

It Might Be Today

HOOK IN THE JAW

If the prophecies of the Bible are to be taken literally, then a case can be made that we are living in the last days they predict.

If these are the last days, then we ought to be able to see in the news certain trends that corroborate the centuries-old prophecies found in the Bible.

We like every week to bring what we call a Prophecy Update to do just that. This week I want to talk about the 2500 year-old passage in the Book of Ezekiel which describes a coalition of nations that will, in the last days, 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 Turkey and Persia, which is modern Iran.

At the beginning of the prophecy God speaks to those nations and says,

Ezekiel 38:4 I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.

Something will act as “hooks into [their] jaws” to draw these nations down against Israel. Students of prophecy have wondered just what that ‘something’ might be.

Well, it might be energy in the form of natural gas and oil. In January of 2009 a huge deep-water natural gas field was discovered off the coast of Israel. It has been labelled the Tamar Site.

Dan Halman, CEO of Halman-Aldubi Group told the Jerusalem Post,

"If the Tamar site opposite the Haifa coast succeeds in producing the significant quantities of natural gas predicted, we are talking about a revolution which will have an impact on the Israeli economy for the coming generations. The vast reservoir is poised to bring down electricity prices, reduce the country's dependence on gas from foreign countries, in particular from Egypt, and thereby turn Israel from a gas importer into a gas exporter."¹

IsraelNationalNews.com reported the following:

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that 122 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered, recoverable natural gas are in the Levant Basin Province in the eastern Mediterranean region, according to a new report.

"The Levant Basin Province is comparable to some of the other large provinces around the world," stated Brenda Pierce, USGS Energy Resources Program Coordinator. "Its gas resources are bigger than anything we have assessed in the United States."

The Levant Basin Province also holds an estimated 1.7 billion barrels of undiscovered oil, that can be recovered with existing technology. This is the first time the USGS has assessed the Levant Basin area for extractable resources.²

So now they are expecting to find oil as well. It comes at an interesting time. A recent article posted by Reuters was titled, *World oil demand to hit record high this year.*³

Excerpts:

International Energy Agency (IEA)... raised its forecast for world oil demand growth this year to 1.67 million barrels per day (bpd), up 100,000 bpd.

The agency said in its monthly Oil Market Report that world oil demand would reach an average of 86.60 million bpd this year, up from 84.93 million in 2009.

The previous record high for world oil demand was 86.5 million bpd in 2007 before the onset of the global financial crisis and economic slowdown.

¹ <http://www.wnd.com/index.php?pageId=86865>

² <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/136960>

³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE63C1CV20100413>

Will Israeli oil & gas discoveries become the “hooks in the jaw” of Ezekiel 38:4?

We don't know; we can't know. But it's obvious that things are lining-up exactly as the Bible predicted they would almost three thousand years ago.

Does anything need to happen before Jesus returns to resurrect and rapture the church? No. And that's why I like to end these updates by saying, Get ready, stay ready, keep looking up. ***Ready or not, Jesus is coming!***