

Newsbytes EXTRA

The Third Watch

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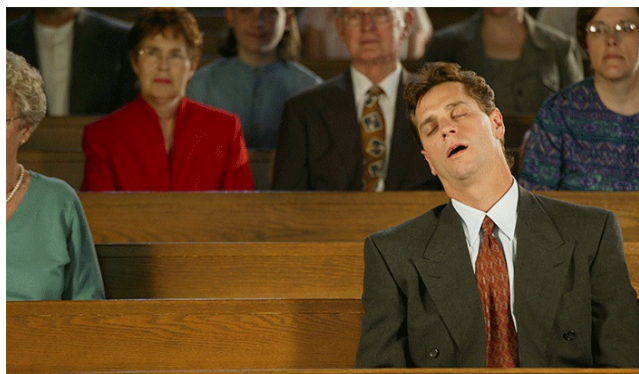
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"Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him." Tozer

"Peace and Safety," then Sudden Destruction

Posted by: Howard Green



No one knows the day or the hour of the Lord's return. Time after time, people who have tried to pin point the day, month, or year.....are proven wrong. The Bible does instruct us to be ready for that day over and over again. Some of the words or phrases it uses to warn us are: to be sober, be alert, must also be ready, let us not sleep as others do, but let us watch. Many of these instructions are accompanied by descriptions of how people will be asleep, drunk, eating, drinking, marrying, and even scoffing about the Lord's return. The spiritual blindness that envelops the world has them believing things will continue on as they have been. In this article, we will view deteriorating global conditions through the clear biblical lens that warns:

people will say, "peace and safety," then sudden destruction follows.

1 Thessalonians 5:1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

Sin, spiritual darkness, moral decay, and decadence has blinded many of this world's inhabitants to the fact that a day of reckoning is coming. This planet will see economic chaos, wars increase, natural disasters mount, and evil unhinged on every side as history reaches it's final climax. The Bible warns us numerous times about how severe global conditions will be prior to Jesus' return. I believe there are several reasons for the Bible's warnings. One reason is the fact that...understanding the perilous times we live in will motivate us to live holy lives as believers. 2 Peter 3:11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God...

Another primary reason for the Bible's warnings is the fact that.....a majority of the people in this world are blind to the fact that Jesus is coming soon and there are clear signs everywhere pointing to that climatic event. A biblical understanding of the times we live in should motivate every Christian to witness to others. We have been commissioned to go into all the world and preach the gospel. In my own heart...knowing that time is short creates a sense of urgency to tell people about coming judgement and salvation through Christ alone.

I can understand how people in the world are not discerning about the perilous times we live in, but what I cannot fathom, is the deep depth of apathy regarding Bible prophecy and the nearness of the Lord's return I see as widespread in the church today. I explain root cause of last days apathy among many believers in detail in previous articles: Is Bible Prophecy Relevant Part One and Two.

It's safe to say that many christians are clueless about how current geopolitical conditions point to the nearness of Jesus' return because they don't study Bible prophecy or simply ignore it altogether. That's a shame because

there are things happening all around us that point to the fact that...this world is growing darker, more volatile, and more desperate with each passing day. Let's take a look at some of the news from just the last few days to get a realistic view of current global conditions:

The situation in the Middle East is unstable on every side. Tensions are rising in the region and Israel faces increased threats as never before:

Lt. Col. Steinberg, Commander of Battalion 931, said his forces do not encounter Hezbollah on the border fence daily, but that didn't mean their forces and 100,000 rockets were not there. A considerable risk remains of an inadvertent conflict breaking out and escalating quickly. This could begin with a Hezbollah response to IDF action, with Hezbollah moving advanced missiles into southern Lebanon. -Jerusalem Post

putinnasrallah2Iran and its proxy Hezbollah are entrenched and empowered by the presence of the Russian military in Syria. Iran has operators in both Syria and Lebanon and their goal is longterm and united. Their ultimate goal is to destroy the Jewish State. Both Iran and Hezbollah have free reign in the region do continue gaining ground unimpeded, except for the Israeli Lebanese border where the IDF. keeps close tabs on weapons shipments and has conducted airstrikes to stop weapons convoys from being delivered into terrorists hands.

It is still unclear whether Russia has a plan on how its adventure in Syria might end and if its new military assets on the ground, like the modern fighters and S-400 anti-aircraft missiles, will remain there. Given this, it seems the longer the Russian military campaign in the region lasts, the stronger Moscow's alliance with Iran, Hezbollah and possibly Iraq will become. This alliance threatens strategic Israeli interests with regard to Iran and Hezbollah. -Jerusalem Post

It remains unclear what role the Russians will play in the short term, but Ezekiel 38 tells us that there will be a day when the Russian army will lead a vast invasion from the North to plunder Israel.

The situation in the Asia-Pacific region could certainly boil over at any moment.

Although I don't believe China or the United States desire a large scale conflict...it may be inevitable. With all of the saber rattling in the region and influx of weaponry into the contested South China Sea arena.....conflict may ensue by accident, miscalculation, or calculated risk.

China militaryThe Chinese military has deployed an advanced surface-to-air missile system to one of its contested islands in the South China Sea according to civilian satellite imagery exclusively obtained by Fox News, more evidence that China is increasingly "militarizing" its islands in the South China Sea and ramping up tensions in the region. The imagery from ImageSat International (ISI) shows two batteries of eight surface-to-air missile launchers as well as a radar system on Woody Island, part of the Paracel Island chain in the South China Sea. It is the same island chain where a U.S. Navy destroyer sailed close to another contested island a few weeks ago. China at the time vowed "consequences" for the action. Woody Island is also claimed by Taiwan and by Vietnam. -Fox News

The United States and its allies including Taiwan, Japan, and the Philippines all have a strategic interest regarding the 'free passage' of ships and aircraft in the South China Sea. China continues its military build up to counter what it refers to as "continued aggression by certain parties." China has made massive military gains in size, scope, and technologically advanced weapons systems. The latter is certainly due in part to the PLA's theft of US. military data and classified information. China's ultimate role in the end times remains to be seen, but with its growing military aggression...it's quite possible that it will have a major part to play in the Armageddon campaign as the Kings of the East cross the Euphrates River to join the battle.

In just the past few months we had ebola and now the zika virus, and other outbreaks that continue to increase with time. In many parts of Africa and Asia, famine and drought dominate people who are desperately hungry and thirsty.

Islamic terrorism is at the doorstep here in the West:

It seems as though people, especially here in the West...forget that the threat of terrorism is very real and it poses a constant danger to everyone everywhere. For the most part...I believe people have their heads buried in

the sand when it comes to the dangers we face.

The lives of the rich and famous, the Kardashians, and the silly musings over sports teams seem to dull memories of the bloodbath that terrorists brought to Paris last November. People forget about the beheading in Oklahoma, the murder and injuries of Canadian military members in Ottawa recently, or the shootings in a Lindt Chocolate store in Sydney that left two innocent people dead and several others injured. Islamic terrorism is a threat that cannot be ignored, although many people including Christians seem lulled to sleep by endless entertainment and complacency that mirrors the sentiment...peace and safety. Here is a report from just this week:

Top U.S. intelligence officials said Tuesday that ISIS was likely to attempt direct attacks on the U.S. in the coming year and that the group was infiltrating refugees escaping from Iraq and Syria to move across borders. ISIS "will probably attempt to conduct additional attacks in Europe, and attempt to direct attacks on the U.S. homeland in 2016," Lt. Gen. Vincent Stewart, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, testified on Capitol Hill Tuesday.
-CNN

In light of the dire economic situation in the world today, here are some current realities we are facing:

We are seeing signs of some sort of major market correction, large scale crisis, or total collapse in the near future. In just the past year we have seen the plunge of the markets in Asia and most notably China....along with the tanking of the Russian Ruble Oil markets and their major players like OPEC, Venezuela, and Russia are all dealing with the repercussions of the sinking oil prices. People are rejoicing at the gas pump, but it seems as though much more is at play, and only time will tell what desperate nations will do to gain their economic footing. No one knows exactly where all this economic news is heading and how things will play out. Many of the best economic minds are warning that we are in for a tumultuous ride and the end result could be catastrophic for the global economy.

This week, a famed investor is warning that financial Armageddon is just around the corner, and it's being fueled by moronic central bankers. "We're all going to pay a horrible price for the incompetence of these central bankers." The Singapore based American investor said central bankers are doing everything they can to prop up financial markets, but it's all for naught. He predicts their unconventional monetary strategies will lead to a stock market rally in the near future, but deep trouble later this year and into 2017. "This is going to be a disaster in the end," he said. "You should be very worried and you should be prepared." -Jim Rogers interview by CNN.

In Revelation 13:16, the Bible tells us there will be a day when no one can operate in the global economic system without the mark of the beast. Make no mistake, this will be a system of worship. The Antichrist will institute total global economic control by requiring everyone to take the mark in order to buy and sell. No one can buy food, water, gasoline, electricity, medicine, clothing, or anything without having the mark on their right hand or forehead. This will be a time of total economic control. It brings the evil of the Nazis and Stalin to mind. The horrific and total control they wielded to oppress people is but a foreshadowing and microcosm of what the Antichrist will bring on the entire globe. We don't know for certain, but it isn't hard to believe that we are seeing the very tip of the beginning of a global economic crisis that will one day result in total domination by the beast.

Revelation 13:16 Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

Despite all of the economic woes, threats of terrorism, geopolitical tension, and natural disasters.....many people are still lulled, entertained, or fooled into a sense of peace and safety. It is critical for every believer to be ready to give others a reason for the hope we have in us with gentleness and respect. As global conditions continue to deteriorate, some people will be looking for answers and hope. We know the God who gives hope.....not just when things begin to unravel, but for eternity! If you are a Christian, it's not the time for apathy and business as usual. It's time to be a bold witness for Jesus.

If you don't know Jesus as your Lord and Savior.....you are in eternal danger.

One day soon, the holy God of the universe will send His Son to judge everyone. There are only two possible outcomes you will face. One is eternity in heaven with Jesus and unsurpassed Joy. The other is an eternity in hell

without anyone to help you. It doesn't have to be that way for you. Today is the day of salvation for anyone reading this article, if you will repent and trust Jesus as your Lord and Savior. You can learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and salvation by clicking: [Are You Saved?](#)

Be alert, sober, and living holy even as much of the world is saying, "peace and safety" then sudden destruction.

All for Him,
Howard

Saudi Arabia and Turkey Preparing For Massive Ground Invasion Of Syria?

<http://www.prophecynewswatch.com>



350,000 soldiers, 20,000 tanks, 2,450 warplanes and 460 military helicopters are massing in northern Saudi Arabia for a military exercise that is being called "Northern Thunder".

According to the official announcement, forces are being contributed by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, Sudan, Kuwait, Morocco, Pakistan, Tunisia, Oman, Qatar, Malaysia and several other nations.

This exercise will reportedly last for 18 days, and during that time the airspace over northern Saudi Arabia will be closed to air traffic. This will be the largest military exercise in the history of the region, and it comes amid rumors that

Saudi Arabia and Turkey are preparing for a massive ground invasion of Syria.

If you were going to gather forces for an invasion, this is precisely how you would do it. Governments never come out and publicly admit that forces are moving into position for an invasion ahead of time, so "military exercises" are a common excuse that gets used for this sort of thing.

If these exercises are actually being used as an excuse to mass forces near the northern Saudi border, then we should expect an invasion to begin within the next couple of weeks. If it happens, we should expect to see the Saudi coalition storm through western Iraq and into Syria from the south, and it is likely that Turkey will come in from the north.

The goal would be to take out the Assad regime before Russia, Iran and Hezbollah could react. For the past couple of years, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and their allies have been funding the Sunni insurgency in Syria, and they were counting on those insurgents to be able to take down the Assad regime by themselves.

You see, the truth is that ISIS was never supposed to lose in Syria. Saudi Arabia and her allies have been funneling massive amounts of money to ISIS, and hundreds of millions of dollars of ISIS oil has been shipped into Turkey where it is sold to the rest of the world.

The major Sunni nations wanted ISIS and the other Sunni insurgent groups to take down Assad. In the aftermath, Saudi Arabia and her allies intended to transform Syria into a full-blown Sunni nation.

But then Russia, Iran and Hezbollah stepped forward to assist the Assad regime. Russian air support completely turned the tide of the war, and now the Sunni insurgents are on the brink of losing.

Aleppo was once the largest city in Syria, and Sunni insurgents have controlled it since 2012. But now relentless Russian airstrikes have made it possible for Syrian, Iranian and Hezbollah ground forces to surround the city, and it is about to fall back into the hands of the Syrian government.

If this happens, the war will essentially be over.

Saudi Arabia, Turkey and their allies have invested massive amounts of time, money and effort into overthrowing Assad, and they aren't about to walk away now.

If the war was to end right at this moment, a weakened Assad regime would remain in power, and Iran and Hezbollah would be the dominant powers in the country for years to come. And once Assad died, it would be inevitable that Iran and Hezbollah would attempt to transform Syria into a full-blown Shiite nation. This is something that Saudi Arabia and Turkey want to avoid at all costs.

So they are actually considering what was once absolutely unthinkable – a massive ground invasion of Syria.

But if Saudi Arabia, Turkey and their allies go in, they run the risk of a full-blown war with Russia, Iran and Hezbollah. Just consider some of the comments that we have seen in recent days...

Reacting to a potential troop deployment, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem said Saturday, "Let no one think they can attack Syria or violate its sovereignty because I assure you any aggressor will return to their country in a wooden coffin."

Pavel Krasheninnikov, a deputy of Russia's State Duma, has warned Saudi Arabia that any military ground operation in Syria without Damascus' consent would amount to a declaration of war, Press TV reported.

We could literally be looking at the spark that sets off World War 3. I can't believe that Saudi Arabia and Turkey are actually considering this.

And if it does happen, you can rest assured that Barack Obama gave them the green light to go in.

Unfortunately, it sounds like the decision may have already been made. Just consider what Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu is saying&

"If we have such a strategy, then Turkey and Saudi Arabia may launch a ground operation," he added, fueling concerns that a foreign troop invasion may soon further complicate the already turbulent situation in the war-torn country.

Earlier, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE voiced their readiness to contribute troops for a ground operation in Syria on the condition that the US would lead the intervention. Damascus and its key regional ally, Iran, warned that such a foreign force would face strong resistance.

And in addition to all of the forces massing in northern Saudi Arabia, the London Independent is reporting that the Saudis have sent troops and aircraft to a military base in Turkey...

Saudi Arabia is sending troops and fighter jets to Turkey's Incirlik military base ahead of a possible ground invasion of Syria.

The Turkish foreign minister, Mevlut Cavusoglu, confirmed the deployment in a statement to the Yeni ^afak newspaper on Saturday, days before a temporary ceasefire is due to come into force.

There are reports that Saudi officials are saying that the decision to send in ground troops is "irreversible", and Reuters is reporting that the Syrian government claims that some Turkish troops have already entered the country&

The Syrian government says Turkish forces were believed to be among 100 gunmen it said entered Syria on Saturday accompanied by 12 pick-up trucks mounted with heavy machine guns, in an ongoing supply operation to insurgents fighting Damascus.

"The operation of supplying ammunition and weapons is continuing via the Bab al-Salama crossing to the Syrian area of Azaz," the Syrian foreign ministry said in a letter to the U.N. Security Council published by state news agency SANA.

Of course the Turkish government is not going to confirm that report, but what we do know is that Turkey is

shelling Kurdish forces on the Syrian side of the border. The funny thing is that these Kurdish forces are actually being supported and supplied by the U.S. government.

So the Turks are not supposed to be doing this, but according to Reuters they have been doing it for two days in a row anyway.

The Turkish army shelled positions held by Kurdish-backed militia in northern Syria for a second day on Sunday, killing two fighters, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said.

Turkey on Saturday demanded the powerful Syrian Kurdish YPG militia withdraw from areas that it had captured in the northern Aleppo region in recent days from insurgents in Syria, including the Menagh air base. The shelling has targeted those areas.

The hostility between Turkey and the Kurds goes back a long, long way. The Syrian Kurds are not threatening Turkey in any way right now, but Turkey is using the instability in the region as an excuse to lob artillery shells at a hated enemy. It is an act of naked aggression that the Obama administration should be loudly denouncing.

In addition, it is being reported that Syrian government forces have also been getting shelled by the Turkish military...

Anatolia news agency reported that the Turkish military hit Syrian government forces on Saturday, adding that the shelling had been in response to fire inflicted on a Turkish military guard post in Turkey's southern Hatay region.

Turkish artillery targeted Syrian forces again late on Saturday, according to a military source quoted by RIA Novosti. The attack targeted the town of Deir Jamal in the Aleppo Governorate.

Needless to say, the Russians are quite alarmed by all of this.

In fact, Russian Prime Minister Dimitry Medvedev is warning about what could happen if things spiral out of control.

In the wake of Saudi Arabia's proposal to send in ground troops on Thursday, the Russian Prime Minister claimed the move could spark a new world war.

"A ground operation draws everyone taking part in it into a war," he told the Handelsblatt newspaper.

"The Americans and our Arab partners must consider whether or not they want a permanent war."

If Saudi Arabia, Turkey and their allies launch an invasion and make a mad dash to take out the Assad regime in Damascus, the Russians will inevitably respond.

And if tactical nuclear weapons are necessary to keep the invading forces out of Damascus, the Russians will not be shy about using them.

I don't know if I have ever seen a scenario which was more likely to initiate World War 3 than the one that we are watching unfold right now.

So what has the mainstream media been saying about all of this?

Incredibly, they have been almost entirely silent. When he went looking for news about these events, James Bailey could find almost nothing on either Fox News or CNN.

I just visited the home page for Foxnews.com and found not one single mention of the insane events now unfolding in the Middle East. I could not believe it, so I used my Find tool to search for Syria and Saudi Arabia. Not one mention!

Of course that could change at any moment, but nothing there when I checked. Their stories were all about the meaningless Presidential election, which has already been decided regardless of what we think about it, and other

stories about entertainment, sports, Congressional political theater, etc.

So I went to CNN and found just about the same thing with one news story about the Syrian cease fire, but when I read it there was no mention of any of the big events that have developed this week. This is truly an amazing media blackout!

But Fox News does have space to run headlines like these...

~ Spanish man skipped work for 6 years, still got paid

~48 people rescued from stuck tram cars at New Hampshire ski resort

~Lovelorn elephant takes out his rage on more than a dozen cars

And CNN apparently thinks that these news stories are more important than the potential beginning of World War 3...

~Kanye West drops album, says he's \$53 million in debt

~Dutch cops train eagles to hunt drones

~Teen hands out 900 flowers to girls at school

If Saudi Arabia, Turkey and their allies are going to conduct an invasion of Syria, the most likely time for this to happen will be by the end of this month during these military exercises.

If we can get to March 1st and no invasion has happened yet, perhaps we can breathe a little sigh of relief.

But if it does happen, and the Russians and the Iranians decide to shoot back, it really could be the start of World War 3.

If you have not been paying attention up until now, you need to start, because this could literally change everything.

Read more at http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=132#k2jR2m2AhAZizvUX.99

Israeli missile attack reported on Syrian army outposts on the Damascus-Daraa road

DEBKAfile Special Report February 18, 2016

Israel-Syrian border tensions have soared in the five days since Russia and Syria stepped up their air strikes over rebel positions in southern Syria, drawing ever closer to the Israeli border. The raids are covering a wide radius from the town of Daraa on the Jordanian border up to Quneitra on the Golan. How to react if those raids actually reach the two borders is no doubt a burning topic at General Staff HQ in Tel Aviv and Amman. Neither army wants a head-on collision close to their borders with the coalition of Russian, Syria, Iranian and Hizballah forces. However, the intensified air raids are putting large numbers of Syrian refugees to flight from their homes towards the Israeli and Jordanian borders. The Jordanian border area is in chaos. The kingdom's army has seized the positions formerly held by Syrian rebel units to hold back the influx of refugees into Jordan. The rebels are dropping their weapons and fleeing in all directions in disarray.

Israel has ordered a blackout on news from Ein Zivan, its border crossing at the Golan town of Quneitra. Wednesday, Feb. 17, as DEBKAfile reported exclusively earlier, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu sent Dore Gold, Director General of the Foreign Ministry to Moscow in search of answers about Russian intentions regarding the Israeli border district.

By Wednesday night, no answers were forthcoming.

This is not surprising. When the Jordanian Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Mashal Al-Zaben was sent on a similar errand to Moscow a few days ago, he was given the runaround, told that, since the Syrian chief of staff happened to be in the Russian capital “by chance,” and since he is in charge of military operations in the border region, why not talk to him?

In fact, the Russians had deliberately flown him over from Syria.

On the assumption that Dr. Gold would fare no better than the Jordanian general, Israel may have taken matters into its own hands.

Three Israeli missiles reportedly struck Syrian military outposts on the road between Daraa and Damascus after Wednesday midnight, according to Syrian human rights monitors. The IDF declined to comment on this report, while the Syrian army and Hizballah denied it.

If this report is true, it would mean that Israel’s patience is running out with the Russian-Syrian aerial campaign that threatens to open the door for Syrian, Iranian and Hizballah forces to take up positions on its northern border. The triple missile strike looks as though it was meant to draw a line in the sand against this happening.