

Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An email newsletter

Our Times - *Prophecy in current events*

The prophetic Scriptures are moving toward fulfillment faster than we can even keep up with! With the ISIS Terrorist organization of fighters invading Iraq from strongholds in war-torn Syria, it is hard to believe the Obama Administration was unaware of their existence or their evil intention! What is their intention? They want to establish an Islamic Caliphate, or kingdom! It was known by all who were paying attention to the situation in that part of the world, that to leave no troops behind in Iraq would invite Islamic terrorists to fill that power vacuum left by the vacating United States military. I believe, to President Obama, the real problem in the Islamic world is the United States itself!

Traditional, family-oriented and Christian America, along with a strong Israel, are the biggest hindrances to global peace and harmony to the Leftist mindset. This Leftist mindset is also found in religious liberalism in the U.S. This Leftist way of thinking has thoroughly corrupted one of America's largest mainline denominations, the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUSA). The following article from the *Jerusalem Post* shows that it is not just real Christians that are leaving this Leftist, anti-Israel, denomination, but even Jewish representatives from the Simon Wiesenthal organization are now staying away as well because the PCUSA has declared the very existence of Israel is racist:

Enough! Why We Won't Be At The Presbyterian General Assembly

By ABRAHAM COOPER, YITZCHOK ADLERSTEIN
06/16/2014 01:56 (Jerusalem Post)

By casting Zionism as racism on their official website, the elite running this Church have crossed a line that makes interfaith cooperation impossible.



Man holds boycott Israel sign
Photo: REUTERS/Francois Lenoir

We won't be at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church-USA (PCUSA) this year. By casting Zionism as racism on their official website the elite running this Church have crossed a line that makes interfaith cooperation impossible. We will not lend credibility to their destruction of the bridges that brought Presbyterians and Jews together for decades.

We will be sitting it out not because we wouldn't be welcome. The laity and clergy of this church – whether they've agreed or disagreed – always welcomed us as

observers, and we've been enriched by our dialogue. This Church's administration has been quite a different story.

PCUSA was, in 2004, the first mainline church to adopt a resolution calling for divestment from Israel.

Immensely unpopular with the people in the pews, it was undone in 2006, but the minority pledged never to give up the fight. So every two years Jewish organizations squandered months of time, beating back the latest anti-Israel resolutions encouraged by the salaried and agendized "insiders" at corporate headquarters in Louisville. The good ordinary folks of the denomination, whatever their views on Israel/Palestine, were dismayed by the investment of valuable time on resolutions that didn't bring the Middle East closer to peace, but alienated Jews and Presbyterians from each other.

Other denominations got it, and avoided incendiary moves. PCUSA's leaders chose not to. After each defeat at a biennial General Assembly, they raised the ante, backing the anti-peace Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement that openly seeks the eradication of the Jewish state – even though it flies in the face of the decades-long stated policy of the church. At each GA they pushed for ever more outrageous resolutions, forcing Jewish organizations to debate not Israel's policies, but her very existence.

Enough! For years before, we tolerated double crosses, broken deals, deception. We watched as church officials had to resign after visiting with terrorist leaders. We participated in midnight meetings that brokered new "understandings" – only to learn weeks later that words were cheap to these church leaders. We saw crucial committees stacked with supposedly neutral but always pro-Palestinian "resource personnel" who were allowed unlimited time to testify (while we had 60 seconds to testify on the most complex conflict on the globe).

We saw real, unadulterated anti-Semitism on the webpages of the Israel-Palestine Mission Network (IPMN) – one of the radical groups behind the incessant anti-Israel resolutions. When we pointed this out, church leadership denied that IPMN spoke for the church – even as it continued to link to them from its own webpages and provided their IRS charitable organization status.

We recently witnessed a chairman of the committee scheduled to debate anti-Israel measures, a person known for his fairness and neutrality, summarily asked to resign because he had visited Israel on a Jewish-sponsored tour. No matter that the church pushes its own, carefully designed pro-Palestinian tours. We watched in disgust as they trotted out "Jewish voices" to allege that Jews themselves were now completely divided about Israel, despite the fact that those spokespeople were as representative of the Jewish community as flatearth advocates are of geographers.....

It is no secret that PCUSA is on the decline. When it started up in 1983, there were 3,131,228 members. That shrunk to 1,849,496 in 2012. According to the latest projection of the church's own Office of the General Assembly, a full 25 percent, approximately a half a million souls, will leave over the next three to four years. Much, if not most, of that decline is attributable to the same cancer on the body of this church – leadership that forces certain issues and assaults on traditional values.

The Jewish state will survive PCUSA's heavy-handed double standard. PCUSA's members have every right to ask when they arrive in Detroit this weekend whether PCUSA will survive its leadership's efforts to cram hateful political positions down the throats of an unwilling membership that does not share those views. *Rabbi Abraham Cooper is associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Rabbi Yitzchok Adlerstein is director of interfaith affairs for the Simon Wiesenthal Center. This article was originally published by USA Today.*

We can expect that there are many examples of how God's Word is being fulfilled in these tumultuous times in the Middle East. The ISIS Terrorist organization are known to be WORSE than Al Qaeda. They are known now to be making plans to invade Jordan and to "slaughter king Abdullah."

(See, <http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/2014/June19>) No doubt, their grand intent, is to destroy Israel! But God has a way of playing His enemies against one another! Iran's Shiite form of Islam, which looks to the coming of the Antichrist type, Mahdi, despises the Sunni form of Islam and desires their annihilation! It appears they will be battling it out in Iraq for the foreseeable future seeking one another's destruction.

The Scriptures are clear that as the time of the Lord's return approaches, the wickedness and cruelty of man will greatly increase. (Matthew 24:11-12; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). I believe the Antichrist is alive today and Satan is getting him ready to appear. The development of an Islamic Caliphate is scary to many, but, for believers, we know that it represents an important part of the unfolding of God's predicted End Times scenario. Islam's Satan inspired hatred of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, of the Cross, and of the Jews, is driving Islam's mad rush for conquest today. The nations are aligning for the final showdown between God and Satan in the Great Tribulation Period which will begin after the Rapture of the Church. Another article, by Joel Rosenberg helps us to see how we are indeed living in the exciting times of the rapid fulfillment of God's prophetic Word:

Return Of The Medes - Prophetic Implications?

June 19, 2014 / Joel Rosenberg

Read more at <http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/2014/June19/191.html#FwMKoqSOOz5YXW2Z.99>

Could recent developments in Iraq have prophetic implications? Actually, the answer may be yes — especially with regards to the Kurdish people who live in northern Iraq. Let me explain.

As we've been seeing in recent weeks, the Radical jihadist forces of the "Islamic State of Iraq & al-Sham" (ISIS) are on the move towards Baghdad. They are leaving a trail of bloodshed and carnage in their wake. The objective of the ISIS leaders is to topple the Iraqi government, seize control of all of Iraq, establish a jihadist state under Sharia law, and use Iraq to begin a regional — and eventually global — Islamic caliphate, or kingdom.

Now, the Kurdish leaders have taken advantage of the chaos of this moment to seize control of the oil-rich region of Kirkuk for themselves. (see AP story below)

The oil fields of Kirkuk have been a long-standing issue of controversy in Iraq, especially since the liberation of the country in 2003. Whoever controls those fields would control enormous wealth as the oil there is more fully developed and shipped to markets around the globe.

The Kurds, generally, are Sunni Muslims, but they are not ethnically Arabs. Indeed, many Kurds have a deep hatred for the Arabs. Several decades ago, the world created a special, protected, autonomous region for the Kurds in the north region of Iraq, after Saddam Hussein repeatedly attacked and tried to destroy the Kurds, including with the use of chemical weapons.

Ultimately, many Kurds want to create an independent country of their own, uniting Kurds living in Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey. Yet each of those national governments strongly oppose the creation of an independent Kurdistan. What's fascinating is that the modern Kurdish people were known in ancient, Biblical times as the Medes. Here is where things get interesting.

Bible prophecy indicates that in the End Times, as we get closer to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ,

God will allow the Medes to gain power, even as the Lord allows the Arabs to gain power and rebuild the kingdom of Babylon in the heart of Iraq.

The Book of Revelation, for example, tells us that Babylon will be the epicenter of evil in the last days of history, and will eventually face the judgment of God. The Hebrew prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel tell us this, as well, indicating Babylon will be completely destroyed and when the judgment is complete, Babylon will be completely uninhabitable. Indeed, Isaiah 13:20 says of Babylon, "It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; nor will the Arab pitch his tent there, nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there."

What's more, Bible prophecy indicates that God will raise up the Medes — that is, the Kurdish people — to be an instrument of judgment against Babylon.

- Isaiah 13:17 — "Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them [the Babylonians]...."
- Jeremiah 51:11 — "The Lord has aroused the spirit of the kings of the Medes, because His purpose is against Babylon to destroy it; for it is the vengeance of the Lord...."
- Jeremiah 51:28-29 — "Consecrate the nations against her, the kings of the Medes, their governors and all their prefects, and every land of their dominion. So the land quakes and writhes, for the purposes of the Lord against Babylon stand, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without inhabitants...."

How exactly will these eschatological prophecies come to pass? It's too early to say for certain. But after studying these prophecies, traveling four times to the Iraqi Kurdistan region, meeting with senior Kurdish leaders — including Kurdish Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani — and tracking developments there over the past decade or so, I think it is fair to say we may be seeing some of the prophetic battle lines developing:

- The hatred of the Kurds/Medes against the Arabs, and vice versa, is steadily growing.
- The Kurds/Medes and the Arabs are in a continued struggle to control the oil resources that will make either or both of them enormously wealthy and powerful in the End Times.
- The Kurds/Medes are, step by step, forming into their nation, and possibly their own country.
- The Kurds/Medes are developing an increasingly effective military force that is able to overpower the Iraqi Arabs at times.

Please keep the Kurdish people in your prayers. There are a growing number of truly born again Christians living in Kurdistan, including many MBBs, Muslim Background Believers. Please pray that they would boldly preach the Gospel, and be able to make many disciples, and help the believers that grow deep in their faith in Christ, especially amidst all the chaos and carnage.

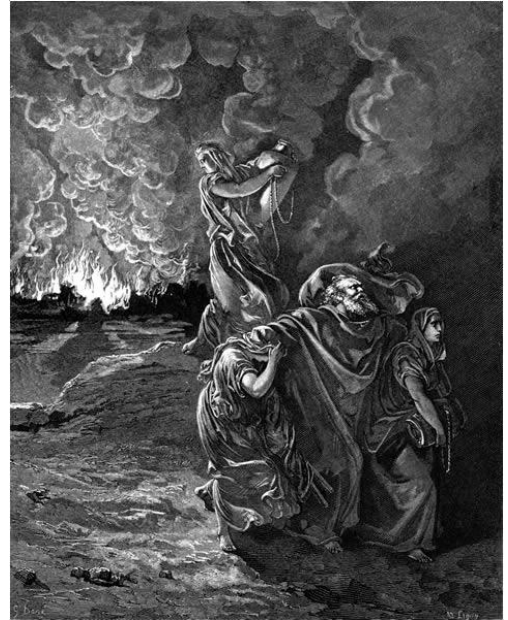
The Church Today - *Doctrine and Prophecy Today*

Presbyterians Affirm Same-Sex Marriage With No Biblical Support!

The preparations for the appearance of the Antichrist and the rise of the global apostate church are right on schedule as far as the unfolding of End Times prophecy is concerned. Daniel 11:37 states concerning the attitude of the future Antichrist that he will reject whatever god or religion his fathers had. Second Thessalonians 2:4 says that he will exalt himself as being God and "show himself that he is God." Further, many, including myself, believe that Daniel 11:37 also indicates that the Antichrist will be a homosexual.

I believe that this reality shows us why there is such a crazed rush to promote the homosexual agenda today. If we were in the last days, this is what we would expect. And there is a great push through the homosexual lobby to promote this life style in the religious realm. This was exactly what the citizens of Sodom did when they were visited by the angels in Genesis. Lot expressed opposition to their agenda (Genesis 19:7-8) and they cruelly responded with these words, (from the living Bible):

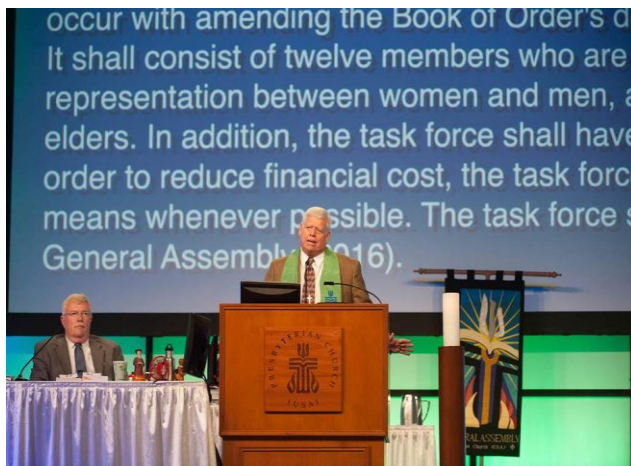
“Stand back,” they yelled. “Who do you think you are? We let this fellow settle among us and now he tries to tell us what to do! We’ll deal with you far worse than with those other men.” And they lunged at Lot and began breaking down the door.” (Genesis 9)



We are now witnessing a similar effort today by homosexuals to command Christians to "stand back," from their biblical convictions! At the same time, entire denominations are caving to the unscriptural requirements of pro-homosexual groups and compromising church leaders, to allow for same-sex marriage within the church. This is shown in the following shocking report from the Associated Press on further decisions of the recent PCUSA General Assembly (the same General Assembly referenced in the above section "Our Times"):

Presbyterian Church Leaders Declare Gay Marriage Is Christian

DETROIT — The top legislative body of the Presbyterian Church-USA (PCUSA) voted by large margins Thursday to recognize same-sex marriage as Christian in the church constitution, adding language that marriage can be the union of "two people," not just "a man and a woman."



Moderator Heath Rada listens to the commissioners debate on a vote on whether the church should recognize same-sex marriage at the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at Cobo Hall, in Detroit, Thursday, June 19, 2014.

The amendment approved by the Presbyterian General Assembly requires approval from a majority of the 172 regional presbyteries, which will vote on the change over the next year. But in a separate policy change that takes effect at the end of this week's meeting, delegates voted to allow ministers to preside at gay weddings in states where the unions are legal and local congregational leaders approve. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia recognize same-sex marriage.

The votes, during a national meeting in Detroit, were a sweeping victory for Presbyterian gay-rights advocates. The denomination in 2011 eliminated barriers to ordaining clergy with same-sex partners, but ministers were still barred from celebrating gay marriages and risked church penalties for doing so. Alex McNeill, executive director of More Light Presbyterians, a gay advocacy group, said the decisions Thursday were "an answer to many prayers."

The Rev. Krystin Granberg of the New York Presbytery, where the state recognizes gay marriage, said she receives requests "all the time" from friends and parishioners to preside at their weddings.

"They want to be married in the church they love and they want me to do it," Granberg said during the debate. "I want pastoral relief." But Bill Norton, of the Presbytery de Cristo, which covers parts of Arizona and New Mexico, urged the assembly to delay any changes. "We are laying hands on something that is holy, that God has given us, so we need to be sure any changes we make are in accord with God's will revealed in Scripture," Norton said.

Since the 2011 gay ordination vote, 428 of the denomination's more than 10,000 churches have left for other more conservative denominations or have dissolved, though some theological conservatives have remained within the denomination as they decide how to move forward. The church now has about 1.8 million members.

The conservative Presbyterian Lay Committee decried the votes in Detroit as an "abomination." The assembly voted 371-238 to allow ministers to celebrate same-sex marriages, and 429-175 in favor of amending the definition of marriage in the constitution. (The Associated Press)

I and my family separated from the Presbyterian Church, US in 1983, the year before it merged with the United Presbyterian Church, USA into the abomination that it has become, the Presbyterian Church in the USA (PCUSA)! As sad as these developments are, there are also many inroads by the homosexual movement through the heretical Emerging Church. Even more disturbing is to see how these unscriptural trends are appearing even among Evangelical churches and leaders as well.

One article shows how the recent Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Baltimore Maryland on June 10-11, 2014, failed to take action to discipline an SBC church in California whose pastor came out to state that he no longer believes that the Bible teaches that homosexuality is a sin. His congregation supported him in this belief. (I encourage you to read the article at the Appraising Ministries website, <http://apprising.org/2014/06/14/sbc-affirms-biblical-sexuality-but-no-discipline-for-gay-affirming-sbc-church/>)

As we watch Bible prophecy unfolding we will have to keep in mind that we are not just to know the things that are happening in the world and the church, but we are to be active in our prayers and witnessing to be strong and stand firm against the rising tide of theological and moral compromise that is coming in like a flood. We are not called to hide or to become discouraged at the things that are happening today. Nor are we to be afraid! But we are to be bold to make Jesus Christ and His cross and resurrection known in the world today. We are to continue to raise up a godly generation. We are not to withdraw or to give up any ground at all to the encroachment of evil in our families, churches or nation. As you watch for the coming of the Lord, you and I are called to

***"be strong in the Lord and the power of His might!" and to "put on the whole armor of God,"
and to "stand in the evil day, and having done all, to STAND!"
(Ephesians 6:10-13)***

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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. **Dr. Downing's NEW book, "God's Unfolding Purpose and Unfailing Power" is now available! [\$10].***