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A Question for Charles About Iran in Prophecy

"Charles: For several years I have attended your Prophecy Seminars when you come to my area. I have found your studies in the prophecies of Daniel and a predicted war between Iran and the West intensely interesting.

I phoned you on one occasion to discuss recent headlines about Israel, not the U.S., attacking Iran. You insisted then and again in a recent Seminar that 'Israel will not attack Iran.' You say, 'The prophecy of Daniel 8 is clear enough; the United States, and likely Great Britain will be provoked by some act on the part of Iran and it is America that will attack Iran.' Do you still hold to this view? So far none of the headlines ring true. So 2013 is here; do you think things will settle down or what? When?

My Response

I want to be cautious with this attempt to answer your question(s). Cautious because there is a credibility factor -- No, I am not overly concerned with my personal credibility. However, Prophetic E-News from Charles Wheeling reaches many thousands of minds, including people with varied religious backgrounds and experience. Some of our readers have limited, even zero, experience in Bible study. Should the answer I am about to offer prove incorrect, my concern is that some readers could lose confidence in the truthfulness of Scripture.

So my disclaimer is this: "My ideas, interpretations and conclusions are my own. I am not a prophet. I am not infallible. I am one of countless human beings, waiting and watching for our Lord's return. For generations most have been mistaken regarding the time of the end! If I am mistaken in what I am about to offer, then "I am mistaken, not the Word of God!"

First, B____, I want to thank you for your evident interest in Bible prophecy. According to Scripture, Old Testament and New Testament, you are counted with "the wise." Because Iran has been headlined virtually every day of 2012, I have been besieged by questioning Seminar attendees, with e-mails and phone calls asking some version of your question: "When do you really think this war with Iran will come? Don't you think Israel is going to attack Iran before the United States will act?"
This is a fair question as recurring headlines continue predicting Israel will soon attack Iran! Israel is planning to attack Iran!

Some articles suggest this will be the case because the United States has "lost its stomach for more war in the Middle East." More recent headlines from Israel asserted: "Israel will attack Iran before the November Presidential elections." And even more recent headlines out of Iran declare, "We (Iran) will be at war within weeks!" -- those weeks have since turned into yet (another year) time lingers.

When I am challenged with these "time" questions I always try to respond with, "Soon; it could happen any time now." For years my response has been nebulous because, in all honesty, I do not know "the day or the hour." What I have not shared in a public forum, before this, is what seems Biblically and prophetically reasonable to me.

We need to be reminded of the Mighty Angel's explicit instruction to Daniel at the close of his book:

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end. . ."

Chapter 12, verse 4, KJV.

The visions that were given to the Prophet Daniel were to be closed or sealed until the time of the end because those visions contain information God has deliberately withheld from every generation living before "the time of the end." And what information has Heaven deliberately kept so secret so long? The obvious answer throughout Scripture, not alone the book of Daniel, is the secret of time! Through the prophet Daniel and afterward John the Revelator, God is measuring days -- actually counting days, until the end of time! Through these two prophets God is providing the last generation a privileged window open to future truth.

Apparently Earth's last generation will suffer "a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time!" Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21. Survivors, especially those loyal to God, will need Heaven's sworn assurance that the horrors besieging our planet at that time will not go on forever [Daniel chapter 12, verses 1 and 7. See also Matthew 24: 21,22]. If I read Scripture correctly, Earth's last generation will be able to count the days until the end!

B___, because I believe the opening of"the time of the end" is imminent, I am willing to share what I have refused to share in a public forum before this. I believe 'history repeats; if this true, then looking backward in Scripture we can see forward!'

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

Romans 15:4, KJV.

"Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

1Corinthians 10:11, KJV.

Those following my prophetic studies know that I super-impose the timelines of Daniel and Revelation over and within the 'appointed times' of the biblical Sanctuary. Those 'appointed times' are the feast days -- the moed "times and seasons" oft repeated in the apocalyptic writings of Scripture. Herein lies a clue, I believe, to a possible timing for the coming war between Iran and the West.

The traditional (historical) enemies of Israel were the forbearers of modern Islam. Islamist believers trace their spiritual and in some cases, genetic heritage, to Ishmael, Abraham's first-born son. For 3,500 years Ishmael's descendants, spiritual or genetic, have hated Isaac and his descendants, spiritual or genetic! Daniel's visions embrace this enduring envy and murderous rage. As an example, in my study of Daniel chapter 8, the "Ram" (with 2 horns) represents greater Islam. At "the time of the end," Iraq and Iran (2 horns of the Ram) are specifically brought to view and evidence this long-standing hatred of Isaac and Israel.

The verses of Scripture I am about to share belong historically, and I believe prophetically, to this enduring bitterness and enmity;

A Prophetic Possibility: "When Kings Go Forth To Battle"

Bible commentaries have offered meaningful insight surrounding this biblical expression:
"And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle . . . " (cf. 2 Samuel 11:1 with 1 Kings 20:22, 26; see below). Among Hebrews, their civil year began with the month Tishri in the fall, but their religious year began with Nissan in the spring. Since the autumn was the 'going forth' of the year, the spring would be 'the return of the year'. The reference here is to the spring, as proved by the next clause: "At the time when kings go forth to battle."

"The rulers of Western Asia generally launched their military campaigns in the spring of the year. Winter was unsuited for fighting because of the cold and the rain. Roads at that time were well-nigh impassable and supplies of food were not readily available. Assyrian annuals show that almost invariably the spring of the year was chosen for the armies to conduct their campaigns."

"And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem." 2Samuel 11:1; c.f. 1Chronicles 20:1, KJV.

"And it came to pass at the return of the year, that Benhadad numbered the Syrians, and went up to Aphek, to fight against Israel." 1Kings 20:26, KJV.

Now that November 2014 elections are looming and the present Administration is attempting secret negotiations with Iran; and because our Nation is distracted with serious economic issues, I believe Iran is emboldened, continuing to buy time and increase her chances of going nuclear! To my mind, if the past means anything for the future, then "Kings go forth to battle at the return of the (biblical) year."

According to Sanctuary time, that next date could likely occur this spring between April 15 - April 22, 2014.

If I could speak personally to Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, I would alert him to these Scriptures and this verse in particular:

"And the prophet came to the king of Israel, and said unto him, Go, strengthen thyself, and mark, and see what thou doest: for at the return of the year the king of Syria will come up against thee." 1Kings 20:22, KJV.

Once again, According to Sanctuary time, that next spring date could, according to the Hebrew calendar, occur between April 15 - April 22, 2014...

Once again, my disclaimer is this: "These ideas, interpretations and conclusions are my own. I am not a prophet. I am not infallible. I am one of countless human beings waiting and watching for our Lord's return. For generations most have been mistaken regarding the time of the end! If I am mistaken in the possibilities I have offered, then "I" am mistaken, not the Word of God!"

In view of these possibilities, I will soon offer some practical suggestions. Stay tuned . . .

ADDENDA: During the year just past, millions around the world have been alerted to the coming "4 Blood Moons!" April 15, this year, 2014, is the first Blood Moon, falling on a solemn, Sanctuary Moed. "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour..." Matthew 24:42.