

Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An Email Newsletter

Our Times - Prophecy in current events

The Bible reveals that there will come a time, perhaps very soon, when every Christian will be suddenly taken up in the Rapture to heaven to be with the Lord. 2 Thessalonians 4:13-18 is one of the key passages in the Bible that describes this exciting and sobering event. After the sudden coming of the Lord, like "**a thief in the night**" (**1 Thessalonians 5:2**), when He will snatch away all who are born-again in Christ, millions will be left behind in confusion as a result of the Rapture. After this, the Great Tribulation, Daniel's 70th week (Daniel 9:26-27) will commence. The Bible goes into great detail about the aligning of the nations during this time. Likely, Russia and the Islamic nations, such as Iran, will attack Israel during the early days of the Great Tribulation. God will intervene and destroy them, and along with destroying their military power, He will overthrow radical Islam, which will then morph, with all other false religions, into the wicked kingdom and religion of the Antichrist (Ezekiel 38-39). As a result of the overthrow of radical and militant Islam, as we will see, it is shown prophetically that there will be support by many of the Arabs for Israel in the latter days. While there is still time, it is important for believers to point out to the world that events are now shaping up and preparing for coming prophetic scenarios.

As Israel is today poised to take pre-emptive military action against Iran who threatens their existence with the rapid development of nuclear weapons, Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest supporter of Sunni Islam, and not known as a friend of Israel, is taking a stand of their own against Iran. It is interesting how as one of Israel's enemies, Saudi Arabia is now actually aligning with the Jewish state in their common interest of self-preservation against the very real nuclear threat from Iran, their common enemy. Saudi Arabia's current attitude and potential action against Iran actually serves to confirm the strong posture Israel has taken against Iran. It also confirms the reality of Shiite led Iran making good on their threat to use nuclear weapons against Israel and their Sunni led enemies such as Saudi Arabia.

Recently, Israel sent officials into Saudi Arabia, reportedly to inspect potential staging sites for an attack on Iran. The recent U.S. and Obama led peace deal with Iran to relax sanctions in exchange for what Israel considers merely cosmetic changes in Iran's nuclear aspirations has brought increased tensions among Iran's potential targets. (See *Prophecy in Perspective* lead article, "Is History Repeating Itself," Vol. 59, 12-29-13) It is no surprise then, that Israel and Saudi Arabia, historical enemies, are now cooperating in a potential combined militarily stand against Iran.



US Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Saudi King Abdullah Photo: REUTERS

In relating his frustration over the gullibility of the U. S. President toward the evil regime of Iran, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said: "Israel is not obligated by this agreement! I want to make

clear we will not allow Iran to obtain military nuclear capability... Today the world became a much more dangerous place because the most dangerous regime in the world has the potential of developing nuclear weapons, and Israel cannot stand by as Western countries cooperate with Iran and hesitate to use force in Syria." (Kleinonline)

An article by Ariel Ben Solomon of the *Jerusalem Post*, stated the indignation felt by Saudi Arabia at the presumption of the Western countries, including the U.S., in taking the Iranians at their word. The Saudi leaders believe that President Obama's agreement to ease sanctions against Iran will put them in greater danger. Ben Solomon's article goes on to state:

In an op-ed published in *The New York Times* on Wednesday, Mohammed bin Nawaf bin Abdulaziz al Saud, the Saudi ambassador to Britain, expressed his frustration at the West's Middle East policy in unusually blunt language.

Nawaf wrote that Saudi Arabia has enormous responsibilities in the region and the world, both economically and politically, and they cannot stand by as Western countries cooperate with Iran and hesitate to use force in Syria.

"We will act to fulfill these responsibilities, with or without the support of our Western partners," he wrote, adding that "the West has allowed one regime to survive and the other to continue its program for uranium enrichment, with all the consequent dangers of weaponization."

Michael Doran, a senior fellow at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution, who previously served as a US deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and a senior director at the National Security Council, told *The Jerusalem Post* that "it is true that the Saudis face considerable operational and political limitations on what they can actually do.

"But having said that, it is not all talk. They have never been more disillusioned with American foreign policy, and they can be expected to go their own way on many issues, Iran and Syria first and foremost," said Doran. (By Ariel Ben Solomon, JERUSALEM POST STAFF, 12/18/2013 11:21)

In the study of Bible prophecy, we must always be prayerful and patient to wait on the Lord so as to see what He is bringing about in the affairs of man. The Lord, will protect Israel and never allow it to be destroyed as a nation. The Bible predicts that even the Arabs, in the latter days, will, in some measure, come to help Israel during the time of persecution in the Tribulation Period. This is indicated in the Bible's references to Israel's escaping to the mountains to the west and south of Jerusalem during their persecution by the Beast in the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:15-16). Also, the especially tender passage in Hosea 2:14-21 indicates the Lord's future care and protection for His wayward people Israel in the latter days, in the lands of the Arabians. Daniel speaks of how Israel will be sheltered in the three places where God will not allow the Antichrist to threaten them, Edom, Moab, and Ammon (modern day Jordan). Apparently, Daniel's reference to these ancient lands, both then and now being occupied by Arabs, indicates that they will be helpful to God's people, especially after the mid-point of the Great Tribulation (Daniel 11:41; Revelation 12:6, 13-17).

The time and reason for, at least some of the Arabs, helping Israel will likely come after God supernaturally defeats Russia and the Islamic nations now hostile to Israel. After this defeat by God, many of the Arabs, who will have witnessed the mighty overthrow of radical Islam by Israel's God, will be open to believing in Him and will express their faith in God through their help for Israel in the Great Tribulation. God will, in turn, show them favor by making their lands inaccessible by the Antichrist. Recent developments in Saudi Arabia in their openness to Israel's help in their time of need seems to indicate that the Spirit of God is already at work in

their midst to bring them, perhaps in preparation for the Great Tribulation, into the orbit of God's Divine favor for Israel. This is a Divine favor that America has enjoyed historically. But, in these days we may be seeing God's favor for America being withdrawn in proportion to our neglect for the security of Israel. Please pray for our leaders to wake up to this reality, for judgment of our nation has already begun. Things are really shaping up for the last days, and for the coming of the Lord for His Church! Are you ready?

Does Israel have an Earthquake Machine?

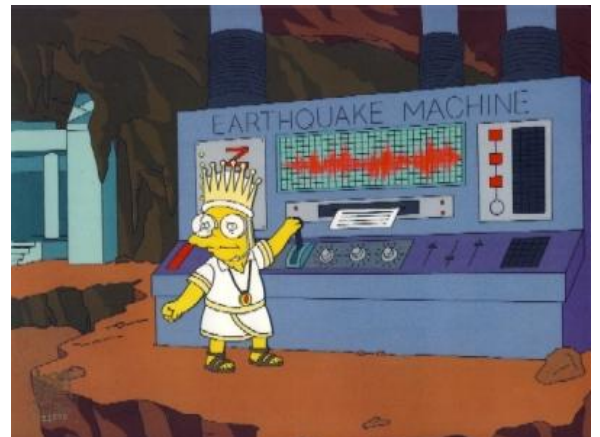
Take a look at the following article I came across which shows one absurd theory put forward by Islamic radicals against Israel.

Hamis Claims Jews Plotting "Earthquake Attack" Against Mosque

December 17, 2013 by Deniel Greenfield Front Page Magazine

Also no word on how this earthquake is only supposed to affect the Muslim colonialist mosque of the dome of the rock, and not the Western Wall and the temple site, which is the holiest place in Judaism.

It must be a really precise earthquake Ismail Radwan, Minister of Religious Affairs in Gaza's Hamas government, claims that Israel is trying to cause an artificial earthquake to totally collapse the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. According to Radwan, Israel is attempting to do so to establish the Third Temple.



The comments came at an event organized by female students of the College for Professional Applied Sciences. In response to the supposed "earthquake attack," Radwan called for a general national enlistment to the military, and to support the mosque by having fixed presence at the site.

Israel has been accused of using earthquake weapons before. Israel has been accused of being behind the Fukushima disaster. Henry Makow broke up with Jeff Rense because the latter wanted to blame it on a nuclear industry conspiracy instead of a Zionist Illuminati conspiracy.

Hugo Chavez claimed that the United States had an earthquake weapon that caused the Haiti quake. Alex Jones' site Prison Planet however blamed Israel for the Haiti earthquake apparently just in order to get some good publicity by bringing in aid.

It's not clear how earthquakes happened before the rebirth of Israel. Were they somehow natural events? Or did the Zionists always have an earthquake machine in the basement somewhere?

There's just no way to know.

Upward Call - *Our walk in view of prophecy*

What does persecution in America look like?

Many Christians in America do not really know what persecution looks like. But, if we take a look at a Duck Dynasty's, Phil Robertson, we can see an example of Christian persecution, "American style." We have to congratulate our brother in Christ for his courage and faithfulness to the Word of God. As the patriarch of the

Robertson family on the A&E hit show, Duck Dynasty, Phil did not worry about what people thought of him personally. A&E placed Phil on indefinite "hiatus" because of the pressure exerted from the radical leftist, G.L.A.D., organization which claims to speak for homosexuals everywhere. Phil, himself an ordained minister, had spoken his convictions, even if it was to Gentleman's Quarterly Magazine. These are convictions that the Word of God is clear about. Our convictions as Christians are to be held to the boundaries of the Bible. While some of Phil's talking points were what his family called "course," even assuming the use of commonly acceptable phraseology, there are not many preachers who would come near to the clarity of his convictions from their pulpits! But there is no escaping the reality of the times we are living in. These are indeed the **"perilous times,"** of doctrinal and self-focused moral confusion predicted for the latter days (2 Timothy 3). It is a time when those committed to shameful acts and godless doctrines are boldly rising up in un-holy indignation against those who believe in the God of the Bible. Yet, there are not many who will take a stand against the sins of our times but would rather trim the truth in order not to be misunderstood, or disliked. But Jesus asked: **"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mark 18:36)**

Jesus also said to all Christians, **"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required" (Luke 12:48).** During this Christmas season, we are to remember that God gave us all in giving us His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die for our sins upon the cross. We will be required to give an account of how we used His great gift (Romans 14:12). What sins did God send Jesus to forgive us of? Paul said:

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, NKJV)

All of these sins were in existence when Jesus came into the world, and they were there long before that. The problem today is that some of these sins, like homosexuality, are now being redefined as a behavior practiced by a protected minority and therefore is increasingly viewed as a legitimized behavior. But the Word of God has not changed! What has been declared as sin in God's Word, is still viewed by Almighty God as sin today! God's definition of sin has not changed because God has not changed. But neither has God's love changed. He is still desiring to save sinners through faith in His only Son, Jesus Christ.

We Christians have to come to the realization that all those who would dare speak the truth about these unbiblical practices are quickly vilified, publically ridiculed and shunned by the demonized power brokers of our day. We should pray for Phil Robertson, who is the latest victim of what we might call, "G.L.A.D. tidings from Gomorrah" (Read Genesis 18 and 19, to see their treatment of those who are of God and who disagree with their views)! But, Phil knows, as should we, that he already has the victory through Jesus Christ! (1 Corinthians 15:57) We should also rejoice that there are still a few in the public eye, like Phil, who will stand boldly to proclaim the whole truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ and of the whole counsel of God. Thankfully, there are also those who are not Christians who will defend the Christian's right to speak according to his or her convictions.

Will you also stand for truth? Will you preach the gospel in view of the soon coming of the Lord? Will you do this even at the risk of losing your friends or job? And, do not forget that there are yet many in the homosexual ranks who are desiring to know truth! They need to know that God loves them and desires to

save them, just as He desired to save you and me when we were lost sinners. Jesus loves sinners! And so should we! But, as Christians, we cannot act as though any sinful lifestyle is now ok.

Therefore, we should continue to share the love and truth of the Lord to those who will listen. And for those who will not listen, but will call us "haters" and "bigots," we know this is only to keep us from sharing the Lord, and to discredit His gospel. Many of those who are closed to the Lord are ready to label Christians as "anti-gay" or "homophobic." Jesus said to those of us who will love sinners by standing for truth:

***Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:10-12)***

The pressure will continue to grow against those who are faithful witnesses, but so will the power of God in these latter days to energized believers to speak truth in an increasingly hostile, confused and immoral culture. Jesus said that in the End Times, when we are called to account before godless authorities to give a defense for our witness, ***"it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony"*** (see, Luke 21:12-14). God bless you and your family in this Christmas season and into the New Year as we continue to witness for the Lord and faithfully watch for His coming!

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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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.)***