

# IT MIGHT BE TODAY

## "Sanctions"

Week-after-week for the past seven years we have presented a Prophecy Update. This is #377 in that series.

The Bible is almost 30% prophecy, and most of the Bible's over 2500 prophecies have been fulfilled to the letter. We therefore expect the remaining prophecies of the Last Days to be literally fulfilled.

The modern nation of Israel, founded in a day on May 14, 1948, is a miraculous fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

In Isaiah 43:5-6, the prophet Isaiah said that the Jews would return to their homeland from the east, the west, the north and the south. Isaiah lived about 2700 years ago. At that time, the Assyrians had forced many Jews in the northern kingdom of Israel into exile. Those Jews were taken to other areas in the Middle East.

Then, about 1900 years ago, the Romans destroyed the city of Jerusalem and killed and exiled hundreds of thousands of Jews.

Since then, the Jews have been scattered to virtually every country in the world. But, during the past century, millions of Jews have returned to Israel, from the east, the west, the north and the south.

Isaiah 66:8 says,

Isa 66:8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

The Bible also accurately foretold that modern Israel, and Jerusalem in particular, would be a problem for the nations of the world:

Zech 12:2 "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.

Zech 12:3 "And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

In light of all this, we should take to heart a promise in God's Word regarding the relationship of nations to Israel.

In Genesis 12:2-3, God said to Abraham, "I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

While we certainly do not see that promise as a necessity to always agree with Israel politically, it certainly means we ought to be her strong ally and definitely not oppose her openly when she is within her rights as a sovereign state.

It is therefore troubling that our great nation might be on the verge of issuing sanctions against Israel.

Senator Mark Kirk, an Illinois Republican, said, "Not only is the Administration rejecting new sanctions to end Iran's nuclear threat, it's now reportedly developing sanctions against our closest ally, Israel."

Senator Kelly Ayotte, a New Hampshire Republican, issued a similar statement.

Ari Fleischer, former press secretary for President George W. Bush, agrees.

The Obama administration is denying considering sanctions. The story seems to have originated with an Israeli news source, *Haaretz*, in a piece titled, "US mulls harsher action against settlement construction."

The article cites unnamed Israeli officials claiming that "White House officials held a classified discussion a few weeks ago about the possibility of taking active measures against the settlements."

Meanwhile, an organization calling itself the BDS Movement said, in 2013, "The era of sanctions against Israel has started."

BDS stands for boycott, divestment, and sanctions, and is a global campaign attempting to increase economic and political pressure on Israel.

As always, time will tell. We are simply reporting that these are the precise kinds of developments you would expect based on a literal reading of Bible prophecy.

While we look at the signs of the end times, we're not waiting for anything in particular to be fulfilled. We are only waiting for Jesus to return to resurrect the dead in Christ, and to rapture living believers.

Since the rapture is an imminent event, each week, I ask, "*Are you ready for the rapture?*"

If not, get ready, stay ready, and keep looking up. ***Ready or not, Jesus is coming!***