

Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An Email Newsletter

Our Times - Prophecy in current events

The Perfect Storm of Prophetic Fulfillment

Remember the movie, "The Perfect Storm?" Recent events in the United States have seemed to be a repeat of history. The, so called, "Perfect Storm" was about three storms that converged off the coast of the northeastern United States in the early nineteen nineties. The interesting thing about the timing and fierceness of this storm was that it occurred when the United States was seeking to persuade Israel to exchange land for peace. A recent article in Reuters News, which covers the unfolding of recent events in Israel, is interestingly titled: "Israel Faces Perfect Storm in Shifting Region."

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Militarily strong, Israel is battling a diplomatic storm as Arab uprisings upset once stable relationships and worsen the Jewish state's isolation in its conflict with the Palestinians. Domestic political pressures are exacerbating the problems, as is the perceived weakness of Israel's main ally, the United States, which is itself struggling to adapt to the consequences of the turbulence that has swept the Arab world this year. The storm is not expected to blow over quickly, with the Palestinian push for recognition of statehood at the United Nations later this month and the moribund peace process only adding to Israel's sense of loneliness.

Israel, having to defend itself against intrusions from Egypt, has received cold treatment diplomatically from Egypt after Israelis killed five Egyptian guards while in pursuit of the terrorists who had attempted to enter Israel through the Gaza. Turkey is also unhappy with Israel after they killed nine Turks "last year when Israeli commandos boarded an aid flotilla challenging a naval blockade of the Palestinian enclave Gaza, killing nine Turks in ensuing clashes." (Reuters)

The reality is that the Arab world is transforming into a greater threat to cause deeper diplomatic isolation of the tiny state of Israel from the world. Also, with current unrest in surrounding Arab countries such as Egypt, Lebanon, and especially Syria and their close ally, Iran there is a growing threat of a multi-front war against the Jewish nation. This is according to one Israeli general. Diplomatic crises in the Middle East have a history of degenerating into war, and although conflict appears unlikely at present, some senior Israelis are sounding the alarm.



Eyal Eisenberg, speaking at an "Institute for "national security studies" in jew-occupied Al-Rabi'a ("tel aviv") threatened Muslims with total war.
(KAVKAZCENTER.com)

" 'After the Arab Spring, we predict that a winter of radical Islam will arrive,' Major-General Eyal Eisenberg, the chief of the Israeli army's Home Front Command, said this week. A winter of radical Islam will come and as a result, a possibility of the multi-front war increased, including the potential use of weapons of mass destruction." (Reuters)

Psalm 83 prophetically depicts a conspiracy of the nations surrounding Israel: ***"Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, and Do not be still, O God! For behold, your enemies make a tumult: and those who hate you have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, 'Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more."*** (Psalm 83:1-4)

The peoples named in this Psalm represent the key Arab nations surrounding Israel. It indicates that God's judgment of them will be swift and final! It states that God will ***"make them like the whirling dust, like the chaff before the wind! As the fire burns the woods, and as the flame sets the mountains on fire, so pursue them with Your tempest, and frighten them with Your storm."*** (Psalm 83:13-15) Israel's abundant nuclear arsenal is well known to its neighbors. This Psalm very likely predicts an Israeli nuclear response to the growing threats of the nations who wish for Israel's destruction.



Aerial overview of Jerusalem

Psalm 83 further states: ***Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; Yes, let them be put to shame and perish, that they may know that You, whose name alone is the Lord, are the Most High over all the earth.*** (Psalm 83:17-18)

Speaking of the "storm" that the Lord sends among His enemies, we should take careful notice of the storms that have plagued the United States in recent days. Hurricane Irene left many dead and entire communities destroyed through flooding. Then the recent Tropical Storm Lee which hit New Orleans and moved up to the northeast which brought further difficulties to these already rain saturated areas. It seems that while the **rains** that drought-ridden and wildfire-plagued Texas really needed headed for the northeast, the **winds** from this storm turned west to fan the flames of the wildfires of Texas. These wildfires have brought destruction not only of historic but also of Biblical proportions.

One small town in Oklahoma has reported 67 earthquakes in the last month. Today, not only are there judgments upon our nation of droughts, floods, and earthquakes, there are also judgments of unbelief and growing wickedness. The Bible clearly describes what happens when a people depart from God and live as though there is no God and no judgment. Romans 1:18 tells us, ***"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves...vile passions...men with men...committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due."***

There is no way to sugar-coat this reality in America. We are not the nation we once were. Nor is the Church in America what it once was. Sin is no longer called sin, but a psychological problem, or an attitude of intolerance. And that which the Bible calls evil, the politically correct crowd calls an enlightened and tolerant culture. Are we to think these physical storms have nothing to do with the spiritual storms of Satan's realms? He certainly thrives on all of the compromise, lack of love, growing violence, and rising immorality in America. This has particularly affected our position with regard to Israel. Americans have placed in the White House a President who is known to be wishy-washy at best on America's support for the existence and defense of Israel. I firmly believe that Israel's God is responding to this in clear ways. One Israeli journalist believes,

... President Barack Obama's administration is part of the problem. "Everyone is suffering from the lack of coherence and leadership from America," he said. "Obama is not exuding any authority or influence on anyone." But Yossi Shain, a professor at both Tel Aviv University and Georgetown University in Washington, says 'a vacuum creates a sense of impunity for attacking Israel with rhetoric.'"

"Only this week, a Bloomberg columnist reported that former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates had accused Netanyahu of being an "ungrateful ally" shortly before he left office, adding that the Israeli leader was "endangering his country by refusing to grapple with Israel's growing isolation." (Reuters)

This statement regarding Mr. Obama speaks for itself, but this remark by former Defense Secretary Robert Gates is particularly concerning since it appears that Israel is being condemned when Israel's greatest need is not to deal with its "isolation" but to "grapple" with the threats against its very existence, by seeking to secure itself against those who want her destruction.

With Obama's lack of clear resolve to stand firmly and publically with Israel, the problem of Israel's continued security seems all the more tenuous with the upcoming vote by the U.N. on the declaration of Palestinian statehood later this month. According to the above report, "although the U.S. officially opposes this move, 120 nations are likely to say yes." (Reuters) This may provide the legal standing the Palestinians and Israel's other enemies need to require Israel to return to its indefensible pre-1967 borders. This, I believe Israel will never do, which may ultimately lead to a rapid escalation of hostilities resulting in the destructive scenario spoken of in Psalm 83 and Isaiah 17, where Israel destroys her enemies. This could, in turn open the way for the eventual attack of Gog and Magog against Israel predicted in Ezekiel 38-39.

There is most certainly another "Perfect Storm" coming perhaps very soon in Israel and, which will affect the whole world. At the writing of this edition of Prophecy in Perspective (Friday, 9-9-11) I have just heard news of a 6.7 earthquake in Vancouver British Columbia, a new terror threat in New York and Washington, and the stock market has just taken a plunge due to global uncertainty over U.S. debt. Greece has just reported that their country's economy may go under. We are literally seeing the whole world growing more unstable as we speak about prophetic fulfillments and the coming of the Lord.

Events seem to be moving history with increasing speed toward climactic fulfillment of Bible prophecy which could certainly usher in a "global winter" of the Great Tribulation period. The coming of the Lord for His Bride, which is the rapture of the Church, could happen at any moment! We should pray fervently for the lost, and witness to them of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Further, we should joyfully serve the Lord with energy and without compromise in these last days. Jesus might return today!

Upward Call - How to walk in view of Prophecy

Prophecy Should Help Your Walk Match Your Talk!

Peter calls us to be very focused on our walk as we draw closer to the time of the coming of the Lord. He exhorts us to stay faithful in these hard hitting times. He writes: ***"You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*** (1 Peter 3:17-18) Notice Peter said, "since you know this beforehand," refers to prophetic truth of what will happen in the end times. He seems to intimate that as the times will become especially filled with predicted and unusual last days events and experiences, God's enemies will be fully energized by Satan's deceptions and powers. Because they will so mock God and believers in Christ we may become especially tempted to compromise, not study prophecy, not witness of the return of the Lord, and deviate from truth.

With this in mind we should all the more take Paul seriously when he says in Romans 12: 1-2, ***"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*** Is your walk different since you began studying prophecy? God gave believers these insights of the future to prepare us to be witnesses for Jesus Christ. We need to tell our lost friends about Him, how He selflessly died in our place for our sins; and how He gloriously rose from the dead! The lost will listen to us if our lives are consistent with our words. Your life will be consistent only if you are daily renewing your mind and living a transformed life.

The Church Today - Doctrine and Prophecy Today

Washington Cathedral, Where is Your Testimony for Truth?

Prophecy in Perspective reported in the last edition about the damage sustained by the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. as well as the damage to the Washington Monument. I commented how the National Cathedral is a fair representation of the spiritual condition in America, and the Monument stands as a political representation. Both have sustained cracks and other forms of damage from the unusual Virginia earthquake. Following the earthquake, D.C. was hit with the high winds and heavy rains of Hurricane Irene. Just a few days later, the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee blew through D.C., again with high winds and heavy rains. This brought about the toppling of a large crane that was set up to make repairs to the National Cathedral in time for it to host the much touted "Call to Compassion" service on Sunday in commemoration of the 9-11 tragedy.



"And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter." (Isaiah 59:14)

The Anglican Church, identical to the Episcopal Church in beliefs, has departed from the Biblical faith over the past decades. "Today the Church calls for the full civil equality of gay men and lesbians. Most dioceses ordain openly gay men and women; in some same-sex unions are celebrated with services of blessing. In 2009, the Church's General Convention passed resolutions that allowed for gay and lesbian marriages in states where it is legal." (Wikipedia)

Yet, still, The Anglican National Cathedral is regarded by its officials as representative of America's spiritual life. And, I believe, they are right. For, America has not been faithful as a nation to its founding Christian and Biblical principles. Many other churches and denominations have taken a liberal turn as well. Today, there is great compromise even among conservative churches as to teaching about the cross and the coming of Jesus Christ. Pride, showmanship, worldly applause, man's approval, toleration and doctrinal compromise have influenced even well known churches and ministries. The impact of these trends have been devastating to the witness for Jesus Christ in these latter days.

We should not miss the lesson that the Lord seems to be teaching the Church in America today through its apparent "representative," the National Cathedral. Fallen spires, and cracks in the walls were not enough, so, it looks like God went further and toppled a crane in the parking lot of the National Cathedral, still, graciously trying to get their attention. But they are not hearing. It is as Isaiah predicted and Jesus reaffirmed, "**Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.**" (Matthew 13:14-15) Therefore, it is still business as usual for the clergy of the National Cathedral who will simply move the heretical ecumenical services elsewhere for this weekend. Representatives of the National Cathedral, after the crane accident occurred stated officially: **"we will not let obstacles put in our way stop us from fulfilling our mission as the spiritual home for the nation."** Interestingly, and perhaps ironically, I discovered that the services will be held, not at the National Cathedral, but, instead, at the **Washington Hebrew Congregation**. Again, it seems, God puts the focus back on **Israel!**

Sometimes, the Lord will put "obstacles in our way." We should pay close and prayerful attention to them. I believe that the Lord speaks through them. The news media has covered the fact that evangelicals have been excluded from the service. That is just fine with me. How about with you? God said to Christians: ***"Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."*** (2 Corinthians 6:17)

May God be glorified as we seek Him on this historic weekend for His guidance, forgiveness, and renewal as a nation as we remember the thousands of lives lost at the hands of deluded and deceived men who were moved by false beliefs to murder our citizens. These Islamic terrorists were filled with hate for Israel and for the United States' support for God's covenant nation. May we worship God and remember the heroism exhibited on that awful day when America was clearly and unforgettably called to unite and to return as a nation to our "Founder in Chief," The Lord Jesus Christ, our soon coming King!

(Prophecy in Perspective, Copyright, vol. no. 9 - September 9, 2011)

*(Note: If you would like to interact with Dr. Downing concerning this newsletter, views, etc. you can "blog" with him at **prophecyinperspective.com**. Also, you can purchase his latest book, "Good News From a Far Country", a study in the book of Daniel [\$15] by contacting him.)*