A Disclaimer:

I want to keep my word with you. I know you understand that I receive interesting and timely news items from friends all over the world. Most of these items appear to have prophetic relevance. Others are of particular interest in the field of Science, Health & Nutrition, Devotional themes and some touches of Humor.

With a bit of hesitation, I am forwarding some of these items to friends like you via email. My concern is this: some persons who will receive or read the items I choose to forward will assume that I endorse, approve or believe every "iota," and that I am endorsing the author or source. This simply is not true! As you read, you must be discerning, choosey, discriminating and use common sense. If you are going to quote someone, quote the source -- I am not the source, I am the reporter . . . --CW

--CW Says, "I first shared this commentary April 15, 2008 with a follow-up May 11, 2010. Today (February 2, 2011) I am reminding readers of my Commentary by sharing once more a portion of Convergence, Confluence, the Angel Gabriel and the Time of the End . . .

"Since the invasion of Iraq in March of 2003, I have been closely following the person and activities of a radical Iraqi Shia cleric by the name of Muqtada al-Sadr. Several times I have offered commentary via this Prophecy E-News regarding this man al-Sadr, his hatred for America, his thirst for revenge and the demonic stare he shares with his late hero, the Ayatollah Khomeini. Not only does his countenance betray the spirit ruling him, but his words and his actions portray the same dark spirit."

Anti-American Cleric Returns

Time magazine / January 24, 2011
"Muqtada al-Sadr, whose Shi’ite militia led bloody uprisings against American forces in Iraq, made a triumphant return from more than three years of self-imposed exile in Iran to assume a central (if unofficial) role in the newly formed Shi’ite-led Iraqi government. The return of the radical cleric, who was greeted by rapturous crowds, is a sign of Tehran's influence in Baghdad and further evidence that Iraq may insist on U.S. troops' departure from the country by the end of 2011. Sadr vehemently opposes the continued American military presence."

**Cleric Muqtada al-Sadr Returns to Iraq**
By: Qassim Abdul-Zahra / *Time.com* / January 5, 2011

[Click Here To View at Time.com](#)

**Anti-U.S. Cleric Returns to Iraq, and to Power**

[Click Here To View at The New York Times](#)

"I hope after reading these current releases (*Time* magazine and *The New York Times*), you will click on and read again in its entirety my Commentary of 2008, 2010 and today. This crisis is beyond brewing; it is at the door!"

**Convergence, Confluence, the Angel Gabriel and the Time of the End**
*Prophetic Commentary by Charles Wheeling*

Al-Sadr's army within Iraq, the *Mahdi Militia* (sometimes spelled *Mehdi*), are boldly threatening to seize control of the entire nation of Iraq. They are only waiting, they say, "until the Americans withdraw." Meanwhile, American and British forces are being threatened and losing lives daily to powerful, sophisticated Iranian weapons supplied to al-Sadr's Militia! It takes little foresight to see where the rivers of prophecy and Daniel's prophetic events will soon converge. Gabriel addressed Daniel "at the widening of the Ulai." *Keep your eyes and ears on Basra!* Gabriel obeyed Heaven's command and explained to Daniel the meaning of confluence and convergence--

"Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision." *Daniel 8:17.*

*Who reads the fast fulfilling signs of these times?* I do! I hope you are reading them too! The headlines here and abroad are *warning, warning, warning* that war is coming between the United States, Great Britain and Iran. *And* because all Bible prophecy is about Jerusalem and that unique piece of real estate, add *Israel to the mix.*

It seems rather clear now; Iran is being pressured by the West, especially the United States, with economic sanctions and threatening her proto-nuclear facilities. At this prophetic moment Iran is rallying her proxy armies. *These include Muqtada al-Sadr's Militia in Iraq, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, and the West Bank and, of course, Iran's ever-loyal ally, Syria!*

Uncontrollable hatred, pent up for millennia, is about to be released -- *the explosion is coming!* The possibility of nuclear exchange exists! *An awful surprise awaits an unsuspecting world!* I believe this confrontation will be the *Tipping point* ('tipping point') that opens the prophetic door to "the time of the end."
"But ye brethren are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief."
Thessalonians 5:4.

Prophecy watchers should anticipate a pre-emptive, multi-front attack likely orchestrated by Iran and Syria against Israel and Anglo-American Forces in Iraq. I expect concurrent terrorist attacks within America and Great Britain. Israel will likely be pummeled with hundreds, perhaps thousands of short range rockets launched by Hezbollah in Lebanon and by Hamas in the Palestinian territories. The very real possibility exists that more powerful, longer range missiles may be launched by Iran and Syria against Israel and Coalition forces in the Middle East.

At the same time, watch for a counter-surge launched by Al-Sadr's Mahdi Militia against U.S. and British forces in Iraq! I believe Bible prophecy foreshadows Basrah and its environs will soon become the focus of world attention and Daniel 8:3-7, will meet its long awaited fulfillment!

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A work that always needs attention

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1 | Sudan

Voting for a New Nation

Southern Sudan's much anticipated referendum on whether to secede commenced Jan. 9 with a high voter turnout and much rejoicing. Yet there were also reports of deadly violence in the north-south border areas, and tensions remained high in Africa's largest country. The weeklong vote, expected to lead to the formation of the world's newest nation, is a result of a 2005 peace agreement between the Sudanese government and southern rebels after decades of civil war between the predominantly Arab Muslim north and mostly Christian and animist south. Despite the relative ease of the vote, many key issues, such as precise borders and the status of the disputed oil-rich Abyei region, have yet to be resolved. The new nation may also have to reckon with up to half a million southerners returning home from the north.

2 | Tunisia

Protests Hit North Africa

Tunisia has seen weeks of strikes and riots triggered by anger at unemployment and the perceived corruption of the rulers. A crackdown on demonstrations throughout the small North African state led to at least 21 confirmed deaths, though rights groups claim casualties are more than double that figure. The government of President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, who has ruled for more than 23 years, ordered universities and schools shut in a bid to halt further protests and instituted curfews, while police arrested hundreds. Despite those measures, the unrest, unprecedented in this relatively stable and affluent country, continued apace.

3 | Pakistan
An Assassin Celebrated

Rather than mourn the death of Salmaan Taseer, Punjab's progressive governor, tens of thousands showed their support for his murderer. Crowds cast Taseer's confessed killer, Mumtaz Qadri, as a hero and rallied in support of the blasphemy laws Taseer had criticized. The laws, which make insulting Islam a crime punishable by death, have been used to persecute Christians and other minorities, but Islamabad vowed not to amend them—not least because of the strength of Islamist sentiment in the country.

4 | Iraq

Anti-American Cleric Returns

Muqtada al-Sadr, whose Shi’ite militia led bloody uprisings against American forces in Iraq, made a triumphant return from more than three years of self-imposed exile in Iran to assume a central (if unofficial) role in the newly formed Shi’ite-led Iraqi government. The return of the radical cleric, who was greeted by rapturous crowds, is a sign of Tehran's influence in Baghdad and further evidence that Iraq may insist on U.S. troops' departure from the country by the end of 2011. Sadr vehemently opposes the continued American military presence.

5 | Lebanon

Crisis in Beirut

Lebanon's national unity government collapsed Jan. 12 after 11 Ministers from Hizballah and its allies resigned. Hizballah is disputing the likely verdict of a U.N. tribunal that is expected to indict some of its members for the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri. The resignations arrived just as Prime Minister Saad Hariri and President Obama met in Washington for urgent talks on the future of the fragile Lebanese government.

6 | Australia

Brisbane Succumbs To Floods

Two-thirds of the state of Queensland was declared a disaster zone as the region faced a third week of flooding. Brisbane, Queensland's capital, was inundated after flash floods that killed 10 in a nearby town reached the city, Australia's third largest. The government estimates that the floods could cause a $12.8 billion hit to the country's $1.3 trillion GDP.

7 | Mexico
MURDERS IN PARADISE

During four bloody days of turf warfare between drug cartels, more than 30 bodies, 15 of them headless, were found in Acapulco. The violence has led to a sharp decline in visits by foreigners to the resort city, where three cartels are fighting for control of its port. More than 30,000 people nationwide have died as a result of drug violence since the Mexican government launched a crackdown on cartels in December 2006.

8 | China

Gates Visit Looks to Mend Military Ties

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates visited China on a four-day trip aimed at patching up military relations with Beijing, which have frayed in recent years. Tensions between the two powers spiked over proposed U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, the island nation China still considers part of its territory, as well as China's tacit support of North Korea. Observers see a hardening of battle lines in the Pacific Ocean as a revitalized Chinese navy prepares to challenge decades of U.S. dominance. Ahead of President Hu Jintao's upcoming trip to Washington, Gates left Beijing amid speculation of a split between Beijing's civilian leadership and its more hawkish military counterparts.

A look at two powers

[The following text appears within a chart. Please see hardcopy or PDF for actual chart.]

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ETA Calls a Cease-Fire

Madrid reacted cautiously after the Basque separatist group ETA declared a previously announced cease-fire to be permanent. ETA, however, has broken several cease-fires in the past, and Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero said a peace process could not begin until the group agreed to disarm and dissolve. The militant group is blamed for more than 850 deaths in the course of its 50-year campaign to carve out an independent ethnic-Basque homeland from parts of Spain and France.

Tax Hikes and Budget Cuts

Illinois lawmakers, seeking to make up a $15 billion budget shortfall, approved an increase in the personal income tax from 3% to 5%--the state's first increase since 1989 and the biggest tax hike yet by states struggling with massive deficits. Along with spending cuts, the hike is expected to generate $7 billion a year, enough to balance the annual budget and help the state pay overdue bills. Meanwhile, California's new governor, Jerry Brown, slashed $12 billion from that state's budget and extended temporary tax breaks that were due to expire this year.
Anti-U.S. Cleric Returns to Iraq, and to Power

By ANTHONY SHADID and JOHN LELAND

BAGHDAD — Moktada al-Sadr, the populist cleric who emerged as the United States’ most enduring foe in Iraq, returned Wednesday after more than three years of voluntary exile in Iran in a homecoming that embodied his and his movement’s transition from battling in the streets to occupying the halls of power.

“Long live the leader!” supporters shouted as a grayer Mr. Sadr made his way from the airport in the holy city of Najaf to his home and then to prayers at the gold-domed Shrine of Imam Ali, one of the most sacred places in Shiite Islam. Supporters there hailed his return as another show of strength for a movement that is now more powerful than at any time since the United States invaded in 2003.

“We’re proving to everyone that we’re an important part of Iraq and its politics,” said Jawad Kadhum, a lawmaker with Mr. Sadr’s movement.

Simply by setting foot in Iraq, the mercurial and enigmatic Mr. Sadr complicated the nation’s byzantine politics. He is the rare Iraqi figure who can compete in stature with Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, and the dealings between Mr. Maliki, the arch politician, and Mr. Sadr, the rabble-rousing cleric, may prove a compelling political drama in the year ahead. Mr. Sadr’s return certainly adds another challenge for the United States, given its fear of his movement’s influence and his steadfast opposition to American policies.

Symbolically, at least, his arrival serves as a resonant climax to the resurgence of a movement whose demise has been forecast as often as rain in Iraq’s winter.

Claiming the legacy of Mr. Sadr’s revered father, Ayatollah Muhammad Sadiq al-Sadr, who was assassinated in 1999, the group forged a martial culture and became one of the most implacable enemies of the American occupation, fighting the United States military twice in 2004. Four years later, the movement was at a nadir: With Mr. Sadr in exile and his militias blamed for some of the war’s worst sectarian carnage, the Iraqi military, with decisive American help, vanquished the group in Baghdad and Basra, Iraq’s second largest city. The divided movement itself seemed a spent force.
But in local elections in 2009, it made impressive gains, foreshadowing the remarkable discipline it showed in national elections last year. The 40 seats it won — second only to Mr. Maliki's bloc among the Shiite majority — brought it to the center of Iraqi politics and, to its supporters at least, signaled the group’s transition from a militia force to a mainstream political group. Mr. Sadr's surprise decision in August to support Mr. Maliki, his longtime antagonist, for a second term as prime minister effectively decided the election in Mr. Maliki’s favor. Mr. Sadr's followers exacted repayment in critical government posts.

“His presence in Iraq, it will strengthen the resolve of our Sadrist brothers to serve the people of Iraq,” said Muhammad al-Khafaji, a former bodyguard of Mr. Sadr's who won a seat in the election.

Mr. Sadr is a vastly different figure than when he left in 2007 to pursue his clerical studies — and to avoid an arrest warrant for the killing of a rival cleric in 2003.

In his early days, he was often derided as too young, even dimwitted, and his physical appearance — he is squat and pudgy — did little to inspire confidence. The man who appeared on Wednesday had aged, with gray streaking his beard, and he seemed to stride with more confidence. In recent public statements, it appears that he has overcome the awkwardness he displayed in 2003. He now delivers his speeches in a refined, if simple and deliberate Arabic.

It was unclear whether Mr. Sadr would still face criminal charges. Mr. Kadhum, the Sadrist lawmaker, said there was no warrant for the cleric’s arrest. “That was just from the previous government to target the Sadrist, to take us away from the political process,” Mr. Kadhum said.

Hussain al-Saffi, a lawmaker from Mr. Maliki's bloc, said the government had “no intention or inclination to raise any legal issues related to Mr. Moktada.”

There were conflicting reports, too, about whether Mr. Sadr’s return was permanent or merely a visit. Even some of his own supporters seemed unsure.

“It’s up to His Eminence to stay permanently in Najaf or go back to Iran,” said Balqis al-Khafaji, who was a Sadrist candidate.

Mr. Sadr’s return from Qum, a seat of Shiite scholarship in Iran, had long been rumored. In the weeks before the elections, many of his supporters were convinced that it was imminent. There was no advance word of his trip on Wednesday, and many of his followers learned of his arrival from television reports.

If he stays in Iraq, his impact on politics, at least in the short term, may be more symbolic than real. The movement has performed well in his absence, with its delegates impressing even the movement’s critics with their skills in the negotiations that led to the formation of the government
last month. One analyst suggested that the success of an emerging Sadrist leadership inside Iraq might have motivated Mr. Sadr to come back.

“The return has major political significance,” said Hazem al-Amin, a writer with the Arabic newspaper Al Hayat in Beirut. “His party is becoming stronger and bigger, and the need for him to preside over it has grown, especially since there is fear that new leaders within the party could surpass him.”

At the very least, Mr. Sadr becomes one of the few national leaders with the grass-roots support to compete with Mr. Maliki, whom Mr. Sadr’s supporters had derided only recently as an heir to Saddam Hussein and an American lackey. Mr. Sadr’s support for the prime minister came with a high price: hundreds of his followers were released from prison, and the movement was given leadership of a province, positions in the security forces and control of some ministries.

The Sadr-Maliki rivalry may become more intense as the deadline nears for all United States troops to withdraw from Iraq by the end of 2011. Some American officials have suggested that Mr. Maliki would be open to an extension for at least some troops — a position that Mr. Sadr would almost certainly refuse.

The perception of Mr. Sadr as a wild card has led some of his supporters to worry that his return may incite strife. And while, for many, he captured the voice of populist anger against the American occupation, he remains — especially to Iraq’s Sunni minority — synonymous with the black-clad death squads of 2006-7.

“I don’t think Moktada will bring good with him to Iraq,” said Muhammad al-Adhami, a government worker in Adhamiya, a largely Sunni area in Baghdad.

_Reporting was contributed by Duraid Adnan, Yasir Ghazi and Omar al-Jawoshy from Baghdad; Nada Bakri from Beirut, Lebanon; and Iraqi employees of The New York Times from Baghdad and Najaf, Iraq._
According to the Biblical Prophet Daniel, *angelic visitants* from heaven appeared to him in visions, first to make known and then interpret the things being revealed to him. Daniel provides the names of at least three of these angelic visitants—*Palmoni, Gabriel* and *Michael*, in this order. *The Angel Gabriel plays a pivotal role in Daniel’s visions of the end times.*

Whether *seas, streams or rivers*, literal / symbolic ‘waters’ appear as prophetic staging in Daniel’s four end-of-time visions. Students of Bible prophecy have long understood that *waters* represent ‘peoples, nations and tongues.’

Said the angel, “**The waters that you saw . . . are peoples, races, nations and languages.**”

Revelation 17:15  NCV

The *waters* I will focus upon presently are prominent Middle Eastern rivers featured in Daniel’s visions. They are the *Euphrates*, the *Tigris*, the *Hiddekel* and the *Ulai*. The *Euphrates* and *Tigris* rivers retain their ancient names. In the book of Daniel, these two great rivers merge geographically in the southern region of modern Iraq and conjoined, these rivers share a biblical name, the *Hiddekel* (Daniel 10:4). The *Ulai River* (Daniel 8:2, 16), bears a new name, the *Karun River*, and originates in southwestern Iran.

The angel *Gabriel*, introduced in Daniel’s second vision (Daniel 8:16), is seen standing beside the river *Ulai*. Gabriel also appears in Daniel’s fourth or last vision in connection with the “great river *Hiddekel*.” (Daniel 10: 4, 5). In both instances these rivers are said by Gabriel to have literal / symbolic meaning, application and fulfillment “at the time of the end” (Daniel 8:17), and in “the latter days” (Daniel 10:14).

For decades I have consistently urged a straight-forward reading of these visions, maintaining that prophetically they do not belong to past history but rather to a predicted “end of time” Spirit and flesh struggle to take place immediately before Christ returns. **I continue to reject honest but misguided attempts to offer Alexander the Great, Antiochus Epiphanes or other historical figures and events as fulfillment of Daniel’s visions.**

**Historical figures or events may serve as types or shadows of things to come but they in no wise offer a fulfillment of Daniel’s “time of the end” visions.** I stand in complete agreement with Jesus’ application of Daniel’s visions to “the time of the end.”

“**Whoso readeth, let him understand!”**  (Mark 13: 4, 5, 14; Matthew 24: 3, 4, 15.)

Modern Iraq boasts two capitol cities, *Baghdad*, centrally located in the country along the banks of the *Tigris River*. *Basrah*, or *Basra*, is located in southeastern Iraq. Major cities are historically located beside rivers or seas and Basrah is no exception. Basra lies beside “the great river *Hiddekel*,” some 40 miles south of the confluence of the two great ancient rivers, the *Tigris* and the *Euphrates*. Approximately 20 miles farther south of Basra another confluence takes place—there the *Ulai River* (Karun) merges its waters with “the great river *Hiddekel*.”

(Webster’s: confluence: *a*. A flowing together of two or more streams.  *b*. The point of juncture of such streams).

A lesson in basic hydrology will help just now. When two waters merge, be they stream to stream, river to river or river to sea, the greater body of water causes the lesser body of water to form a silted delta—
'a widening.' Obviously, the greater volume of the one prevents the lesser volume of the other from completely purging its burden of silt and alluvia. *Fascinating stuff, huh?*

Yes, it is *extremely fascinating* if one carefully parses Daniel's visions focusing prophetically upon the rivers *Hiddekel* and *Ulai*. Fascinating stuff indeed, if one is aware of the events transpiring at this (prophetic?!) moment *where all these waters symbolically and literally converge*.

Daniel opens his second vision (Daniel 8:2) telling us, “I saw in a vision, and *I was by the river of Ulai*.” The difficulty here is that the river *Ulai* meanders more than 200 kilometers (120 miles). As Daniel seeks a better understanding of his vision (Daniel 8, verse 15), he sees Gabriel standing “*between the banks* of Ulai,” and there hears a heavenly voice commanding, “Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision” (verse 16).

**Note: in the KJV, the words ‘*the banks of*’ are italicized indicating the translators have supplied them.** Various Authorized translations of the book of Daniel 8, verse 16, offer this or a similar reading: “*Across the bend of Ulai,*” or “*at the widening of Ulai!*” One commentator offers this explanation for verse 16:

> “The word Hiddekel in the Syriac (Aramaic) is applied to the Euphrates River; in the Vulgate (Latin), Greek, and Arabic, to the Tigris; therefore, some (scholars) conclude that the Prophet had this vision where these rivers unite, near the Persian Gulf.” *(The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation by Uriah Smith, pg. 226.)*

*Antennas up!* Why two capital cities in the *one* nation of Iraq? Iraq’s population is comprised largely of two principal, ever-warring Islamic sects—the *Shia* and the *Sunni*. Sectarian strife is ever present in Iraq and will be, I predict, until the end of the world. The population of southern Iraq is composed largely of the *Shia* sect. Actually, Shia Islam comprises 70% of modern Iraq’s total population. On the other hand, Saddam Hussein was *Sunni* and exercised a murderous, iron-fisted subjugation of the *Shia* populace, especially the Shia sympathetic to Iran, dwelling largely in Basra and southern Iraq.

Now that Saddam is gone, the *Shia majority* have, by vote, taken control of Iraq, its land, its laws and its mineral wealth. Hence the ongoing civil war and non-stop bloodletting taking place there today. The Shia element in Iraq boasts in no uncertain terms that “their day in the sun has come” and they “intend to get even!” *A Shia majority controls the present government of Iraq and its current President is Shia.*

*Now for the rest of the story:* For several years the Iranian Government and Iranian Military have been infiltrating armed Shia militia into southern Iraq—the region surrounding Basra to be exact—the very place Daniel saw Gabriel standing “*at the widening of the Ulai!*” There Daniel heard these words in vision:

> “*Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.*” Daniel 8: 17.

Intelligence estimates I have read suggest that the number of Iranian infiltrators is more than double the number of Western Coalition forces presently based in Iraq.

Since the invasion of Iraq in March of 2003, I have been closely following the person and activities of a radical Iraqi *Shia* cleric by the name of *Muqtada al-Sadr*. Several times I have offered commentary via this Prophecy E-News regarding this man *al-Sadr*, his hatred for America, his thirst for revenge and the demonic stare he shares with his late hero, the *Ayatollah Khomeini*. Not only does his countenance betray the spirit ruling him, but his words and his actions portray the same dark spirit.

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Ministry Behind Bars
A work that always needs attention

In any given year, almost 2½ million adult residents of the United States make a federal facility their home away from home. It is estimated that 6% of US prison inmates are non-citizens. Their crimes range from misdemeanor to criminally dangerous. Some sit awaiting trial; others, in more extreme circumstances, sit awaiting execution. In either case, and all in between, our ministry offers a small, but persistent, voice of hope.

One of the foundations upon which the charter of our work was built was that of prison ministry, with the object in mind of placing good books in the hands of those behind bars. Through the years God has seen to it that our work has not been wanting, and our efforts have never been wasted. In 2010 alone we received back almost a thousand Bible lessons to be graded. In addition to the lessons, we mailed almost 8,000 books to prisoners and their family members—all as free gifts. Chaplains and prisoners have written to tell us of small groups forming to read our books and study the lessons we provide. Can we hear a hearty AMEN!

Life on-the-inside is not like life in the rest of the world, where most of us live. Out here, when we run out of something, we simply go to the store and pick it up. If we want to read a book, we either buy it or visit the local library and check it out. In a prison, reading materials have to develop the ability to experience life after death; in other words, when most of us would consider a thing fit for the trash, then it is that someone has to get out the Scotch tape and paste the thing back together. Welcome to life behind bars, the place where books may be accurately judged by their covers.

And the story often goes on once the inmates leave the gates. Frequently we receive letters of thanks from those who had read our books and Bible lessons while locked up, as well as many notes of gratitude from their families; these are always refreshing.

If you have contributed to our Prison Ministry fund, or to any Mission World project during this past year, thank you! Your donations are a sacred trust to us and are never a waste. None of our work would be possible without you. We can’t say it enough—Thank you!

“America is the land of the second chance—and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life.”

—George W. Bush.

My gift enclosed—Keep it up!

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America in Prophecy

Will America Survive?

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