



Bethany Lutheran Church & Preschool
5051 McCarty Road
Saginaw, MI 48603
www.bethanysaginaw.com
Phone: 989-793-9579

Viewpoints

Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.

More Than Meets the Eye - March 21, 2014

Can Crimea lead to our collapse? There's One who knows and controls.

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How much do you know about Crimea? Recently a casual observer of the news saw how Russia used Ukraine's unrest as an excuse to send troops into the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea; and how on March 20th Russia "officially" annexed Crimea. On the surface this situation seems to be a territorial squabble happening far away from America. But there's more than meets the eye. Basically, Crimea is a spigot in the flow of energy. Hold that thought for a second while I share a joke.

There's a joke making the rounds: the Crimea crisis has caused the leaders of our nation and Russia to unfriend each other on Facebook. If only it were this superficial! But there's more than meets the eye. Did you know that our nation is rattling Russian banks and stocks? And did you know that in retaliation, Russia may stop buying oil with American dollars? In fact, some worry that this is one of the motives behind Russia's land grab of Crimea.

So what if Russia stops using American dollars to buy and sell oil? Well, there's more than meets the eye. Our nation has enjoyed an economy that's the envy of the world largely because oil producing nations have sold their oil exclusively when paid with American dollars. This petrodollar system was arranged at the time the American dollar went off the gold standard. Thus the buying and selling of oil with American currency is what largely gives our money its value. So here is what some greatly fear: that if Russia can maneuver enough countries to stop using petrodollars, our economy may be turned upside-down.

But there's more than meets the eye. About 700 years before Christ's birth, God decided it was time to purge his Old Testament people Israel of their misbelief and sinful practices, and to refine them in a purity of faith. So God declared through the prophet: "The LORD will bring... the king of Assyria... In that day the Lord will use a razor hired from beyond the River--the king of Assyria--to shave your head and the hair of your legs, and to take off your beards also" (Isaiah 7:17-20). Assyria was a mighty war machine of that day, making Russia look like little Cuba. Assyria was going to dominate and humiliate ("shave the hair of") Israel. And yet who is it that "brings" and "uses" the King of Assyria? God. He controls the nations.

Further, after the Lord uses Assyria to carry out the refining of his people, we read: "When the Lord has finished all his work against Mount Zion and Jerusalem, he will say, 'I will punish the king of Assyria for the willful pride of his heart and the haughty look in his

eyes...” (Isaiah 10:12). As predicted, in 701 BC, the angel of the Lord destroyed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers, and later God handed over Assyria in defeat to the Babylonians.

Yes, there’s more than meets the eye when nations go to war, and when nations rise and when they fall. To the believers long ago, God said: “Do not be afraid of the Assyrians, who beat you with a rod and lift up a club against you, as Egypt did. Very soon my anger against you will end and my wrath will be directed to their destruction... In that day their burden will be lifted from your shoulders, their yoke from your neck” (Isaiah 10:24-27). And to the New Testament church suffering persecution, God promised: “while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials... these have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed” (1 Peter 1:6-7). God accompanies his children through tough times even as he uses difficulties to refine faith.

OK, so how can we know that God is faithful to us today as he was to previous generations of believers? This question is exactly what God wants us to ask, as he uses the Crimea crisis to remind us how our sins should leave us rejected and powerless before the evil forces of this world. And just when we realize the shame of our sins, it’s then that the Lord of the nations points us to the cross where he willingly died for us. “You belong to me now and forever” whispers your Lord from the cross, for Paul explains: “You are not your own; you were bought at a price!” (1 Corinthians 6:19).

So even if Russia destroys our petrodollar system and collapses our economy, there’s more than meets the eye. We are not ever on our own, because Jesus bought us with his lifeblood. And he’s the one who knows and controls all things. ✚✚✚

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[Forget Russia Dumping US Treasuries... Here's the Real Economic Threat](#) @ zero hedge.com

[US Targets Putin's Banker, Threatens Trade](#) @ cm.com

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Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz

