

Prophecy in Perspective

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An Email Newsletter

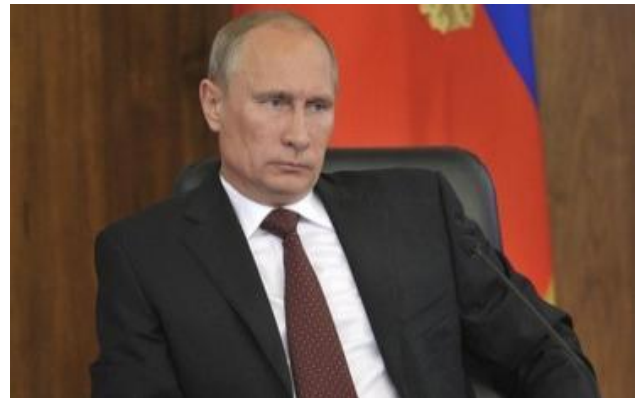
Our Times - *Prophecy in current events*

America and its Part in the Fulfillment of End Times Prophecy

America continues to be **led away** from unconditional support for Israel and any semblance of a biblical world view. This is clearly evident in our Obama led diplomatic overtures to Iran. President Obama's leadership takes America yet another step away from support for Israel and closer to conciliation toward the Shiite terrorist state of Iran. Iran's radical Islamic leaders have clearly announced their desires to initiate a war that will lead to the destruction of Israel and initiate the appearance of the Shiite false messiah, the Mahdi. Our standing in the world continues to decline in terms of America's loss of respect and confidence by Israel, Saudi Arabia and Russia. Bible prophecies about the latter day aligning of the nations against Israel are certainly proving accurate. Ezekiel 38 and 39 clearly indicate how the Arab nations will align with Russia in the latter days. This will eventually lead to their attack on Israel. Two of the following articles help us to see that this is exactly what is happening!

Doubting US Reliability, Some Arab Leaders Looking to Russia

A perception that America is an increasingly reluctant regional policeman stirs fears among some Arab rulers that it is no longer a reliable ally. Unfamiliar strains between Washington and its Arab allies have given Russia an opportunity to regain some lost influence in the Middle East, capture arms sales from US competitors and enjoy the unusual spectacle of its old rival looking puny.



Russian President Vladimir Putin Photo:
Reuters

No one expects Moscow to challenge the United States as the dominant security guarantor in the Gulf. Nor will Washington cede its place as the main outside player in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, Iran's nuclear dispute or other regional issues. (By REUTERS 11/20/2013)

The perception that America is not dependable in its support of Israel and of traditional Arab allies is based upon well founded concerns. Many in the U.S. are also growing more confused as to whether to trust an administration that has shown its self to be deceptive in its true position on many issues and increasingly overt in its deceptions on such issues as Ben Ghazi, NSA surveillance of American citizens, Obama Care, the IRS

scandals, etc. I have pointed out before in *Prophecy in Perspective* articles that worldviews do matter in the affairs of a nation. It is important for citizens of any nation, and especially one like the U.S., to ask what is the world view of a political and judicial leader before they place them in office by their vote! Can America be trusted? Or is there a realignment of our support toward enemies of Israel? It appears that there is! The US Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel's, support for Israel is questionable at best. In the following article, in a speech to Gulf leaders in a meeting in Bahrain, Hagel tries to assuage their deep concerns about whether America can be trusted as an ally.



US Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel at a press conference.

Photo: REUTERS/Yuri Gripas

REUTERS 12/07/2013 - Speaking in Bahrain, US secretary of defense seeks to assure Gulf leaders that Washington will not be deceived by Iran. The United States has a proven and enduring commitment to Middle East security, backed by diplomatic engagement and a fierce array of warplanes, ships, tanks, artillery and 35,000 troops, Pentagon chief Chuck Hagel told Gulf Arab leaders on Saturday. The US defense secretary, speaking at a regional security forum, acknowledged Gulf leaders' concerns about the direction of US policy in the Middle East, especially negotiations on Iran's nuclear program. But he said the US emphasis on diplomacy should not be misinterpreted.

Time will tell if America has actually strengthened Israel's enemies. All indications are that our Mid Eastern allies believe we have. No matter how many military defenses the U.S. offers to our Allies, they will rightly view our diplomatic generosity toward Iran as a threat to their security, and even their existence. The events of our times seem to be headed in the direction of the fulfillment of many of the prophetic warnings of Scripture.

In Daniel chapters 2 and 7 we see the prophecies of the arising of four world empires from Daniel's time until the First and Second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus, in Matthew chapter 24, gives the outline and much detail of the unfolding of End Time events. As we watch the news of today, and as we compare these and many other prophetic statements of the Scriptures, we can see that world events are literally proving Bible prophecy to be true!

Today, we are very likely living toward the close of the Church age (Revelation 3:14-22). This age will conclude with the rapture of the Church, when all born-again believers in Jesus Christ will be suddenly caught away to heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Every Christian should become familiar with the Book of Daniel, especially chapters 2, 7, 9 and 12, as well as Matthew 24 and 25, for starters. Then it will be important for each Christian, who is studying Bible prophecy while seeking to walk in obedience to God's Word (Psalm 119:9-16), to look prayerfully and discerningly at world events and see how history is unfolding precisely as the Bible predicts. Jesus said about the signs of the times that the disciples were to look for in Matthew 24:

“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it

is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation (genea= “race, kind, family, stock, breed, that is: the Jewish race) will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. (Keep your eyes on Israel and the affairs surrounding them) “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (These are truly indications of the nearness of the hour of the return of Jesus Christ, as we see the growth of wickedness in the world today.)

Israel’s Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has played the true diplomat during his visit to the U.S. when he clearly told President Obama to keep the pressure on Iran and not to be taken in by their smiles. He called Iran’s President in his speech to the UN, “a wolf in sheep’s clothing.” Mr. Obama does not seem to have a clue as to how dangerous Iran is, but Mr. Netanyahu, as a Jewish leader, does.

Christians need to wake up to the realities of unfolding prophecy to see just how close we are to the coming of the Lord, and to the world-wide judgments that will perhaps very soon come upon the world (Revelation 6:1-17). The wars, and rumors of wars, earthquakes, floods, pestilences, unrest and confusion among the nations, and the breakdown of love and regard toward human life as well as many other indications show us that we are in the latter days of this present age. God has an amazing and eternal future for all those who trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior!!

Is the Earth Itself Telling Us that the Lord is Coming Soon?

December 5, 2013 – GEOLOGY –

This year will go down on record, as seeing the most volcanic eruptions recorded in modern history. The previous number was set in 2010, at 82 volcanic eruptions for the year. The number of volcanoes erupting across the planet has been steadily rising from a meager number of just 55 recorded in 1990. While most scientists may readily dismiss any significance to the latest figures and may be quick to say the planet is just experiencing normal geological activity, it does raise other concerns about just what may be transpiring within the interior of our planet.

The average number of volcanic eruptions per year should be about 50 to 60; as of December 5, 2013, we are already at 83. Volcanic eruptions are one way the planet dissipates a dangerous build-up of heat, magma, and pressurized gases. The planet’s outer core is thought to flirt with critical temperatures in the range of around 4400°C (8000°F). Any rise or major fluctuation in interior gradient could have profound and disruptive effects on processes whose very properties are governed by convective heat emanating from the planet’s outer core: magnetic field propagation, tectonic plate movements, sea-floor spreading mechanics, and mantle plume



activity. Mantle plumes or hotspots are thought to be the central mechanism which fuels the vast underground chambers of many of the world's supervolcanoes. –(The Extinction Protocol, 12/15/2013)

December 5, 2013 – VANUATU - Steam and ash stream from the twin volcanoes on the island of Ambrym in the Pacific archipelago of Vanuatu, as seen in a picture captured from the International Space Station as it passed overhead. "Not every day you get to see an active volcano, let alone two," NASA astronaut Mike Hopkins tweeted on Monday. Ambrym is literally one of the hotspots for volcano tourists, but it has been known to turn deadly in the past. –**NBC News**



Paul indicates to us that the current events of the Church Age will be characterized by the "groaning of creation: ***For we know***

that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now "* (Romans 8:22). Jesus warned that in the latter days, there will be upheavals in, on and above the earth: ***"And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven "* (Luke 21:11). It certainly seems that even the earth itself is warning us to be ready for the coming of the Lord.*

The Church Today - *Doctrine and prophecy today*

It is amazing to me how many preachers and writers of Christian themes are absolutely caving in to the spirit of theological and methodological compromise that abounds today! Selling books successfully and gathering large crowds in ministries and churches is certainly a blessing if the teaching is sound. People all over the world are spiritually hungry for the wonderful and life changing truths of Scripture.

Many leaders in these latter days, however, are tempted to be envious of the success and popularity of others. They not only seek to build bigger churches, but also to build multiple churches. We see a growing trend for pastors to open branch or "campus" churches around their cities and even across the country. The Catholic and Episcopal churches should be delighted at this development as they have long practiced placing individual "bishops" over multiple congregations. This has always been and will always be an unscriptural form of church authority and government. Today's trends probably signal a return to the spirit of the "mother church" concept of ministry. A strong and embellished central government and authority is where America is headed as well. The global world government and world church under a single central authority is forming before our very eyes today!

Too often even pastors jealously seek out new and trendy teachings without much discernment about biblical truth. Consequently, many times, extremes are the result of ministries that are guided by doctrines of man over the teachings of the Bible.

For example, we are seeing developments of theological hybrid ministry methods based on a Hyper-Calvinistic-Charismatic and often even Catholic influenced "Contemplative Spiritual Discipline" movements. These Mystical spiritual formation beliefs and their complementary ministry methods have infiltrated more than a few well known youth and adult ministries and are diligently leading them into an experience based walk that may not be spiritually healthy or truly biblical. Others also propound the false doctrines of the Word of Faith, Kingdom Now and Replacement Theology heresies as well as many more unbiblical forms of pseudo-Christian and New Age doctrines which are misleading people everywhere. How can so many be so easily misled? The Bible cautions Christians that in the latter days they are to look out for such ominous developments, when, as predicted, there would be "perilous times." Paul warned Timothy: ***"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money..." (2 Timothy 3:1a, see context).***

And as many are shying away from teaching sound doctrine and promoting ***self-fulfillment*** theologies, many are, as well, avoiding Bible prophecy and are not teaching the imminent return of Jesus Christ to rapture His church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). I believe there are at least three reasons for this neglect of sound Bible teaching and of Bible prophecy.

First, is that many do not understand the Bible or biblical prophecy and are committed to erroneous interpretations of prophecy such as the idea that the Church itself is to establish the Kingdom of God on earth before the coming of Jesus. This is often called Post-Millennialism.

Second, prophecy is sometimes neglected because it may not be as financially profitable for many ministries to simply expound the truths of the Bible and of the coming of Jesus Christ.

Third, prophecy is neglected in preaching and teaching today because many simply do not believe the Bible, but are invested in liberal denominational opinions of biblical higher criticism which do not view the entire Bible as the Word of God, but as the fallible word of man.

None of these things should come as a surprise to us since the very neglect of prophetic truth in the latter days has been prophesied (1 Peter 3:3-4). And, while it should not surprise us, neither should this sad state of affairs in the latter days church cause us to become apathetic! God calls all believers and empowers them to stand firm for His truth! Prophecy student and teacher, David R. Reagan, states well the need for believers to take a firm stand for biblical truth in these latter days of apostasy when many are pushing the idea that the Church is supposed to establish the kingdom before the return of Christ and to bring in world peace:

The truth is that the church was never given the task of conquering the world for Christ or solving all the world's political and social problems. We were commanded to preach the gospel and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). And yes, we were instructed to stand for righteousness (Matthew 5:13-16). But the restoration of God's creation is a task that will be accomplished by Jesus when He returns to reign in glory and majesty from Mount Zion in Jerusalem (Matthew 19:28-29; Acts 3:18-21).

What's sad about the apostasy concerning Bible prophecy is that we are living right on the threshold of the Tribulation, when God will pour out His wrath on those who have rejected His grace, mercy, and love. Satan must be very pleased; because that is a truth he does not want anyone to know. One of the greatest events prophesied in Scripture, the rapture of the church, is imminent, and yet apostate teachers are directing people's attention away from that blessed hope and focusing their eyes instead on the false hope of establishing the kingdom of God on earth without the presence of the King.

The formidable task we face as believers in God's prophetic Word is to stand firm and continue to proclaim the truth of the Lord's soon return to as many people as we can, as quickly as we can. There is only one basic defense against the apostasy that is epidemic in the church today, and that is a knowledge of God's Word. Unfortunately, public opinion polls show that the average professing Christian today is biblically illiterate, and that conclusion applies also to those who consider themselves to be 'born again evangelicals.' (The Popular Handbook on the Rapture, Tim LaHaye, Thomas Ice, Ed Hindson, p. 190)"

Christians today need to begin reading their Bibles for themselves, book by book, chapter by chapter and verse by verse! The reading, study and preaching of God's Word, the Bible, is the best hedge against heresy! To stand firm for biblical Truth begins with yours and my commitment to read and to know God's Word. Just as in the early days of the Church and strategic turning points in church history, like the Reformation and the days of revival in early America, today there is a need for men and women, both teachers and students who are committed to the verse by verse study and teaching of the Bible!

On Pearl Harbor Day: We Honor and Remember Our Veterans Who Fought for America's Freedom! Thank You Veterans!

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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 name and 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. **WATCH for the release of Dr. Downing's NEW book, "God's Unfolding Purpose and Unfailing Power" due out in the beginning of 2014.**)*