers, they are now deceiving others.” (Expositor’s Bible Commentary, vol. 11, p. 409)

The presence of impostors in the latter-day Church will certainly increase the discomfort of Christians who will take a stand for truth against the trends of their day. Many will harass and mock Christians, pastors, missionaries, teachers and churches who preach God’s truth and live for the Lord. More and more church staff members, teachers in schools, and missionaries in the field will lose their jobs because of their unwillingness to violate the Bible. But they will stand faithful, as many are today, by the power of Jesus Christ, no matter how unpopular it is.

Jesus said: “**Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven**” (Matthew 10:32-33). Are you willing to live for the Lord no matter how many among your friends, your church or denomination are compromising the things of God? The Bible tells us of the rise of the global apostate church of the latter days that is described in Revelation as “**MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**” (Revelation 17:2). This will be the final form of the false church that is rapidly forming today. There is a rush to combine different religions into a final global form of world religion.



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Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

But God will destroy this false church and He foretells this, again in Revelation: ***"And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird"*** (Revelation 18:2).

Paul told Timothy: ***"But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of...(14) All scripture is given by inspiration of God (God breathed), and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."*** (15) Notice how Timothy, and we, ***"must continue"*** faithfully in the truth of the Christian faith as it is revealed in God's perfect Word, the Holy Scriptures. Notice also how complete the Bible is for all, providing everything a man or woman of God needs to live a victorious and dynamic life in honor of our Savior, Jesus Christ. How can you live a fuller Christian life in these latter days of growing apostasy? By trusting God and His Word more completely each day.

In these latter days many are downplaying the importance of believing that the entire Bible is the inspired, and therefore, perfect Word of God. The Greek word for ***"inspired"*** is ***theopneustos; theo=God, pneustos=breathed.*** When people deny that the Bible is entirely ***"God-breathed,"*** then they will be open to other religious writings such as the Muslim Koran or the writings of Hinduism, or the mystical writings of Contemplative Spirituality or New Age. These are merely of men, and even of Satan. No other writing on earth can claim to be God-breathed as does the Bible! All others give the wrong idea about God and Jesus Christ. The Bible is God's only book on the earth that is the very Word of God! This is what ***"inspiration"*** truly means! One Bible note states: "Thus God not only inspired the authors who wrote the words of the Bible, but He also inspires those who read it with a heart of faith." (NKJ Study Bible, p.2059) Stay faithful to God's Word in these latter days. Be a witness for Jesus Christ to lead others to a saving knowledge of Him until you hear that ***"upward call of God in Christ Jesus,"*** when He returns! (Posted on April 27, 2013 by prophecyinperspective.com)

Prophecy in Perspective, Copyright, vol. no. 51 - May 10, 2013

(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.)