

It Might Be Today

God & the Persian Gulf

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 things happening in the Middle East, swirling around the nation of Israel. The prophetic significance of events in the Middle East ought to be obvious, but let me give you three reasons why it is.

1. One, the Bible specifically says that in the Last Days the nation of Israel and Jerusalem in particular would be a burden upon the other nations of the world. It's in Zechariah 12:3 where we read "And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people..."
2. Two, Jesus spoke in Matthew 24:6 of the fact there would be "wars and rumors of wars."
3. Three, several nations are listed by name as being among those who would form a coalition to invade Israel. It's in Ezekiel 38 & 39. One of the key nations is "Persia," which is modern Iran.

So what's happening over in the Middle East, swirling around Israel, involving Iran? Quite a lot!

According to ynetnews.com, Iran may be on the verge of unleashing a wave of terrorist violence. Their article stated the following:

Israeli Ambassador to the United States Michael Oren warned Tuesday night that Iran might unleash a wave of terrorist violence in the Middle East in retaliation for the tough new sanctions that passed the US Congress last week.

In an interview to the Foreign Policy website, Oren said, "What better way to divert attention from a sanctions regime than by starting another Middle East war?"¹

¹ <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3912912,00.html>

Israel National News posted an article titled, *Iran is Surrounded by US Troops in 10 Countries.*²

Excerpts:

Iran is bordered on the east by Pakistan and Afghanistan, where U.S. troops have been waging... war... against Taliban, Al-Qaeda and other terrorists.

The Persian Gulf is on Iran's southern border, and last week's report, confirmed by the Pentagon, that 11 warships had sailed through the Suez Canal, raised alarm bells that the U.S. is ready to fight to keep the Persian Gulf open.

Kuwait, which is heavily armed by the U.S. and is home to American bases, is located on the southwestern border of Iran. The country's western neighbors are Turkey and Iraq, also home to American bases, and Turkmenistan, the Caspian Sea and Azerbaijan are the Islamic Republic's northern neighbors.

In addition, the Times of London reported earlier this month that Saudi Arabia has agreed to open its air space for Israel Air Force jets, a claim that the Saudi monarchy denied.

DEBKAFfile.com reported that a "third US carrier & 4,000 Marines augment US armada opposite Iran."³

Excerpts from the article:

The third US carrier group to reach waters around Iran consists of three vessels:

1. The USS Nassau Amphibious Assault ship is not just an enormous landing craft for the 3,000 Marines aboard; its decks carry 6 vertical take-off AV-HB Harrier attack planes; four AH-1W Super Cobra, twelve CH-46 Sea Knight and CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopters, as well choppers convertible to fast V-22 Osprey airplanes capable of landing in any conditions. This vast warship has 1,400 cabinets for sleeping the entire Marine-24th Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard.
2. The amphibious transport dock ship USS Mesa Verde which carries 800 Marines equipped for instantaneous landing.
3. The amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland which carries 400 Marines and 102 commandos trained for special operations behind enemy lines.

² <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/138284>

³ <http://www.debka.com/article/8879/>

The burdensome stone... Iran... Wars and rumors of wars. Sounds like we're looking at Bible prophecy unfolding exactly as written.

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!***