

It Might Be Today

Let's Talk TURKEY

We like every week to bring what we call a Prophecy Update. We show how news and trends in the world are corroborating centuries-old prophecies found in the Bible.

This week I want to talk about the trend towards nations mentioned in the Bible who would in the Last Days be involved in an invasion against Israel.

A 2500 year-old passage in the Book of Ezekiel describes the coalition of nations that will invade Israel from the north. It presupposed that Israel, which at the time it was written was overrun by the Babylonian Empire, would again be a sovereign nation living in its ancient land. That alone is a remarkable prophecy - having been fulfilled in modern times, on May 14, 1948.

Some of the nations that will be involved in the invasion are listed by name. Russia seems to be the lead nation; also mentioned by name are Lybia and Persia, which is modern Iran. Also prominent are regions that we would recognize as modern-day Turkey.

Turkey was all over the news, especially in its growing hostility towards Israel. On June 4th the Jerusalem Post titled a story on their website, *Turkey Has Embraced Iran & Hamas*.¹

Excerpts:

A top Israel envoy criticized Turkey's outreach to terror groups Friday, hours after Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan was quoted as saying Hamas is not a terrorist organization.

¹ <http://www.jpost.com/MiddleEast/Article.aspx?id=177512>

“Turkey has embraced the leaders of Iran and Hamas, all of whom called for Israel’s destruction,” declared Israeli ambassador to the US Michael Oren.

“Our policy has not changed but Turkey’s policy has changed, very much, over the last few years,” he said. “Under a different government with an Islamic orientation, Turkey has turned away from the West.”

On the same day, AFP news ran a story titled, *Turkey To Reduce Economic & Military Ties With Israel*.²

Also on June 4th, Reuters ran a story titled, *Trade Flourishes As Syria Befriends Old Foe Turkey*.³ The article explained, “Turkey’s popularity in Syria soared after an Israeli raid on Gaza-bound aid ships in which nine Turks were killed on May 31.”

On June 3rd, DEBKA File ran a story titled, *Turkey Mulls Military Escort for Irish Blockade-buster Vessel*.⁴

Excerpts:

After declaring it was vital to prevent hundreds of Iranian ships reaching Gaza with thousands of heavy ballistic missiles for Hamas, Netanyahu faced a fresh Turkish demand to lift the blockade on Gaza without delay.

Furthermore, the Irish vessel Rachel Corrie, which was left out of the flotilla after it developed technical trouble, was discovered to have changed course from a direct route to Gaza and headed for a stopover at a Turkish port. DEBKAfile’s counter-terror sources disclose suspicions in the Israeli government and naval command that the Irish ship would take aboard a new batch of trained Turkish IHH terrorists and head for the Gaza Strip.

What about the blockade? Writing in the Washington Post, Charles Krauthammer shows it is perfectly legal. He wrote,

Weren’t the Gaza-bound ships on a mission of humanitarian relief? No. Otherwise they would have accepted Israel’s offer to bring their supplies to an Israeli port, be inspected

² http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100604/wl_mideast_afp/israelconflictgazaturkeypoliticseconomy

³ http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20100604/wl_nm/us_syria_turkey

⁴ <http://www.debka.com/article/8829/>

for military materiel and have the rest trucked by Israel into Gaza - as every week 10,000 tons of food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies are sent by Israel to Gaza.

Why was the offer refused? Because, as organizer Greta Berlin admitted, the flotilla was not about humanitarian relief but about breaking the blockade, i.e., ending Israel's inspection regime, which would mean unlimited shipping into Gaza and thus the unlimited arming of Hamas.⁵

Henri J. Barkey is a professor of international relations at Lehigh University and a visiting fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. In an opinion piece for CNN he suggests that Turkey is emerging as the new Middle East leader. He says Turkey's actions are causing real problems for the US because "Washington does not want to side with one ally over another, and Turkey has aggressively been pushing the United States to do just that."⁶

As always we are not predicting anything; just reporting the news. But this is exactly the kind of news you'd expect if we were trending towards the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. You'd be watching Turkey to see a growing hostility towards Israel, and gaining alliances with Israel's enemies as described by Ezekiel.

I remind you that although we follow the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, we are not waiting for any prophecy to be fulfilled. Jesus promised to return to resurrect and rapture the church as an imminent event. By that we mean the certainty that He may come at any moment and the fact that no prophesied event stands between the believer and that hour.

Nothing needs to be fulfilled before the Lord can return for us. We are only waiting for Him - and His coming is always imminent.

Get ready, stay ready, keep looking up. ***Ready or not, Jesus is coming!***

⁵ <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/03/AR2010060304287.html?referrer=emailarticle>

⁶ <http://www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/06/03/barkey.turkey.israel/index.html?hpt=T2>