

Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An Email Newsletter

Our Times - *Prophecy in current events*

Israeli Air Force is on Alert Because of Malaysian Flight 370

Several aircraft and ships have raced down to the South China Sea over the last couple of days. Two satellite pictures have stirred much interest there. Did the Malaysian Flight 370 crash into the South China Sea? The several highly specialized search aircraft and ships have gone there to look for two especially interesting pieces of apparent wreckage floating on the sea off the western coast of Australia. So far they have not found anything of what appeared on the satellite images. Some wonder if one or both of the pilots of Flight 370 might have deliberately flown the plane for seven hours south to crash into the sea. Others, so far, have conjectured that the sizable floating objects might possibly be shipping containers that often fall overboard from cargo ships that frequent the waters in that region.



Lt Colonel Thomas McNerney USAF (ret) is a highly accomplished and regarded Air Force pilot, based on many connections as well as professional considerations of known motives of radical Islam, has stated his belief that the airliner was purposefully flown to Pakistan or Eastern Iran. One major reason that Colonel McNerney may be correct is based on how Israel is currently responding to this mystery.

Reports are that the Israeli Air Force is heightening its alert status because of the possibility that Malaysian Flight 370 might have landed to be re-purposed as a flying bomb to be used against Israel. Breitbart News Network reports in part:

“As the possibility—however remote—grows that Malaysia Airlines flight 370 may have been hijacked and taken to a hidden location, Israeli authorities are preparing for the possibility that the hijackers might attempt to use the Boeing 777 to mount an attack.

“According to the *Times of Israel*, Israel’s Channel 2 has revealed that Israeli air defenses have been boosted, and approaching civilian aircraft will be asked to identify themselves far earlier. Though the flight was presumed at first to have crashed, whole or in pieces, into the ocean, passive satellite transmissions from the aircraft suggest that it made a deliberate course change and may have headed north into central Asia. (by Joel B. Pollak, 16 March, 2014)

The prophecies of the Bible have foretold a future attack on Israel by Islamic nations as well as by Russia. Many of these nations are mentioned in Psalm 83 which will likely attack Israel in some manner in an attempt to destroy the tiny Jewish nation. But the Bible assures us that they will fail! Then, Russia with additional Islamic nations, one of which is specifically named as Persia (Iran) in Ezekiel 38:5, will come down from the north to take over Israel's wealth and destroy the nation.

The present day evil regime of Iran is Shiite Muslim. Their particular belief system involves the hope of a coming "12th Imam," called the Mahdi. It is very interesting that the descriptions of this Mahdi fit the Bible's characteristics of the coming Antichrist. The Antichrist will be anti-Semitic through and through and will do all he can to destroy Israel as well as all of the Jews world-wide.

Israel has a deep and highly accurate sense about possible threats! They are well aware that they have many enemies in the mid-east who desire their complete destruction. Israel is a high value target to the devil. Much of the world, having rejected God and the Bible, believe Israel and the Jews are the root of the world's problems. Many believe that the only way for there to be world peace is to get rid of Israel.

No wonder! God has chosen Israel to bring the Messiah into the world to die for the sins of the world and to one day return to rule and reign on the earth for a thousand years with Israel as the world capital. (Revelation 20:1-5) Of course, the devil is opposed to this idea. He wants his own chosen one to rule the earth. He will attempt to take over the world through the Antichrist and the false prophet. (Revelation 13) He will require all to worship him and to take his evil mark, 666, depicted in Revelation 13:16-18.

This is why I believe that these strange events and circumstances surrounding flight 370 have captured the world's attention. I believe God is telling the world to pay close attention to the prophecies of the Bible concerning Israel and watch how many nations in the latter days will attempt to set up scenarios by



which they might attack and destroy the nation of the Jews. If the plane turns up as having simply malfunctioned and crashed, then the world's attention will still have been stirred for a divine purpose!

We should continue to watch Iran, especially, the south-east of that country, where the plane might have landed (or perhaps, in south-western Pakistan). As reports are indicating, Israel is taking very seriously the possibility that this Boeing 777 airliner might be used as a flying bomb to attack them. It is also very possible to conceive of this long range air craft being used to attack the United States!

While many are confused and unsure as to what has happened, I am very pleased to see that Israel is not as unsure nor as confused as to what preparations they need to make for the very real possibility that this airliner might suddenly appear somewhere near, likely their north eastern border. The leadership of the United States needs to learn from our Israeli allies in this regard.

As I have previously suggested, also keep your eyes on what Putin and Russia are up to. I believe Bible prophecy is coming to pass in the strange and fast changing situations that we face today! The good news is, Jesus Christ will return, and these events signal that His coming may not be far off!

I still hold out hope that if Malaysia Flight 370 did land safely somewhere, then there is a good chance that the passengers and crew, or most of them, are alive and well. Whatever country would have allowed them to land within their jurisdiction is well aware of the incredible international scandal that would result if they became a part of the mass murder of hundreds of innocent men, women and children.

It is a considerable possibility, as Col. McNerney has stated, implying that while many are distracted by looking in the wrong places, that this aircraft could have already left Pakistan for another location! He also believes the U.S. government might be hiding what it knows about the plane's location. We are certainly aware that the Obama administration is very adept at obfuscation, information shell games and out-right deception! Mr. Obama would certainly have a lot more problems if the plane did indeed land in Pakistan or Eastern Iran. Could the search everywhere else beside possible landing sites in the Mid-east be preferable to the White-House? Time will tell.

It is so encouraging to know that when man fails, God never fails! If the passengers of Malaysian Flight 370 are still alive, and I pray that they are, it is so good to know that almighty God is aware of where they are and exactly what is happening! I pray they will be found soon. God allows man to make wrong decisions! But, He is able to overrule those decisions and to forward His amazing prophetic plan in spite of, or even *through* the sinful actions of the wicked!

The Great Invisible War on the Saints

As God's prophetic plan unfolds on the earth and in the lives of believers, there is still great resistance from the devil and his demons. There is a great invisible war on the saints. The reality of this invisible war is evident in Scripture! This war is also evident in the world today. The evidence is seen with Russia on the move in Crimea and Ukraine, threatening to openly support Iran in its development of nuclear weapons. Israel is continuing to prepare for the possibility of attack from Iran as well as defending itself against rocket attacks. Further, Israel has to constantly contend with a non-committed ally in the United States under the tepid leadership of President Obama. Additional evidence of increased spiritual warfare is seen in a spiritually and doctrinally weak Church that has forgotten the Bible truth that Jesus Christ is coming again!

As Daniel prayed for three straight weeks for God to reveal His mercy toward Israel toward the end of their prophesied 70 year captivity in Babylon, finally he had an angelic visitor who told him what God was planning to do. But he also gives Daniel and us an insight as to the great invisible War on the Saints that is happening all the time. The angel said to Daniel:

"Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia." (Daniel 10:12-13)

There is an invisible world of which every serious and biblical Christian should be aware. Notice that as soon as Daniel began to pray, the Lord responded by dispatching an angel to go to him and to reveal what God was planning to do. But along the way the angel was actually hindered and delayed by the prince of the kingdom of Persia, which was a powerful demon, who delayed and resisted this angel for fully three weeks. Then another angel, Michael, one of the most powerful angels, came to help him. Interestingly, ancient Persia is present day Iran. There is obviously still an evil and powerful principality over Iran today. Yet, there are also Bible believing Christians there and churches! We should pray for them as persistently and believably as Daniel prayed for the Jews dwelling in Persia!

From this we see that there are battles raging in the heavenly realms between the angelic powers of light and the Satanic powers of darkness; angels against demons. There is a great invisible war on the saints going on!

In reality, in Daniel's day and certainly in these latter days, there is a vast and highly organized structure of demonic beings that hinder and work to thwart God's purposes as they are directed through the active ministry of His angelic hosts. Both angels and demons are structured in ranks.

We find a description of the ranks of God's angels described by Paul in his letter to the Colossians. These are described in descending order as thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers. (Colossians 1:16)

The demonic ranks are also described by Paul in his letter to the Ephesians. These are also described in descending order as principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12)



It is likely, I think, that the angel that was sent to Daniel was of the rank of a "power." He may have been one of the lower ranking entities of the angelic realms. He was stopped by a demon spirit probably of the rank of a "principality." This "prince of Persia" was responsible to oversee and promote the religious, political, philosophical and moral evils of Babylon. Thus, this principality as a powerful demonic spirit under the authority of Satan, had dominion over the king, idolatrous priests and administrators of Persia. This "prince of Persia," purposed to stop this angelic messenger and he evidently had the authority to "resist" him for a period of time or until a higher authority showed up.

Therefore, Michael, one of the chief princes came to help him. Michael, being an archangel, had the power and authority to overcome this "prince of Persia" and to make the way clear for God's messenger angel to get to Daniel with his vital prophetic information concerning God's intention for Israel's future.

This is why Daniel's prayer was so persistent. He refused to stop asking until the Lord answered with the truths he was seeking. We should pray the same way: persistently, until the Lord answers. Of course, God is sovereign and He can bring us answers without the agency of angels. But God sometimes chooses to use people, circumstances, and angels as means of answering our prayers. He even uses the delays that demons cause to time His purpose to the very moment that glorifies Him the most. We know that we can trust God for His timing and the ways and means He uses to bring His purposes to pass in our lives.

As Christians, we should realize that Satan is the instigator of political and religious conflict and unrest in nations today. (2 Chronicles 17:21; Revelation 15:13-16) In spite of his evil plans, God's prophetic plan is still very much unfolding today. But, remember that there is a great invisible war on the saints! (Ephesians 6:12) I know that this all sounds very mysterious, but it is true none-the-less. The Bible says that there is a **"mystery of iniquity" at work in the world today.** (2 Thessalonians 2:7) This is a reference to the fact that the devil is even now seeking to prepare for the coming of the Antichrist onto the world scene and he is deceiving the nations in order to bring this about. We know that Satan, as the **"god of this world,"** has and is blinding the minds of those that do not believe. (2 Corinthians 4:4)

Believers must understand the nature of the enemy's methods and devices. Satan intends to fully employ the tools of moral and spiritual compromise and worldliness. He already has possession of the Gentile world powers. But when Christians become yielded to the schemes of the Devil through doctrinal and moral compromise, then they give up valuable and strategic ground to the powers of darkness. (Ephesians 2:7; Ephesians 6:11) Demons can then establish strongholds in our lives. From these Satanic strongholds will come lust, anger, bitterness, conflict, immoral deeds and false beliefs. (Matthew 15:19; Galatians 5:19)

Often, we might allow principalities and powers to defeat our study of Scripture, or our prayer life, our families and even our nation. We must stand against these powers in full spiritual battle dress which Paul describes in Ephesians 6:10-18 as the "whole armor of God:"

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

Remember that Satan must respond to God's authority. You and I have authority against the powers of darkness through Jesus' name, by faith in His cross and resurrection. Demons are fearful and disgusted to hear the truth prayed about Jesus' dying for sinners and rising again. (Luke 4:34; Colossians 2:15) They will do all they can to stop you from believing in the Lord, witnessing for Him and watching for His coming again. (Acts 17:18; Matthew 24:13:22) The devil also distains the truth about the second coming! This is why he has been

so successful in getting entire denominations away from teaching and preaching on the personal and any moment return of Jesus Christ! (Ezekiel 12:22,27; Malachi 2:27; 2 Peter 3:7)

The devil is also interested in gaining ground in the believer's life. (Ephesians 4:26-27) If you have given ground to Satan through immorality, unforgiveness, false cult beliefs, etc., you can and should take back all ground that he has taken by prayerfully putting on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) confessing and repenting of sin (1 John 1:9; James 4:7-9) and walking in obedience to God's Word. (2 John 1:16) We should also pray against the powers of darkness in their all out assault on the Church in the United States through compromise and shallow teaching, and in many countries around the world in his attack against Christians through violence and persecution. Again, Paul teaches us in 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 how our weapons are powerful because they are spiritual, this is because the Christian's war is spiritual:

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Remember, that all believers who are truly committed to the Bible and to holy living will be targeted by the demonic realms. You can walk in victory against them as you walk in total abiding trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Your persistence and patience in your faithful yieldedness to the power and direction of the Holy Spirit will bring you victory through Jesus Christ. Especially in these latter days, we need to be ***"strong in the Lord and in the power of His might"*** to experience daily triumph against the attacks of our enemy who is waging a great invisible war against the saints. ***"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."*** (Romans 8:37)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil....

(Ephesians 6:10-11)

Prophecy in Perspective, Copyright, vol. no. 68 - March 21, 2014

*(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. **Dr. Downing is teaching his NEW book, "God's Unfolding Purpose and Unfailing Power." Contact him for space availability and location and/or to obtain a copy of this book.***