

DEADLY WOUND SOON TO BE HEALED?

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There have been some significant developments recently in Turkey that may have prophetic import. It may be worth reviewing whilst still “fresh”.

Key Event. On July 24 ... the Turkish President “converted” the Hagia Sophia back into an Islamic mosque. Despite earlier warnings from world leaders ... including Mike Pompeo.

Potentially — it is hugely symbolic. It looks like **part of a plan to revive or resurrect the Ottoman Empire** — a vision of President Erdogan — and possible fulfillment of Revelation Chapter 13.

Background. The Hagia Sophia (Holy Wisdom/Divine Wisdom) built 537 AD as a Christian Cathedral in then Constantinople.

The Jewel in the Crown of the Christian religion.

In 1453 ... Constantinople fell to the Islamic Ottoman Empire and Hagia Sophia **became one of Islam’s most famous mosques**. Now dedicated to Allah.

The Ottoman Empire ended just after WW1 in 1922 ... and Turkey became a secular republic in 1923. They joined the modern secular world. The Hagia Sophia became part of this change — it converted to a museum “for all” in 1935.

It is visited by about 3 million people every year ... and is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Its conversion to a museum was symbolic of the fact that Turkey had turned away from being an Islamic State ... and was now a secular republic.

The old Ottoman Empire was dead. It had once ruled much of the Middle East ... Europe ... Africa ... the Mediterranean — now a modern secular country.

If you don't know much about the Ottoman Empire ... it was one of the greatest empires ever — the Super Power of Islam. It ruled from about 1300 until 1922 AD for almost 700 years — based from Turkey. Islamic.

Its ruler was the Caliph. He combines political and religious power and is a supreme authority.

It all ended in 1922. Turkey became a secular republic in 1923. The Caliphate was officially wound up in 1924.

What's that got to do with today?

It looks like Mr Erdogan wants to revive the Ottoman Empire. He wants to restore Turkey's greatness especially among Islamic nations. Resurrect the Caliphate.

Re-converting the Hagia Sophia is hugely symbolic of his ambitions ... and of the Islamic Jihad Regime of Mr Erdogan.

We've discussed Mr Erdogan's ambitions in the past. The man who said: "Democracy is like a streetcar. You ride it until you get to your stop and once you've reached your stop — you get off".

He already had military forces in Syria ... Libya ... Iraq — extending his influence.

On July 10: "The Resurrection of Hagia Sophia heralds the LIBERATION OF THE AL-ASQA MOSQUE. The Resurrection of the Hagia Sophia is the Footsteps of the will of Muslims across the world to come out of the INTERREGNUM".

The Interregnum is believed to be a reference to the suspension of normal functioning of the Ottoman Empire and Caliphate since 1922-24.

The Al-Asqa Mosque is in Jerusalem. On the "Temple Mount". The third holiest site in Islam.

What do we think "Liberation" means? How do you go about that?

Erdogan wants to drive the Jews out of Jerusalem?

Erdogan and his regime have been on this path for years. It is not new. The Hagia Sophia is just the latest visible evidence of his ambitions.

The Centenary is 2022/23–24. Can we expect major developments?

How might any of this relate to prophecy?

Well — if you're looking for a Holy Roman Empire in Europe — linked up with the Vatican — it doesn't!!

But if you consider prophecy to be about the Middle East and as relating to Islam — and its stated intentions to dominate the world for Allah — it does. I believe end-time prophecies fit much better with an Islamic Beast — an Islamic "Antichrist".

I have covered this before ... but I'll go over it again in the next few weeks.

Revelation 13:1-7

1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And **I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.**

2 **Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion.** The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

3 **And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed.** And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and **he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.**

6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

7 **It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.** *(The authority extends to many places now)*

There are good reasons to believe the MORTAL WOUND was to the Islamic Ottoman Empire ... 1922-1924.

It was to be revived or resurrected.

Just what Erdogan is planning. Revive the Ottoman Empire. The Centenary would look good?

It continues for 42 months ... and will persecute and kill the saints. Authority over many countries. (The Tribulation).

[It seems unlikely to be 1260 years — from 554 AD to Napoleon's defeat in 1814? As in the old WWCG literature. Clutching at straws!]

If Revelation Chapter 13 is Islamic — it points to the Ottoman Empire restored in a coalition of 10 other countries (10 "horns").

It will be destructive!

Turkey's role is quite clearly indicated in Daniel Chapter 8 — but pause first at:

Matthew 24:3, 15, 21-22

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

15 **"Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place"** (whoever reads, let him understand),

21 **For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.**

22 **And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.**

When YOU SEE the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet — then flee — don't stop! These are the days of great tribulation.

Jesus' key for the Tribulation and His return is identified in Daniel. Like Matthew says — **"whoever reads, let him understand"**! Understand the prophecies of Daniel.

We have to understand the Book of Daniel. Daniel may well be the "Manual for the End-Times"?

Daniel 8:1-4

1 In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me—to me, Daniel—after the one that appeared to me the first time.

2 **I saw in the vision**, and it so happened while I was looking, that I was in Shushan, the citadel, which is in the province of Elam; and **I saw in the vision that I was by the River Ulai**.

3 Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, **was a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last**.

4 **I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward**, so that no animal could withstand him; nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, **but he did according to his will and became great**.

The Ram conquers North ... West ... and South — and everything in front of it.

Daniel 8:5-8

5 And as I was considering, **suddenly a male goat came from the west, (therefore heading East) across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes**.

6 **Then he came to the ram that had two horns**, which I had seen standing beside the river, **and ran at him with furious power**.

7 And **I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns**. **There was no power in the ram to withstand him**, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; **and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand**.

8 **Therefore the male goat grew very great**; but when he became strong, **the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven**.

The He-Goat comes from the West — charges East — and smashes the Ram.

Is this vision relevant to us today?

Daniel 8:15-19

15 Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man.

16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "**Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.**"

17 So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "**Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end.**"

18 Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright.

19 And he said, "**Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be.**"

The appointed "Time of the end".

Daniel 8:26

26 "And the vision of the evenings and mornings
Which was told is true;

**Therefore seal up the vision,
For it refers to many days in the future.**"

When is that? A few hundred years after Daniel?

Daniel 12:1-4

1 "At that time Michael shall stand up,
The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people;

**And there shall be a time of trouble,
Such as never was since there was a nation,
Even to that time.**

**And at that time your people shall be delivered,
Every one who is found written in the book.**

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, (that sounds like the Resurrection??)

Some to everlasting life,
Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

3 **Those who are wise shall shine
Like the brightness of the firmament,
And those who turn many to righteousness
Like the stars forever and ever.**

4 **“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”**

Daniel 12:9, 13

9 And he said, **“Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.**

13 **“But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.”**

The Time of The End is at the Resurrection.

So ... Daniel Chapter 8 is for the period just before the Resurrection. NOW!

So ... who are the Ram and the He-Goat — who will be in conflict at the end-time?

Daniel 8:20-21

20 **The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia.**

21 **And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king.**

Iran and Greece (?)

Iran is well-known for its aggression — major sponsors of terrorism. It has nuclear ambitions.

But Greece? That reminds me of our minister ... Derek Seaman. In his Bible Study in 1974/75 ... he could see Daniel Chapter 8 was prophetic of the end-time ... but he couldn't see how Greece fitted?!

English translations use the word Greece. But ... the Hebrew word is Javan (Yavan) — per Lexicons: the race of people known as Ionians. Today's Asia Minor — **Turkey being the largest and most powerful.**

Daniel Chapter 8 appears to show Iran (Islamic) going on military rampage — West is Iraq ... Syria. South is Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf states. North is Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

It will cause massive disruption ... especially to oil via the Persian Gulf.

Turkey (Islamic) will later retaliate ... and be victorious. The revived Ottoman Empire to dominate.

However ... as with all prophecy — we can and should be familiar with the narrative. As to how exactly it may be fulfilled ... we will need some humility.

But try to be responsible in our understanding.

We know we need to be watchful.

We've got a lot "on our plates" (!). Covid 19 ... major economic problems ... US Election ... culture wars. Troubles everywhere. It is easy to get distracted.

But ... if we're anywhere near the end-time ... we need to be watching carefully — and alert. Especially the Books of Daniel and Revelation.

Matthew 16:1-4

1 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.

2 He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red';

3 and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' **Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.**

4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed.

Jesus criticises these religious guys for not discerning the signs of the times.

Luke 21:29-36

29 Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.

30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near.

31 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.

33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

34 **“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.”**

35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 **“Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”**

WE ARE COMMANDED TO TAKE HEED!

The end will come as a snare.

WATCH!

Now you can watch Europe ... to see if any Holy Roman Empire starts to appear. I've been watching for more than 50 years ... and not a hint. 😊

But the Middle East ... Persian Gulf ... Islamic Nations ... are already pushing and shoving for dominance.

The Turkish Regime have a dream of reviving the mighty Ottoman Empire. Every year there is more and more evidence.

It seems likely that 2022-2024 will be key to Erdogan's ambitions.

It is extremely worthwhile keeping Turkey and Iran on our radar.

If and when things start to move — it may happen very rapidly!

The change to the Hagia Sophia is another warning to those “with eyes to see”?

Erdogan Tweet (in Arabic): “The revival of Hagia Sophia heralds the liberation of the Al-Asqa Mosque (from the Jewish people).”

Maybe just words? We'll see.

But also ... Hagia Sophia is said to picture Turkey coming out of its "Interregnum" — its period of "suspension" — its grave ... since it was mortally wounded in 1922/23?

Lots to watch out for.

Next week ... we will look further into Daniel and compare whether Rome — or Islam — better fits the prophecies?