

Absolute Truth & Prophecy

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NEWSLETTER

www.ATPMinistry.com

ZEW'S NEWS REVIEW

November 1, 2009

Issue # 264

IRAN, ISRAEL & THE NEXT PROPHETIC WAR – Part II

Prophecy buffs, professional & amateur have looked at the growing tensions between Iran and Israel, - and the avowed determination by Iran to end the career of the Zionist State, - and wondered if these will lead to the onset of the Gog / Magog invasion of Israel. After all, the Prophet Ezekiel, - in chapters 38 & 39 clearly sees Iran (Persia) as one of the major players in that invasion. Certainly the current tensions based on Iran becoming a fully capable nuclear state, - is feeding the tension. Could an Israeli or American air strike set off that war? Well, not so fast! This time out we'll look at Israel's plans to insure its own survival as well as begin to unveil what God's Word has to say on the future of Israel and its neighbors.

War Drums & Rumors

Last time we left off noting how Israel is facing threats on many fronts; - Iran, Lebanon / Hezbollah, Syria, Hamas, - pressure to form a Palestinian State and to reveal and give up its nuclear shield. It is one of the toughest positions that a national leadership has ever been in, - to be faced with international pressure to make concessions that would make it materially impossible to defend its own borders. [A "contiguous" Palestinian State, - as envisioned by President Obama for instance, - would cut Israel in half. Only one state of the two can be "contiguous".] That type of pressure is akin if anything, to that faced by Czechoslovakia at Munich when that poor government was prevailed upon to divide itself by giving away the Sudetenland to the Nazi terror state. They were soon gobbled up whole by Herr Hitler. [*Worked out rather nicely for them, wouldn't you say?*] International pressure on Israel is increasing to stealing Jewish lands for a 'Palestine', - even without Israel's consent. Javier Solana, foreign policy chief of the EU, is pushing for the UN Security Council to impose its will on the situation deciding everything from borders to the refugee question.¹ [*And we all know how fair and balanced the UN has been when it comes to Israel.*]

With the Palestinian question on the forefront of the world stage, we must remember that the government in Jerusalem will never lose sight of the Iranian nuclear issue. That is a matter of immediate survival. The Iranian leadership has built an ideology around the creation of chaos that will, - in their minds – lead to the arising of the Mahdi. They have fed that ideology with a theology that demands the destruction of Israel as a nation. Prime Minister Netanyahu and his government are not likely to forget this. The Israeli Air Force has been preparing for what seems inevitable; - that the Iranians will continue until they have full nuclear capability and that the US will not stop them. And now Iran is openly gearing up for such a showdown too. They are preparing to ration gasoline, reducing supplies by as much as 45% to handle any disruption that might follow the imposition of real sanctions.² And encouraged by their technological advances, a top commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard has threatened to "blow up the heart of Israel" if either the US or the Israelis hit Iran's nuclear facilities.³ But that's just what Israel and / or the US may be planning to do.

Israeli and American officials have been in contact since the Spring, discussing Israel's operational vis-à-vis Iran. Then in early October, Israeli, American and French leaders met in Normandy regarding establishing a 'new front' to face to confront Tehran.⁴ It was around then that stories began to surface in the mainstream press. First, ABC News reported that the Pentagon, which had speeded up the purchase and delivery of the Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP), - was doing so because, - in the Pentagon's words, - "The Department has an Urgent Operational Need (UON) for the capability to strike hard and deeply buried targets in high threat environments". The departments specifically requesting the MOPs were responsible for any operations against North Korea and Iran. The Jerusalem Post's very reasonable conclusion: The "US may be planning to bomb Iran".⁵ By the middle of October the French paper, *Le Canard Enchaîné* reported that Israel was gearing up for an attack sometime after December. According to the paper, IDF special forces reservists had been put on notice to report home in November. The purported plan called for the use of special forces units in sabotage operations against the nuclear facilities.^{6 7}

But does that mean that an attack is imminent? And would that lead to the onset of the Magog War described in Ezekiel 38 & 39. Not hardly, I should think. First of all, the Scripture is very clear that that war will be directed against an Israel that is at peace and not living in fear. At that time Ezekiel 38:11 tells us that the Magog invaders will say to themselves, "**I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell**

safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates” A few verses down in Ezekiel 38:14, the Prophet confirms that this will come, **“On that day when My people Israel dwell safely”**. That is certainly not the case today. Israel is besieged by threats. *Then what may we be looking for next? In Part III we’ll look at what may be the next war on the prophetic horizon.*

ISLAM, DECEPTION & THE ANTICHRIST – PART VII

Last time we unveiled a possible candidate to fill both the offices of The Great Mahdi of Islam and the Biblical ‘Man of Sin, - the Antichrist. In this weeks newsletter we’ll delve a little deeper into the one man’s qualifications to fulfill both of those offices. While not the only proponent of this theory, Dr Joe Van Koevering is an important scholar who believes that Prince El Hassan bin Talal may just be the coming ‘Man of the Hour’.

The One Who Is To Come ?

“I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.” (John 5:43)

His Royal Highness Crown Prince El Hassan of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a man with a resume. He has strong historical ties to the region, and Iraq in particular, - he has the credentials to be a peacemaker. He traces his lineage through both the Sunni and Shiite branches of Islam, directly to Mohammed. He is respected as a learned scholar; - a man of accomplishment. He has a history of peacemaking through his involvement with the Arab / Israeli peace process. In fact Prince El Hassan is said to be the primary, behind-the-scenes architect of the Oslo Accords.⁸ He has support in certain powerful circles in the US and Great Britain. And he has made himself available...for the revival of the royal throne of Iraq.

What is really interesting about all of this is the timing. President Ahmadinejad is seeking the Mahdi, with the same fervor that he seeks an atomic weapon. He claims a clear prophetic vision that the Mahdi will soon reveal himself to the world, - and that he is to help bring that about. In fact the Iranian leader claims to have ‘communed’ with that 12th Imam who is soon to be returned. The fact is, Ahmadinejad’s beliefs on the return of the Mahdi are quite mainstream within Islam, being based on writings taken from both the Koran and the Hadith. Shiites and Sunnis alike are anticipating his appearance. According to Islamic teaching, the Mahdi, or ‘Guided One’, is to appear suddenly during a great time of struggle between the forces of good and evil. At the end of history, he will lead the Islamic forces to victory over the unbelieving Christians and Jews. At that time, the whole world will become Muslim.⁹ In fact, all of Iran’s moves under President Ahmadinejad are calculated to advance the great End Times struggle between good (Islam) and evil (everyone else). To Ahmadinejad, the battle against The Great Satan, (America) & The Little Satan, (Israel), is just part of the process of bringing about the return of that 12th Mahdi, - The Islamic Messiah.¹⁰

To Ahmadinejad, this is all of immediate concern. He once told his cabinet he was expecting the soon-return of “the restorer of religion and justice who will rule before the end of the world”. Ahmadinejad believes it is his divine mission to help pave the way for this Islamic Messiah.¹¹

What Are They Looking For ?

So how will the Mahdi be recognized when he comes? According to Islamic writings there are certain characteristics to look for. Dr Joe Van Koevering spelled out those identifying characteristics in a recent prophecy lecture. Here are the conditions the Mahdi MUST meet.

- Must be a descendant of Mohammed through his daughter Fatima.
- Must be connected to Iraq.
- Will rule for 7 years. Seven year career is the exact time given to the Antichrist in both Daniel & Revelation.¹²
- Will spread justice. The Hadith says of the coming Mahdi, “He will fill the world with justice and fairness at a time when the world will be filled with oppression. He will rule for seven years”.¹³
- Will have a broad forehead and a prominent nose.¹⁴

In addition Islamic writings indicate that the Mahdi:

- Will unite the world’s religions, - under Islam.
- Will institute universal rule.
- Will make war on Christians and Jews that refuse to convert.

I do not write this lightly, - nor will I say with 100% certainty. There is one man that serves as a ‘qualified’ candidate, - (and one man only), - on the scene today that can fulfill the requirements given by Islam itself, - to be the Islamic Messiah. Again: That man is His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan of Jordan. Just look at his credentials.

- As a Hashemite he is descended from Mohammed through Fatima.
- He has ancestral connections to the Sunni line.
- He has a royal claim to the former throne of Iraq.
- He has said that a permanent peace with Israel, (“between peoples”), would take a peace treaty of more than 5 or 6 years. (Does that mean he was laying the foundation for a seven-year treaty?)
- He is a promoter of religious unity; Chairman of the Foundation for Inter-religious and Intercultural Research and Dialogue, Moderator of the World Conference on Religion and Peace, - etc.
- As the President of the globalist Club of Rome, he is a promoter of global, political unity.¹⁵

What’s remarkable is that in fulfilling all of those characteristics of the Islamic savior, - he also fulfills the requirements of the Antichrist of the Bible. And as was pointed out in detail previously: The Antichrist and the Mahdi of Islam, - are likely ... one and the same. Islam is a false religion posing as the real thing. Its most severe break with the Bible is that it denies the Fatherhood of God and the Son-ship of Jesus. Islam tells us that God cannot have a Son. It denies the divinity of Christ. Yet 1John 2:22-23 tells us: **“Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also”.**

THE ECONOMIC HORIZON – Part III

So far we’ve investigated the notion that this whiff of economic reprieve that we may be experiencing is but a faux recovery with many of the most accurate analysts, - including Gerald Celente, - predicting another major economic event by no later than early next year. We’ve seen how the world is beginning to take its first halting steps toward replacing the dollar as the world’s reserve currency. This will be enabled to a large degree by the fact that countries are now starting to trade for oil in something other than the American currency, - reducing demand for the greenback, - and eventually exerting possibly a fatal pressure. We see it in the reduced demand for dollars by foreign central banks. We see it in the way nations like China are diversifying their assets, - making material investments and gold, - as well as the Special Drawing Rights that are convertible into something other than dollars. As the American governments battles these trends we see growing government deficits and the outright printing of money.¹⁶

A Peek In To The Future

A headline in the *New York Post* summarized nicely the current trend: “Dollar loses reserve status to yen & euro”. It seems the world’s central banks, - having spied the twin monsters of monetization / future inflation and recession, - had invested 63% of their new money into euros and yen rather than dollars.¹⁷ As Richard Cook pointed out in the Market Oracle, the “cause of the crisis is in fact the debt-based monetary system itself”. Whenever the government gets into the borrowing business, - it is going to cause inflation. And the American government is in that business in spades. It’s created a debt that can never really be repaid – at least in dollars that bear the same value as the ones that were borrowed.¹⁸ Often the official numbers obscure the truth. The official deficit for 2008 was \$455 billion. But that doesn’t take into account the very real drain that Social Security and Medicare put on the system. Add those in and the *real* number comes in at \$5.1 trillion. Quite the difference! And that doesn’t even include the TARP money.¹⁹ The fact is, as Dr Martin Weiss puts it: “The nation’s money supply is exploding”. It took from December of 1994 to when the crisis really hit in September of 2008 to double the currency and reserves of the nation’s banks; - 13 years and 8 months. It took only 112 days from the beginning of this year to double them again.²⁰ ‘So what’, you say! Well the expanding money supply has had a real effect on the American consumer. More dollars in circulation, of course means that they are worth less. In fact, measured in constant 1982 dollars, our purchasing power has declined by 22% in just the last 9 years.²¹ With the Arab states and the UN and the Chinese and a host of high powered economists all predicting and acting on the assumption that the US dollar is doomed to failure, it is creating the conditions for that self-fulfilling prophecy. Is the situation hopeless? Hardly, but it is becoming an increasingly difficult mountain to climb. The national debt is expected to exceed 12 trillion by the end of October. We’re looking at over \$9 trillion in deficits in the next ten years, - are expected to add to it by about another trillion if and when health care passes and we have “unfunded national obligations of \$104 trillion”.²² That can’t be good. So inflation is actually a kind of solution. They can pay off the debt in cheaper dollars...if we can just get the Chinese to go along. Now the only people it would hurt would be...well the Chinese and anyone else who lent us money...and oh yeah...the American consumer. And the American consumer – which accounts for 70% of our GDP - is well...just not consuming so much anymore. Retail sales are down, - causing merchants to avoid long term leases in favor of ‘pop up’ stores, - which is hitting the

commercial real estate market hard. Both business properties and the “hotel / hospitality sector are massively overbuilt”. One expert puts it thus: “Commercial real estate is a house of cards about to collapse on multiple fronts for deeply structural reasons”.²³

So what does the future hold? While talk of replacing the dollar as the world’s currency is rampant, - I must, - in the spirit of fairness and full disclosure let you know that one of my favorite financial reads – (if there can even be such a thing) – one Ambrose Evans Pritchard believes that the dollar will survive as the “world’s dominant currency” and in the long, long- run will even gain strength. He believes this based on the relative strength of America’s chief economic rivals, - Japan, China and the EU.²⁴ But for every voice like Pritchard’s who take confidence in the status quo, there is a rival voice, (or action) to an opposite viewpoint. David Einhorn of Greenlight Capital for instance is “betting” on “major currency collapse” by moving his firms assets out of dollars and into gold.²⁵ George Soros’s massive hedge fund is doing the same. He told CNBC “I think the dollar is now in question”. And why wouldn’t investors begin to question the strength of the currency. At the G20 Conference, President Obama himself promised that the US would fund the IMF’s Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), - a project designed to set up an international currency as an alternative to the dollar.²⁶ (The creation of regional currencies, - an amero perhaps, - to serve the North American community of Mexico, the US and Canada is mentioned by others.) The times they are a changing!

We are moving now toward a new model; - a New Order, - if you will. The old order is collapsing. Dick Morris and Eileen McGann argue that the G20 Conference marked the first down payment on the surrender of American sovereignty to the international community. An architecture was put in place that would see the globe’s economic powers coordinate their policies and submit them for approval by the IMF; - for now, for only persuasive approval, - but later, - for sanctions perhaps.²⁷ And this submission to global consensus is by no means out of line with the stated internationalist objectives of the administration. These types of moves and these sentiments are apparent across the globe. They are incremental, yet they are steady and are leading in just the direction that the Bible says they will. There is coming a time when a world leader will come to power to unite the political, economic and even religious spheres to create a worldwide government. Scripture calls that figure “**Antichrist**” and refers to the system he leads as “**the beast**”. Look to that Scripture and we find that it seems the world will reorganize itself, - perhaps along regional lines, - just like the Club of Rome has called for. And then there are these words found in Revelation 17:12-13. “**The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.**” In the name of “peace and security” the nations of the world are almost imperceptibly surrendering their “**power and authority to the beast**”.

ISRAEL UNDER PRESSURE

The story is out there that President Obama is, - according to World Net Daily, - disgusted with Israel over their refusal to stop settlement activity as a good faith move designed to jump start talks designed to lead to the creation of a Palestinian state. In addition the administration wants Israel to turn over security duties in some territories designated in the 1993 Oslo Accords. This all fits in nicely with the PA’s assertion that Obama’s people assured them that the President intends to force the creation of a Palestine based on the pre-’67 borders within 2 years.²⁸ Funny how that corresponds exactly to what Javier Solana, - the EU’s foreign policy head is saying.²⁹ And then there’s the plan of the Palestinian Prime Minister, Salaam Fayad. He’s demanding not only all of that, - but that all of Jerusalem – not just East Jerusalem serve as the capital of the future Palestinian national, Islamic, Sharia-based entity.³⁰ And forcing the issue is the expanding military capacity of Israel’s enemies. Syria is shipping rockets to Hezbollah and Iran is hustling missiles to Gaza via Sudan and thence the tunnels from Egyptian controlled territory. The Israelis are concerned that some of the transferred ordinance may include “chemical tipped missiles” from the Syrian stocks, which would be capable of reaching Tel Aviv.³¹

Meanwhile the Iranians keep up their games on the nuclear front, maneuvering with the help of the IAEA’s El Baradei to consider a proposal that would have them send just a portion of their uranium to Russia or elsewhere for further enrichment while avoiding any meaningful international oversight of their nuclear facilities. Iran is indicating that it has no real intention of stopping their own enrichment efforts. Prime Minister Netanyahu’s inner cabinet believes that this is all just a ploy to buy time to bring their nuclear ambitions to fruition.^{32 33} And all of this is going on amidst a background of renewed violence by the Palestinians directed at Jews who dare to visit the Temple Mount which also houses the Al Aqsa Mosque, while an Israeli religious leader calls for the rebuilding of the Temple right now, without taking down the mosques.³⁴

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