

Prophecy in Perspective

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An email newsletter

Our Times – *Prophecy in current events*

We were astounded Thursday (May 19) when we heard President Obama state in his speech on U.S. policy toward Israel that our trusted ally should return to its pre-1967 borders. On Friday, May 20, in a meeting with President Obama, Israel's Prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, made it clear that Israel will not be giving up its land by returning to the pre-1967 borders as that would leave Israel indefensible against her enemies.



Israel, now threatened by Hamas led Moslem enemies, who have sworn to stop at nothing less than Israel's annihilation, must be very careful, that they do not give in to the naive whims of a President who seems to have little or no knowledge or regard for Biblical revelation. We need to rejoice at Prime Minister Netanyahu's resolve today to stand firm in defense of the Jews in this desperate hour when even Israel's supposed best friend, the United States, seems to be vacillating in its support of our ancient ally. The map below gives some idea as to the dangerous proximity Israel's enemies would acquire if Israel returned to the pre-1967 borders. This was much needed land which Israel won through defeating the Arabs who initiated an attack against Israel in 1967. Growing unrest in the surrounding Moslem nations today indicate that prophetic events are shaping up for a climactic confrontation. (Zechariah 12:2)

The Scriptures speak to the nations in clear words of warning so that judgment would not be a surprise to them when it comes. Many nations have suffered God's promised judgment and even destruction because of their mistreatment of the Jews. We think of Sodom and Gomorrah which were exceedingly immoral and which were highly disrespectful and abusive of God's people as represented by Lot and his family. Nineveh was warned by Jonah that they would be destroyed if they did not repent. They were oppressors of God's people, Israel. Daniel records how Belshazzar, one of the kings of

Babylon, was judged through God's writing upon the wall of his palace of his impending death because the king mocked God and abused His people who were held captive by them. Hitler's Third Reich met with awful judgment, but God used the persecution by the Nazi's to inspire the Jews to desire a homeland in Israel. This hope became reality on May 15, 1948 when Israel once again became an independent nation. We believe this was the beginning of the fulfillment of Ezekiel 37.



*“For thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; **for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye**’” (Zachariah 2:8). Could America's recent devastating weather outbreaks be the consequence of our unwillingness to take a clear stand for the defense of Israel? Is God reacting to our nation's touching the “apple of His eye,” Israel? Could this signal the soon fulfillment of the war against Israel predicted in Psalm 83? If so, then, as this Psalm predicts, Israel will defeat her enemies, perhaps through strategic nuclear attack and thus secure a peace for their nation, at least for a time.*

Actually, the Lord will use the hatred of the nations who are against Israel as a means of bringing those nations to judgment for their rejection of the Son of God. Psalm 2 describes how the **“kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”** But they will not win

their evil cause. The Lord ***“will laugh”*** and will ***“have them in derision,”*** as He will wisely bring events of judgment upon them either to warn them to repent, or to destroy them. The Lord’s counsel to America and to President Obama today, and all world leaders who would compromise Israel’s security, is ***“Be wise now therefore, O kings: be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish from the way when His wrath is kindled but a little.”*** (Psalm 2:1-4; 10-12)

Upward Call – How to walk in view of prophecy

We may be confident that God has not left us ignorant of what we should expect to witness in the closing days of our age. The Bible predicts that all nations will stand against Israel in the last days. (Zechariah 12:3) So we as the church need to hold up our nation and our leaders in prayer that we will stand strong for Israel. An increase of earthquakes, wars, famines, pestilences, and rising immorality all combine in these days to signal an urgent call for the church. This call for the church is for us to know our faith by daily Bible reading and study, fervent prayer, and obedient living. These times should prompt us to be ardent witnesses to the lost of our Lord Jesus Christ who was crucified as our substitute for sin, and raised from the dead. We should not forget to tell them He is coming back soon. We need not fear because of the confusion of growing world unrest. The Lord is in control and has foreseen all these things. But we should be all the bolder and more courageous in view of the assurances of the Lord as we see these developments that ***when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*** (Luke 21:28)

The Church Today – Doctrine and prophecy today

John encourages us to be sure that our walk is consistent with revealed Biblical truth when he wrote: ***“If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”*** (1 John 1:6) True belief needs, especially in these last days, to be congruent with a genuine walk in truth. This is because the world is watching. Most of all, God watches us. Are you believing right? Wonderful! Then let us also walk in such a way as will get the world’s attention for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, let’s show them the teachings and life of Jesus through our lives. We do this even through our imperfections. For when we fail to live up to the fullness of the measure of Christ, then the world can see the loving forgiveness of the Lord toward us that is also available for them. The Lord is faithful. Let’s be faithful in our walk in truth.

This faithful walk will happen only by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. He lives in each of us who are born again by faith in Jesus Christ. This is why Jesus said: ***“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”***(John 14:15-17)

The Bible predicts that many will depart from the faith in the latter days. (2 Timothy 4:1) But, we do not need to depart with them in any way. Each day, we can grow stronger in the power of the Lord and more resolved to serve and live for Him. This will come through our surrender to the indwelling Holy Spirit. He will direct us through His Word. And He will encourage us through the life of Jesus Christ, the “resurrection and the Life” who lives today in and through us. He will come for us at any time. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

We have heard in recent days how a false teacher has predicted that Jesus would return on Saturday, May 21, 2011. Yet the Bible, instead of giving us a specific time, reveals how we are always to be prepared for His coming. For we do not know (no one knows) neither the day nor the hour of Christ’s coming. This is why in Matthew 25:13, Jesus instructs us to be always watching. In other words, while we do not know the day or the hour, we know that His coming could be at ***any time*** and at ***any hour!*** ***“Watch therefore...!”*** (Matthew 25:13)

