

David W. Cloud

THE  
BIBLE

AND

ISLAM

ISLAM

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# Introduction

In light of today's news events, we do well to ask what the Bible says about Islam.

Islam controls a large part of the world and is on a jihadic rampage that hasn't been seen in hundreds of years.

“Today, there are 44 Islamic states; half of these are Arab. There are about one and a half billion Muslims worldwide, about one-fifth of the world's population. Muslims cover half of the globe, from Northern Africa to Southern Russia, from Northern India to Indonesia. .... There are about 24 million Muslims in Europe ... There are two million Muslims in France. More than a million Muslims live in Germany. There are also roughly 80 million Muslims in Russia. There are more than one billion Muslims represented at the United Nations...” (Michael Evans, *Beyond Iraq*, p. 49).

Islam is in the process of doing what it failed to do earlier in its history, and that is to conquer Europe. It is winning this objective by immigration, prolific breeding, and crafty politics, all made possible by the spiritual blindness, lack of wisdom, and pacifism of Europeans in general.

The most “radical” form of jihad is supported by a large portion of the Islamic world. The modern jihadists have murdered tens of thousands, toppled two of the world's largest buildings in the world's most powerful nation, threatened presidents and prime ministers, and conquered territory amounting to millions of square miles.

If it weren't for Bible prophecy, it would not be unreasonable to assume that Islam would eventually reach its perpetual objective of establishing a world caliphate.

But this won't happen. According to the Bible, Islam is simply another false religion that will be destroyed at Christ's return. Islam is ultimately under God's hand, and from Islam's

inception, God has used it to judge apostate Christianity just as He used ancient pagan nations to judge Israel.

Bible prophecy describes the future of each of the Muslim nations surrounding Israel today.

# Islam's History and Beliefs

From a Biblical perspective, Islam is another false religion.

Islam or the Muslim religion\* was founded in the seventh century AD by Muhammad (570-632).

[\* *Muslim* means “one who surrenders himself to God,” and *Islam* means surrender.]

Muhammad was raised by an uncle and grew up a shepherd and camel driver. After marrying a wealthy widow named Kadijah at age 25, the first of many wives, he spent time in contemplation and prayer. At age 40 he told his wife that the angel Gabriel had appeared to him.

Over the next 23 years until Muhammad's death, Gabriel allegedly dictated revelations to him, and these became the **Qur'an (Quran)**, Islam's most holy book. (The Quran contains the supposed words of Allah; the **Hadith** contains words and deeds attributed to Muhammad; and the **Sira** is Muhammad's biography.)

In the Hadith, Muhammad says that upon awakening one must blow his nose three times to rid himself of the devil, who spends the night in a man's nostrils (Sahih Bukhari IV, 516; Muslim I, 462); that yawning is from Satan (Bukhari IV, 509); that if a Muslim falls asleep praying, Satan urinates in his ears (Bukhari II:245); and people who pray with their eyes lifted toward heaven might have their eyes snatched away (Muslim I, 863).

In Muhammad's day, there was a temple in Mecca containing 360 idols, one of which was Al-ilah or Allah, which had been recognized as the chief god of Muhammad's tribe for centuries. It was the moon god, and Islam's sign of the crescent moon dates back to ancient Babylon and the idolatrous city states that spread across Mesopotamia after the Flood. The moon god was the chief god of Ur of the Chaldees where Abraham grew up (Leonard Woolley, *Ur of the Chaldees*, p. 175) and the chief god of ancient Sheba in

southern Arabia, from whence the queen of Sheba hailed. Two moon god temples have been excavated in Marib, the ancient capital of Sheba. The Bar'an Temple dates to the second millennium BC ("Marib Governorate," Yementourism.com), which takes us back to a few hundred years after the Tower of Babel by the biblical chronology.

The moon god's crescent can be traced through all of the ancient kingdoms, including Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. The crescent is still the sign of the moon god in Hinduism. In Hindu Nepal, the name of the moon god is Chandra, and his sign, the crescent, appears on Nepal's flag and coins.

E.M. Wherry, who translated a standard edition of the Quran, said that in pre-Islamic times Allah-worship, as well as the worship of Baal, were both involved in the worship of the sun, the moon, and the stars (*A Comprehensive Commentary on the Quran*, 1973, p. 36).

Muhammad claimed to have received revelations that Allah was not merely a chief tribal god but the only true God and that Muhammad was his chosen prophet.

When Muhammad's revelations were rejected in Mecca, he fled to Medina in AD 622. This is called **the Hijrah** and is the beginning of the Muslim calendar.

In Medina, Muhammad was successful in gaining converts except among the Jews. After trying unsuccessfully to convert them to Islam, he defeated them, banished them, and confiscated their land and property. One group of Jews of the Banu Nadir tribe was killed after being tricked into leaving their fortress by promise of peace talks. After the Banu Qurayza tribe of Jews surrendered, Muhammad had all of the men killed, some 700 to 900 individuals. They were lined up along a ditch, forced to kneel, and their heads were cut off. The women became sex slaves, including "Rayhana, who became one of Muhammad's personal concubines the very night that her husband was killed" ("The Life of Muhammad: An Inconvenient Truth," TheReligionofPeace.com).



Muhammad marched on Mecca with an army of 10,000 men and conquered the city. When given a choice of converting to Islam or accepting a third-class status, most of the people conveniently converted.

Within a few months, those who did not convert were banned from the city, and it is still illegal for non-Muslims to enter Mecca.

Muhammad began the Muslim custom of forcing non-Muslims to convert, pay a protection tax called *jizya*, or die.

Muhammad had eleven to thirteen wives and many sex slaves. His wives included his own daughter-in-law and the nine-year-old daughter of one of his original converts.

“In the span of a dozen years, he married eleven women and had access to an array of sex slaves. ... Muhammad was able to justify his lust and inevitable consummation with an appeal to Allah’s revealed will for his sex life-- which was then preserved forever in the Quran, to be faithfully memorized by future generations for whom it has no possible relevance. The first verse of Sura 66 is a good example of this. It was narrated by Muhammad to his wives shortly after two of them pressured him into not visiting a favorite sex slave: ‘O Prophet! why do you forbid (yourself) that which Allah has made lawful for you, seeking to please your wives?’ (Quran 66:1)” (“The Life of Muhammad: An Inconvenient Truth,” [TheReligionofPeace.com](http://TheReligionofPeace.com)).

In AD 620, the angel Gabriel allegedly woke Muhammad up and brought him to a winged horse called al-Buraq (which had a woman’s face and a peacock’s tail), which he mounted and rode to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The journey is known as al-Isra or Night Journey. From there he was led by Gabriel to each of Seven Heavens where he was met by Adam, John, Jesus, Enoch, Aaron, Moses, Abraham, and finally God (Dore Gold, *The Fight for Jerusalem*, 2007, p. 89). Muhammad allegedly received the commandment for daily prayer, initially 50 times a day, later reduced to five.

Muhammad died of a fever in 632 at age 63.

## **Islamic Beliefs**

Every Muslim accepts the Quran as the final revelation of God, superseding the Bible, believing that Muhammad is the final prophet, superseding Moses and Jesus.

The Quran consists of 114 suras, or chapters, arranged by length, from the shortest to the longest.

The Quran is filled with contradictions to the Bible. It says, for example, that Noah had a fourth son who died in the flood (Surah 11:42-43), that Abraham offered Ishmael rather than Isaac, and that Mary the mother of Jesus was the sister of Moses and gave birth to Jesus under a palm tree (Surah 19:28 and 19:21-27).

The Quran contains many fanciful things, such as a battle between Solomon's army of Jinn (spirit beings) and men, birds, and ants; a battle between vultures and elephants; Jews transformed into apes for breaking the sabbath; and God telling Moses to kill a cow and hit a dead man with it so he could revive, identify his killer, and die again.

The Quran contains no gospel of love and grace. There is no mention that Allah loves sinners and no commandment for men to love one another. According to the Quran, Allah only loves "the doers of good" (Sura 2:195; 5:13; 5:93). It specifically says that Allah does not love "him who is sinful" (4:107), "does not love the unbelievers" (30:45), and "does not love the unjust" (42:40). Allah commands his people not to show love to their enemies (Sura 60:1).

## **The Five Pillars of the Faith**

The Islamic "Five Pillars of the Faith" provide the foundation and framework of the Muslim faith. They are as follows:

1. Confessing with heart and lips the Shahada: “There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger.”

2. Saying five daily prayers while bowing in the direction of Mecca. The prayers are spoken at dawn, mid-day, late-afternoon, sunset, and nightfall, and consist of verses from the Quran in the Arabic language.

3. Fasting 28 consecutive days annually during the month of Ramadan. The fast consists of abstaining from food, drink, smoking, and sex during the hours of daylight only.

4. Giving a portion of one’s earnings. This consists of an annual payment of one-fortieth of one’s capital, plus private almsgiving.

5. Making a pilgrimage (*hajj*) to Mecca at least once in one’s lifetime.

## Sharia Law

Muslim Sharia (meaning “the right path”) law is based on two major sources: the Quran and the Sunnah.

The Sunnah, consisting of sayings by and examples from the life of Muhammad, is considered the best pattern for Muslim living. The Sunnah are contained in the *hadith* literature, which are the traditions collected after Muhammad’s death. The Sunnis and Shiites have different collections of hadith. For example, Shiites do not accept most of the hundreds of hadith attributed to Muhammad’s wife Aisha.

There are many different interpretations of Sharia law. There is a difference between Shiite and Sunni interpretations, plus there are four major and other minor schools of interpretation among Sunnis.

Sharia marital laws include the following:

A man can have as many as four wives.

“And if you be apprehensive that you will not be able to do justice to the orphans, you may marry two or three or four women whom you choose” (Sura 4:3).

Slave girls are the sexual property of their male owners.

“And forbidden to you are wedded wives of other people except those who have fallen in your hands (as prisoners of war)...” (Sura 4:24).

A male heir receives double the share of inheritance over the female.

“The share of the male shall be twice that of a female” (Sura 4:11).

A woman’s testimony counts half of a man’s testimony.

“And let two men from among you bear witness to all such documents [contracts of loans without interest]. But if two men be not available, there should be one man and two women to bear witness so that if one of the women forgets (anything), the other may remind her” (Sura 2:282).

Husbands may beat their wives.

“If you fear highhandedness from your wives, remind them [of the teaching of God], then ignore them when you go to bed, **then hit them**” (Sura 4:34).

Men may marry prepubescent girls.

“O Prophet, when you (and the believers) divorce women, divorce them for their prescribed waiting-period and count the waiting-period accurately . . . And if you are in doubt about those of your women who have despaired of menstruation, (you should know that) their waiting period is three months, and **the same applies to those who have not menstruated as yet**” (Sura 65:1, 4).

Sayyid Maududi, a famous Muslim legal authority, comments on this as follows:

“Therefore, making mention of the waiting-period for girls who have not yet menstruated, clearly proves that it is not only permissible to give away the girl at this age **but it is permissible for the husband to consummate marriage with her.** Now, obviously no Muslim has the right to forbid a thing which the Qur’an has held as permissible” (*The Meaning of the Qur’an*, vol. 5, p. 620, note 13).

Muhammad was betrothed to Aisha when she was six and consummated the union when she was nine.

After the Shiite revolution of Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran in 1979, the age of marriageability was lowered to nine years.

Other Sharia laws are the following:

Theft is punishable by the amputation of the right hand.

Criticizing Muhammad or the Quran is punishable by death.

A Muslim who leaves Islam is subject to death.

A non-Muslim who leads a Muslim away from Islam is subject to death.

A non-Muslim who marries a Muslim woman is subject to death.

Testimonies of four male witnesses are required to prove rape against a woman.

A woman who has been raped cannot testify in court against her rapist(s).

A woman cannot drive a car, as it leads to *fitnah* (upheaval).

A woman cannot speak alone to a man who is not her husband or relative.

Meat must come from animals that have been sacrificed to Allah (halal).

## Anti-Christian

The Islamic religion denies the doctrine of the Trinity, denies that Jesus is the Son of God, denies that Jesus died on the cross for man's sins, and denies that He rose from the dead.

Sixteen times the Quran says Allah is not a father and has no son.

Ascribed in Arabic on the wall of The Dome of the Rock Shrine on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem are the following statements:

“There is no God but Allah; He has no co-partner. The messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, is but a messenger of Allah and His word which he cast upon Mary and a spirit from Him. So believe only in Allah and of his messenger but do not say three (trinity) and it will be better for you. Allah is only one God; far be it from His glory that He should have a son. Verily the religion in Allah's sight is Islam.”

The Muslim religion has been anti-Christian since its inception.

“Several volumes would be required even to begin to recite the brutality of the Islamic conquests that provide an essential background to today's claims that ‘Islam is peace.’ ... In the foreword [to George Horton's book *The Blight of Asia*], James W. Gerard, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, describes it as **‘the whole story of the savage extermination of Christian civilization [by Muslims] throughout the length and breadth of the old Byzantine Empire...’** Horton himself writes, ‘This process of extermination was carried on over a considerable period of time, with fixed purpose, with system, and with painstaking minute details; and it was accomplished with unspeakable cruelties, causing the destruction of a greater number of human beings than have suffered in any similar persecution since the

coming of Christ” (Dave Hunt, *Judgment Day*, pp. 158, 159).

Gene Gurganus observes:

“Islam attacks Christianity with a vengeance. The crux of Christianity centers in the incarnation, the crucifixion, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Islam denies all three of these vital doctrines of the Christian faith. Not only that but they teach that our Holy Bible has been corrupted. The Trinity is abominable because God has no wife called Mary, and therefore Jesus Christ is not the Son of God. Christians are [considered] polytheists who believe in three gods. Although favoring Jesus with titles such as Word of God, Spirit of God, Messiah, etc., they believe he is only a prophet and a great man, but not the Son of God or Savior or Lord” (*Peril of Islam*, pp. 47, 48).

## **Islam and Judaism**

The Muslim religion has also been anti-Jew since its inception. According to the Islam, Abraham was asked to offer Ishmael rather than Isaac, and it is the Arabs, the descendants of Ishmael, who are the true sons of God, the Jews being usurpers.

When the Jews refused to join his cause in Medina, Muhammad eliminated them by slaughter and banishment, robbing them of their property and possessions.

Muhammad said, as recorded in the Sahih Al-Bukhari Hadith,

“The last day will not come until the Muslims confront the Jews and the Muslims destroy them. In that day Allah will give a voice to the rocks and the trees and they will cry out, ‘O Muslim, O Abdullah, there is yet a Jew hiding behind me. Come and kill him!’” (Dave Hunt, *Judgment Day*, p. 12).

Muslims believe that the Jews have no true claim to the Holy Land.

“There is not an Arab/Muslim map in the entire world that shows Israel. ... Arab leaders have declared repeatedly for more than fifty years, ‘The struggle with the Zionist enemy is not a struggle about Israel’s borders, but about Israel’s existence’ (*Judgment Day*, pp. 14, 15).

From a biblical perspective, it is obvious that Islam is simply another pagan religion in a fallen world filled with devilish lies.



# Islam's Goal

The objective of Islam is to conquer the world for Allah.

By the time of his death in AD 632, Muhammad had united most of the Arabian Peninsula under his religion and control, and his followers went much farther in achieving his objective.

Within 200 years, Islam had conquered territory stretching from China and India in the east, across Central Asia and the Middle East and northern Africa, to Spain, Portugal, and France in western Europe. Muslim armies conquered the Sassanid Empire (Persia, Mesopotamia, Assyria), the Byzantine Empire, and the Visigoth Empire, and created a Caliphate that covered more than five million square miles.

It was done by the edge of the sword and often accompanied by unspeakable cruelty.

“In 712, Muslim raiders under Muhammad Qasun began the invasion of India, demolishing temples and palaces and massacring entire cities. ... ‘The massacres perpetrated by Muslims in India are unparalleled in history, bigger in sheer numbers than the Holocaust...’ (Serge Trifkovic, *Sword of the Prophet*, 2002, p. 12). ... Muslim conquests, involving multiple massacres of literally millions, continued for more than thirteen hundred years” (Dave Hunt, *Judgment Day*, pp. 156, 157).

Spreading religion by the sword has been an integral part of the Islamic religion from its inception. The Quran says, “Make war upon those who believe not ... even if they be People of the Book [Christians and Jews]. Make war on them until idolatry is no more and Allah's religion reigns supreme” (Sura 2:193).

There are more than 100 verses in the Quran that command Muslims to spread Islam with the sword.

Today's Islamic fundamentalists who are waging violent *jihad* (holy war) are simply taking their religion seriously.

“Islamic scholars contend it goes against Islamic law to retreat from *jihad* and adopt peace unless the Islamic force is weak and the opponent is strong. After renewed preparation to wage *jihad*, the Muslims can reconvene the hostilities. According to Islamic law, *jihad* will never cease--it will last to the Day of Judgment” (Michael Evans, *Beyond Iraq*, p. 48).

According to Islam, the world is divided into the world of *Dar al-Harb* (the world of war or the non-Islamic people) and the *Dar al-Islam* (the world of peace or the Muslim world).

Therefore, peace, by Islamic definition, is Islamic control over any part of the world, and full peace will not be achieved until Islam rules the whole world.

“The presumption is that the duty of jihad will continue, interrupted only by truces, until all the world either adopts the Muslim faith or subjects to the Muslim rule” (Gene Gerganus, *Peril of Islam: Telling the Truth*, Taylors, SC: Truth Publishers, 2004, pp. 59, 60).

## **The Three Stages of Jihad**

Gene Gurganus, who was a missionary to Muslims for 17 years, shows that Muhammad's life and ministry was divided into two parts: the tolerant years in Mecca and the aggressive years in Medina.

In Mecca, Muhammad used teaching in an attempt to convert the people. During that period, he wrote prophecies along the lines of being at peace with non-Muslims and not forcing your religion upon others. For example, Surah 2:256 in the Quran says, “Let there be no compulsion in religion. Truth stands out clear from error.”

When that failed, he picked up the sword, and for the rest of his life he used the sword to force adherence to Islam. Many of the prophecies Muhammad gave during the latter

period contradict the earlier prophecies and demand war against unbelievers. Those who quote from Surah 2:256 and similar ones from Muhammad's early life ignore the fact that these were written before he picked up the sword and changed his policy, and they have been abrogated.

Gurganus explains that there are three stages of jihad (*Peril of Islam*, pp. 114-115).

First there is *the weakened stage*, which applies to Muslims living as a minority in a non-Muslim country. "At this stage, Muslims follow the word given to Muhammad in Mecca: 'There is no compulsion in religion' (Surah 2:256)."

Second, there is *the preparation stage*, which is reached when Muslims are a reasonably influential minority. At this stage they make preparations in every possible area--financial, physical, military, mental and any other. Surah 8:59-60 says, "Against them [non-Muslims] make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into (the hearts) of the enemies of Allah and your enemies, and others besides whom you may not know, but whom Allah knows."

The third stage is *the jihad stage*, which commences "when Muslims are a minority with strength, influence and power." At this stage "every Muslim's duty is to actively fight the enemy, overturning the system of the non-Muslim country and establishing Islamic authority."

"This stage is based on the final revelation Muhammad received concerning jihad, which is Surah 9:5 -- 'Fight and slay the Pagans wherever you find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem [of war].' Thus, Muslims are commanded to kill everyone who chooses not to convert to Islam. The verse says wherever you find them. There are no geographical limits" (*Peril of Islam*, p. 114).

## The Doctrine of Abrogation

Gene Gurganus explains the “doctrine of abrogation” in the Islamic religion. According to this doctrine, Allah causes some parts of the Quran to be abrogated or abolished by later commandments.

“The practice of this principle is that when there is a contradiction between two verses in the Quran, the newer revelation overrides the previous revelation. Then the new cancels the old. You can still read the words, ‘There is no compulsion in religion’ in the Quran, but they no longer have authority because Surah 2:193 says, ‘And fight with them until there is no persecution, and religion should be only for Allah, but if they desist, then there should be no hostility except against oppressors.’ So the ‘no compulsion in religion’ verse has been *mansookh* (canceled) by revelations that came later.

“Professor Gabriel helps us understand how Muslims interpret the Quran in this way: ‘This principle of abrogation is known in Arabic as *nasikh*. It means that Allah led Muhammad in a progressive revelation. Many copies of the Quran have a table that shows whether a surah is from Mecca or Medina in order to help readers know which is a newer revelation’” (*Peril of Islam*, p. 69).

## When Lies Are Justified

“Philosopher Ibn Taymiyah (1263-1328) wrote a book titled *The Sword on the Neck of the Accuser of Muhammad*. In it he described how Muslims should live when they are in the minority. ‘Believers when in a weakened stage in a non-Muslim country should forgive and be patient with People of the Book [Jews and Christians] when they insult Allah and his prophet by any means. Believers should lie to People of the Book to protect their lives and religion.’ ...

“There’s an Islamic proverb that says, ‘If you can’t cut your enemies’ hand, kiss it.’ When Muhammad was weak in

Mecca, he was a lamb. When he was strong in Medina, he was a lion. Muslims living in predominantly Muslim countries do not hesitate to oppress and persecute Christians and Jews. On the other hand, Muslims living in Christian nations or nations where the majority profess to be Christians are very good at presenting themselves as loving, caring, and forgiving people” (Gurganus, *Peril of Islam*, p. 107).

## Judgment on Apostate Christianity

As God raised up pagan nations to judge apostate Israel of old, so it would appear that God raised up Islam to judge apostate Christianity.

As the centuries passed after the days of the apostles, large numbers of churches turned from the simple New Testament faith to the heresies of sacramentalism (i.e., infant baptism and the mass), sacerdotalism (priestcraft), and the papacy. Christianity became the state religion of the Roman Empire under Constantine in the fourth century.

After the fall of the western portion of the empire, with its headquarters in Rome, the center of “Christendom” shifted east to Constantinople. The Byzantine Empire was “Christian,” but it was apostasy.

Byzantine heresies include salvation through baptism and the sacraments, infant baptism, priestcraft, a form of transubstantiation (*metousiosis*) in which the wafer of the mass becomes the actual body of Christ, Mary as the Mother of God, prayers for the dead, prayers to Mary, intercession of the “saints,” the canonicity of the Apocrypha, miracle-working icons, and holy relics, among others.

Islam conquered the Christian Byzantine Empire and part of Christian Europe, which was largely Roman Catholic.

The entire region which was first evangelized and where the apostolic churches existed became apostate and was conquered by the Muslims.

They destroyed countless church buildings and turned others into mosques.

An example is the Hagia Sophia (“Holy Wisdom”) in Constantinople. From its original construction in AD 360 by Emperor Constantius, son of Constantine, it was the *cathedra* or bishop’s seat of the eastern branch of the Roman Catholic Church. Originally called Megale Ekklesia (“Great Church”),

its name was changed in about AD 430. The current building was constructed in 537 by Emperor Justinian I. After the separation of the Greek Orthodox Church from Rome in 1054, Hagia Sophia was the chief cathedra of Greek Orthodoxy. After the Muslims conquered Constantinople in 1453, it was desecrated and made into a mosque.

Islamic terrorism is a further judgment upon apostate Christianity in our day.

Many of the nations that are targeted by Islam are nations that are historically and nominally “Christian”: America, England, and Europe. The more advanced the apostasy in a particular region, the more success Islam has had. The countries in Europe where Islam has made its greatest inroads are the countries where “Christianity” is most polluted.

Of the 24 million Muslims in Europe, there are two million in Roman Catholic France and more than a million in Germany, with its apostate Lutheran Church. German Lutheranism was the mother of damnable theological modernism in the 19th century.

“Serge Trifvovic gives startling statistics as to present developments and future Islamic goals: ‘In 30 years, the Muslim population of Great Britain rose from 82,000 to two million. In Germany, there are four million Muslims, mostly Turks, and over five million in France, mostly North Africans. ... Almost a tenth of all babies born in EU countries are Muslims, and in the moribund Brussels, the figure was over 50 percent. With the expanding numbers and the creation of distinctly Muslim neighborhoods in Western, primarily European cities, the initial detachment of culture from territory has been reversed, and **the bold notion of conquest by demographic rather than military means entered the activist’s minds. The blueprint was developed over two decades ago, in 1981, when the Third Islamic Summit Conference of Kaaba adopted the Mecca Declaration.** It stated as follows: ‘We have resolved to conduct jihad with all the means at our disposal so as to free our

territory from occupation. [The whole world is their territory.] We declare that the oppression suffered by Muslim minorities and communities in many countries is a flagrant offense against the rights and dignity of man. We appeal to all states in which there are Islamic minorities to allow them full liberty. We are convinced of the need to propagate the precepts of Islam and its cultural influence in Muslim societies and throughout the world” (Gene Gurganus, *Peril of Islam*, pp. 53, 54).

There are “no go” zones in France, Germany, Britain, and other parts of Europe, where Muslims are in such complete control that the police don’t typically intervene and Sharia law is in force rather than national and local law.

In France they are called *zones urbaines sensibles* (sensitive urban zones), or ZUS.

The following is excerpted from a report published by the Gatestone Institute in 2011:

“Many of the ‘no-go’ zones function as microstates governed by Islamic Sharia law. Host-country authorities effectively have lost control in these areas and in many instances are unable to provide even basic public aid such as police, fire fighting and ambulance services.

“The ‘no-go’ areas are the by-product of decades of multicultural policies that have encouraged Muslim immigrants to create parallel societies and remain segregated rather than become integrated into their European host nations. ...

“In the Tower Hamlets area of East London (also known as the Islamic Republic of Tower Hamlets), for example, extremist Muslim preachers, called the Tower Hamlets Taliban, regularly issue death threats to women who refuse to wear Islamic veils. Neighborhood streets have been plastered with posters declaring ‘You are entering a Sharia controlled zone: Islamic rules enforced.’ And



street advertising deemed offensive to Muslims is regularly vandalized or blacked out with spray paint.

“In the Bury Park area of Luton, Muslims have been accused of ‘ethnic cleansing’ by harassing non-Muslims to the point that many of them move out of Muslim neighborhoods. In the West Midlands, two Christian preachers have been accused of ‘hate crimes’ for handing out gospel leaflets in a predominantly Muslim area of Birmingham. In Leytonstone in east London, the Muslim extremist Abu Izzadeen heckled the former Home Secretary John Reid by saying: ‘How dare you come to a Muslim area.’

“In France, large swaths of Muslim neighborhoods are now considered ‘no-go’ zones by French police. At last count, there are 751 Sensitive Urban Zones (Zones Urbaines Sensibles, ZUS), as they are euphemistically called. A complete list of the ZUS can be found on a French government website, complete with satellite maps and precise street demarcations. An estimated 5 million Muslims live in the ZUS, parts of France over which the French state has lost control. ...

“In the Belgian capital of Brussels (which is 20% Muslim), several immigrant neighborhoods have become ‘no-go’ zones for police officers, who frequently are pelted with rocks by Muslim youth. In the Kuregem district of Brussels, which often resembles an urban war zone, police are forced to patrol the area with two police cars: one car to carry out the patrols and another car to prevent the first car from being attacked. ...

“In Germany, Chief Police Commissioner Bernhard Witthaut, in an August 1 interview with the newspaper *Der Westen*, revealed that Muslim immigrants are imposing ‘no-go’ zones in cities across Germany at an alarming rate. ...

“In the Netherlands, a Dutch court ordered the government to release to the public a politically incorrect list of 40 ‘no-go’ zones in Holland. ...

“In Sweden, which has some of the most liberal immigration laws in Europe, large swaths of the southern city of Malmö – which is more than 25% Muslim--are ‘no-go’ zones for non-Muslims. Fire and emergency workers, for example, refuse to enter Malmö’s mostly Muslim Rosengård district without police escorts. ...

“In the Swedish city of Gothenburg, Muslim youth have been hurling petrol bombs at police cars. In the city’s Angered district more than 15 police cars have been destroyed ...

“In Gothenburg’s Backa district, youth have been throwing stones at patrolling officers. Gothenburg police have also been struggling to deal with the problem of Muslim teenagers burning cars and attacking emergency services in several areas of the city” (“European ‘No-Go’ Zones for Non-Muslims Proliferating,” Gatestone Institute, Aug. 22, 2011).

In 2015, a Jewish journalist video recorded anti-Semitic hate on Paris streets. The following is excerpted from “Ten Hours of Fear and Loathing in Paris,” NRG.co.il, Feb. 17, 2015:

“Welcome to Paris 2015, where soldiers are walking every street that houses a Jewish institution, and where keffiyeh-wearing men and veiled women speak Arabic on every street corner. ... In modern-day Paris, you see, Jews are barred from entering certain areas. ...

“For 10 hours I quietly walked down the streets and suburbs of Paris, with photographer Dov Belhassen documenting the day using a GoPro camera hidden in his backpack. Given the tensions in Paris, which is still reeling from a wave of terrorist attacks (including the murder of *Charlie Hebdo* magazine journalists), I was assigned a bodyguard. ...

“Areas known as tourist attractions were relatively calm, but the further from them we walked, the more anxious

I became over the hateful stares, the belligerent remarks, and the hostile body language. At times it was like walking in downtown Ramallah. Most women were wearing a veil or a hijab, most men appeared to be Muslim, and Arabic was prevalent everywhere.

“We decided ahead of time that I was to walk through these areas quietly, without stopping anywhere, without speaking to anyone, without so much as looking sideways. My heart was pounding and negative thoughts were running through my head. I would be lying if I said I was not afraid.

“Walking into a public housing neighborhood, we came across a little boy and his hijab-clad mother, who were clearly shocked to see us. ‘What is he doing here Mommy? Doesn’t he know he will be killed?’ the boy asked. ... Over at a nearby street I was lambasted with expletives ... At a nearby cafe, fingers were pointed at us, and moments later two thugs were waiting for us on the street corner. They swore at me, yelled ‘Jew,’ and spat at me. ... Two youths were waiting for us on the next street corner, as they had apparently heard that a Jew was walking around their neighborhood. They made it clear to us that we had better get out of there, and we took their advice. ‘A few more minutes and this would have been a lynching,’ the bodyguard told me as we were getting into the car. ‘Leave this area right now.’”

There are 80 million Muslims in Russia where the apostate Russian Orthodox Church reigns.

Consider England, with its apostate Anglican Church. In 1953, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the highest office in the Church of England, said that “there is no such thing as revealed truth” (William Temple, *Nature and God*). In 1961, Archbishop Michael Ramsey said that “heaven is not a place for Christians only” (*London Daily Mail*, Oct. 2, 1961). In 1982, Archbishop Robert Runcie said he was an agnostic as to why Jesus suffered on the cross (*Sunday Times Weekly Review*, London, April 11, 1982). In 1984, David Jenkins, Anglican

Bishop of Durham, described Christ's resurrection as "a conjuring trick with bones" (*St. Louis Post Dispatch*, Oct. 28, 1984). That same year, the Associated Press reported that only 20 of 31 Church of England bishops polled insisted that Christians must accept Jesus as God. In July 31, 1994, the *Sunday Times* reported that at least 100 Anglican priests were atheists.

Is it any surprise that England is being overrun with Muslims? Between 2001 and 2011, the Muslim population doubled from 1.5 million to 2.7 million, or almost five percent of the population. Three million people live in households where no adult speaks English as their primary language. In London, "white British" are now a minority.

And a large percentage of these are not so-called "moderate" Muslims.

"In 2013, Ruud Koopmans published the results of a pan-European study, based on interviews with 9,000 European Muslims, which showed large numbers of European Muslims believe in many of the ideas championed by the Islamic State: a return to the roots of Islam, the conviction that religious (Quranic) law stands above all secular laws; a hatred of Jews and homosexuals; and a view of the West as the enemy of Islam. ...

"More recently, in the aftermath of the *Charlie Hebdo* massacre, the BBC surveyed 1,000 British Muslims, and found that 24 percent consider 'violence against those who publish images of the Prophet' is justified. Asked whether 'Muslim clerics preaching that violence against the West can be justified are out of touch with mainstream Muslim opinion,' 45 percent disagreed. Put another way, **nearly half of British Muslims stand comfortably by those clerics who justify violence against the West.** ...

"And that's just in the U.K. Sadly, one can no longer pass these views off as those of a 'small minority' of Europe's

Muslims. Across Western Europe, Koopmans' study determined, 'Two thirds of the Muslims interviewed say that religious rules are more important to them than the laws of the country in which they live. Three quarters of the respondents hold the opinion that there is only one legitimate interpretation of the Quran.' ...

"Moreover, 56 percent of Belgian and 64 percent of Austrian Muslims responding to Koopmans' survey in 2008 agreed that 'Jews cannot be trusted,' and indications are strong that Muslim attitudes towards Jews have only worsened. Indeed, with the targeted killings of Jews in Brussels, Paris, and Copenhagen over the past year, Muslim hate towards Jews in Europe has now reached a crisis.

"Clearly, we are watching trends that stretch across all of Europe. **The issue here is one of trends, and these trends, which involve hundreds of thousands of radical, fundamentalist Muslims, paint a deeply disturbing picture**" ("Radicalization of Europe's Muslims Hits a Crisis Point," Breitbart.com, Mar. 23, 2015).

We are convinced that these Islamic inroads into "Christian" countries is a judgment on apostasy.

# A Judgment on Apostate Israel

Though Israel is back in her own land after 2,000 years and has achieved statehood, she is still under God's judgment.

The prophet Ezekiel foresaw the return of Israel in two stages.

“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, and caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

“So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

“Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD” (Ezekiel 37:1-14).

In this prophecy, Israel is described as a valley of dry bones. Verse 11 gives the interpretation: “these bones are the whole house of Israel.”

This was Israel’s condition for the past 2,000 years. She was scattered to the ends of the earth, and it appeared that she was dead and finished.

Ezekiel is told that Israel will be restored in two stages.

First, she will be brought back to the land but in a spiritually dead condition. Verse 8 says that when the dead bones were first raised “there was no breath in them.”

Then, she will be given spiritual life. Verse 10 says “the breath came into them, and they lived.”

We are observing the first stage today.

At midnight on May 14, 1948, the new state of Israel was announced. The official declaration said:

“We hereby proclaim the establishment of the Jewish State in Palestine, to be called *Medinath Yisrael* (The State of Israel). ... The State of Israel will be open to the immigration of Jews from all countries of their dispersion ... Our call goes out to the Jewish people all over the world to rally to our side in the task of immigration and development and to stand by us in the great struggle for the fulfillment of the dream of generations for the redemption of Israel. With trust in Almighty God, we set our hand to this Declaration, at this Session of the Provisional State Council, on the soil

of the Homeland, in the city of Tel Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the fifth of Iyar, 5708, the fourteenth of May, 1948.”

Eleven minutes later U.S. President Harry Truman, a Baptist who believed Bible prophecy, announced his recognition of Israel.

Truman’s decision was hard fought. He was strongly opposed by the U.S. State Department, which favored a United Nations trusteeship over Palestine. The State Department took a pragmatic view, seeing the need for the free flow of oil from Muslim nations in the face of the very real possibility of war with Russia. They did not want to offend the Muslims for the sake of a “few Jews.”

James Forrestal, Truman’s secretary of defense, warned that recognition of Israel would be in vain because the Arabs would “push the Jews into the sea” (David McCullough, *Truman*, p. 602).

Truman withstood this pressure because of his biblical convictions. We don’t know how much he read the Bible in his adult years, but it is said that he read it through three times before age fourteen.

Clark Clifford, who was special counsel to Truman, said that the president “was a student and believer in the Bible since his youth” and that “from his reading of the Old Testament he felt the Jews derived a legitimate historical right to Palestine, and he sometimes cited such biblical lines as Deuteronomy 1:8: ‘Behold, I have given up the land before you; go in and take possession of the land which the Lord hath sworn unto your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob’” (“President Truman’s Decision to Recognize Israel,” Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, May 1, 2008).

*Time* magazine said there was immense approval for Israel’s recognition among Americans. Popular radio commentator Lowell Thomas commented in his evening broadcast that “Americans in every part of the country will be



turning to the Bible for some historical background on this day in history” (*Truman*, p. 619).

The Jews celebrated throughout the world. Thanksgiving services were held in synagogues everywhere.

It was a most dramatic fulfillment of Ezekiel 37.

Israel has been able to hold on to her statehood in the face of the unrelenting animosity of her Muslim neighbors and world opinion, and there is no doubt that it is God who has brought this to pass.

Yet it must not be forgotten that Israel is still under the judgment of God for her unbelief and disobedience to His law.

Israel is still spiritually dead, just as Ezekiel prophesied.

The signs are all too evident.

Israel’s spiritual blindness is evident in her stubborn rejection of her own Messiah in spite of the fact that Jesus fulfilled every sign of Messianic prophecy.

Israel’s spiritual death is evident in that a large percentage of Jews today are “secular,” meaning they care little or nothing about the Old Testament Scripture. Many of Israel’s most revered modern heroes were agnostics, including Theodor Herzl, David ben Gurion, Golda Meir, and Moshe Dayan.

Israel’s spiritual death is evident in that she has exalted rabbinic tradition to an authority above God’s Word.

Finally, Israel’s spiritual blindness is evident in her confusion about Bible prophecy. Though she has a vague idea that prophecy is being fulfilled, the true meaning of the prophecies remains a closed book.

Israel is still under God’s judgment and still under the judgment of Deuteronomy 28.

“But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee” (Deut. 28:15).

“And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee” (Deut. 28:37).

“And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God” (Deut. 28:62).

“And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind” (Deut. 28:64-65).

The fact that Israel is still in constant danger even in her own land, and the fact that Jews are unwelcome in major parts of the Middle East, and the fact that Jews have been attacked and slaughtered in places as far-flung as India and Africa, and the fact that Jews live in fear in many parts of Europe, is a continual fulfillment of this ancient prophecy.

And since it is Islam more than any other entity that is behind Israel’s trouble today, it is obvious that Islam is God’s instrument toward this end.

Islam is definitely a fulfillment of Bible prophecy!

Until Israel repents of her unbelief and disobedience, she will remain under the heel of the Gentile nations and in constant danger from her enemies.

# Islam's Fundamental Weakness

Islam has a fundamental weakness, which is its internecine hatred and division.

“And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand” (Matthew 12:25).

From its inception, Islam has been a house divided, and the divisions are countless. Muslim history reminds us of a Middle East rendition of the Hatfields and the McCoys on steroids.

It cannot be denied that Muslims are world-class haters.

Multitudes of Muslim leaders have been murdered by their fellow Muslims, beginning with many of the first caliphs.

There is division of tribe against tribe, such as among Muslim Tajiks, Muslim Pushtans, Muslim Hazaras, and Muslim Uzbeks of Afghanistan.

There are divisions between Arabs and Arabs, Arabs and Persians, and Arabs and Turks that go back for centuries.

There is ethnic group against ethnic group such as the ancient divisions along Persian and Assyrian lines and the hatred of the Kurds by other groups of Muslims. Kurds have been murdered and relocated *by the millions* by their fellow Muslims in Turkey, Armenia, Iraq, and Syria. Most Kurds are Sunni Muslim, though they have their own language and culture.

There are strong national divisions, especially since the 19th century, such as the divisions of the Arabs into the nation states of Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, etc.

## A Prophecy of Ishmael's Character

In fact, the violent character of the Arab nations was described in the ancient prophecy to Ishmael's mother:

“And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou *art* with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. And he will be a wild man; his hand *will be* against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren” (Gen. 16:10-12).

Every aspect of this amazing prophecy has been fulfilled physically in Ishmael's Arab descendants and spiritually in the Muslims, his spiritual descendants.

First, he would be a wild, fierce, bold, violent, untamable man, like a wild ass.

Second, he would be quarrelsome, hateful, plundering, always at war.

Third, he would dwell in the presence of all his brethren. This might mean that his descendants will remain in that same region. It might refer to the social, communal spirit of the Arabians. It might mean that Ishmael's descendants will continue to dwell in the presence of, and be thorns in the side of, their brethren the sons of Isaac. It might mean that Ishmael's descendants will hold their ground in the face of many enemies and continue to dwell in their midst. They have neither been tamed nor destroyed.

Fourth, his offspring would be a great multitude.

“History has proven this prophecy to be true, the Arabs are the independent, fierce, unbroken survivors that the Angel said they would be. They have also multiplied into a great nation, there are hundreds of millions of Arabs, there are 22 Arab nations in the Middle East and North

Africa, and through Islam, Arab culture is predominant in 57 nations of the world.

“But also true is the Muslim/Arab inability to live in peace. Contrary to contemporary ‘wisdom’ **there is no place on earth where Islam has ever wrought any kind of peace, other than the peace of the dead!** When the Arabs are not at war with the rest of the world, they are fighting among themselves. Arab against Arab, and Muslim against Muslim is the rule and not the exception.

“And the Muslim/Arabs have a fierce, unyielding hatred for their younger brother Jacob (i.e., Israel). Not all Arabs are the physical descendants of Ishmael, but through Islam they are in spiritual affinity with Ishmael’s disenfranchisement from Abraham in favor of the second son of Abraham, Isaac, the child of God’s promise. Islam nurtures the original grievance of Ishmael and Hagar, his equally disenfranchised mother. The Scripture calls this hatred, ‘the perpetual hatred’ (Ezek. 35:5) and predicts that this hatred of Ishmael for Isaac, Esau for Jacob, will be the catalyst for the final judgments to come down upon the whole world (Ezekiel 35:2-15)” (Bill Randles, *A Sword on the Land: The Muslim World in Biblical Prophecy*).

## Sunnis vs. Shiites

The major division within Islam is that between the Sunnis and the Shiites, though this major divide is broken into many smaller schisms.

The Sunni-Shiite division resulted from the struggle over the successor to Muhammad as the caliph of all Muslims, and it has bloody consequences to our day. The early Muslim civil wars were exacerbated by Muhammad’s polygamy and the multiplicity of children by various wives.

The Shiites (Shia) trace their lineage to Muhammad’s cousin and son-in-law Ali Ibn Abi Talib, who was married to

Muhammad's favorite daughter Fatimah by his wife Khadijah. (The name "Shiite" is from "Shiat-u-Ali" or the party of Ali.)

The Sunnis trace their lineage to Abu Bakr, the father of Muhammad's favorite wife Aisha.

After Muhammad's death in 632, Bakr became the first caliph. He died two years later, possibly by poisoning.

Umar (Omar) ibn al-Khattab, another of Muhammad's fathers-in-law, became the second Islamic caliph. He was assassinated in 644 by Muslims.

Uthman ibn Affan, one of Muhammad's sons-in-law, was the third caliph. (Uthman was married to two of Muhammad's daughters at separate times.) He was assassinated in 656 by Muslims.

Ali Ibn Abi Talib was then appointed to head the caliphate.

Ali was opposed by Muhammad's third wife Aisha, who held deep resentment toward him because he believed that she had been unfaithful to Muhammad at age 13 and had advised Muhammad to divorce her.

In 656, the 45-year-old Aisha led an army of thousands against the forces allied with Ali at the Battle of the Camel, in Basra, Iraq, but she lost the battle. It is estimated that from ten to eighteen thousand Muslims died. Her life was spared, and she retired to Medina, where she lived until 678. This is called the Battle of the Camel because Aisha was riding a rare, exceptionally large camel named al-Askar that had cost 200 gold coins, and the battle ended when the camel was killed.

This was the initial fracture of Islam into Shiite and Sunni.

Shiites consider the caliphates of Bakr, Umar, and Uthman illegitimate, whereas Sunnis revere all of them, calling them the *Companions of the Prophet*. Shiites do not respect Aisha, whereas Sunnis revere her.

Shiites revere their Imams, building grand monuments to their memories, and this has been considered blasphemous to Sunnis.

In 661, Ali was assassinated by Muslims, and the caliphate was taken by Muawiyah ibn Abu Sufyan, the first caliph who was not related to Muhammad.

When Muawiyah died in 680, he appointed his son Yazid as caliph. Ali's son Husayn ibn Ali challenged this succession with a desire to return the caliphate to what he considered the rightful heirs, but he was killed and beheaded by his fellow Muslims at the Battle of Karbala.

This is marked as the event that permanently separated Shiites and Sunnis. Shiites consider Husayn a martyr and remember his death with an annual commemoration called *Ashurah*.

“Perhaps even more importantly, the Shia and Sunni traditions disagree strongly on two related matters: the question of divinity in the succession from Muhammad and the role of the clergy in the practice of Islam. While the Sunni believe that all humans, past and present, have had the same relationship to God, the Shia hold that Ali and the eleven leaders of the Shia faith who followed him--the twelve Imams--were divinely inspired and infallible in their judgements. The Twelfth Imam is believed not to have died, but to have passed into ‘occultation,’ to return someday as the ‘Mahdi’ or guided one, to lead a perfected Islamic society.

“Most Shia--including the large Iranian Shia population--recognize the twelve Imams, and are thus referred to as ‘Twelvers’ (minority branches of the Shia traditions only recognize the line up to the Fifth or Seventh Imams). The Imams are treated as saints, and their tombs have become pilgrimage sites. Given the messianic belief in the return of the Twelfth Imam, a hierarchical organization of clerics ... grew up to manage Islam until his return; these clerics are themselves understood to hold an elevated spiritual status.

“This is in distinct opposition to the Sunni tradition, in which the ‘ulema’ (clerics) function simply as prayer

leaders and legal interpreters, recognized only for their learning and expertise in jurisprudence. Furthermore, the Sunni strictly oppose the “saintly” role the Imams play in Shia faith, since in Sunni interpretation this is equivalent to the elevation of humans to godly status, and thus forbidden” (“Redlines and Deadlines,” PBS.org, Sept. 23, 2004.

Both Sunnis and Shiites accept the Quran as God’s Word and hold to the Five Pillars of Islam, but one way to distinguish between them is in their prayer rituals. Sunnis put their hands on their stomachs, while Shiites put their hands at their sides.

Sunnis consider themselves the traditional Muslims. The name “Sunni” comes from “Ahl al-Sunna” which means “the people of the tradition.” Typically they have practiced the strictest form of Islamic or Sharia law.

Shiites and Sunnis have been killing one another for more than 1,300 years.

“Within a very few years after Muhammad’s murder, more than one hundred thousand Muslims had been killed in battle or were likewise murdered by fellow Muslims. Muhammad’s closest companions and staunchest disciples (some of whom he had praised as perfect Muslims and to whom he had promised Paradise without martyrdom) fought each other for his wealth and power” (Dave Hunt, *Judgment Day*, p. 154).

“Tension and violence characterize the relationship between the two sects in countries where both communities reside” (“Sunni and Shiite Terrorist Networks,” Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, Dec. 18, 2002).

In the thirteenth century, Ibn Taymiyyah, founder of Salafism, excommunicated the Shiites and called for their destruction as apostates.



“Ibn Taymiyyah--the godfather of Salafism--was invoked for his commandment, ‘Beware of the Shiites, fight them, they lie.’ ... [By Taymiyyah’s rule] a Muslim has to abide by three criteria of *tawhid*, or monotheism: to worship God, to worship only God, and to have the right creed. In the medieval period, Ibn Taymiyyah used the foregoing criteria of *tawhid* to excommunicate the Shia and Sufis after he established that their practices and beliefs--including the veneration of imams--compromised their worship of God alone” (Michael Weiss and Hassan Hassan, *ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror*).

Sunnis make up 85-90% of Muslims today, including the majority in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Pakistan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, India, China, Tunisia, Gaza, Turkey, and Lebanon.

Shiites form a majority in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Bahrain, Azerbaijan, and possibly Yemen. While Pakistan has a Sunni majority, it also has the second largest number of Shiites, after Iran. India also has a massive number of Shiite Muslims, though they form the minority overall.

Even though Shiites make up only 10-15 percent of the total Muslim population, they still number somewhere between 165 and 190 million people.

Sunnis push the harshest form of Sharia law and have birthed the most infamous of the modern terrorist groups, including Al Qaeda, the Taliban, the Islamic State (ISIS or ISIL), the Muslim Brotherhood, Salafists, Boko Haram in Nigeria, Hamas, the Moro National Liberation Front and Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines, Jemaah Islamiyah and Laskar Jihad (responsible for the Bali bombings in 2002) in Indonesia, the BRN-Coordinate in Thailand, Al Shabaab in Somalia (responsible for the murder of 147 students, mostly targeted Christians, at a university in Garissa, Kenya, April 2, 2015), Kampulan Mujahidin in Malaysia, and the Chechnyan terrorists.

In 2011, Sunnis committed 70% of terrorist murders (“Report on Terrorism,” National Counterterrorism Center, March 12, 2012).

This is not to say that no Shiite Muslims are terrorists. Hezbollah is Shiite, and Shiite Iran is a terrorist state that threatens Israel’s existence, is near to possessing the nuclear bomb, and aspires to creating a Shiite caliphate.

Sunni-Shiite infighting explains many aspects of what is happening in the world today.

The greatest focus of violent, revolutionary, jihadist Muslims today is toward fellow Muslims.

“The betrayal and murder of Muslims at the hands of their fellows continues to this day. Scarcely a Muslim regime is not ruled by a dictator who seized power from other Muslims, as in Syria and Iraq” (Hunt, *Judgment Day*, p. 156).

This explains the situation in **IRAN AND IRAQ**.

The Iranian revolution of 1979 created a Shiite theocracy in a large, oil-rich nation with the agenda of establishing a Shiite caliphate across the Middle East, and Iran still has this agenda.

The Iran-Iraq war of 1980-88 had a major Sunni-Shiite element, though there were other factors (such as ancient Persian-Arab animosity and longstanding conflicts over territorial and water rights). The Sunni Saddam Hussein, leader of Iraq, ruling over a Shiite majority, attacked Iran soon after the Shiite religious revolution. With good cause, he feared that the revolution would be joined by his own Shiite citizens. Iran had long supported organizations opposed to Hussein’s Baath party, and Iran’s new leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, was trying to foment revolution in Iraq and other Arab states. Shiite terrorism was believed to be responsible for the deaths of 20 Iraqi government officials in 1980 alone (“Sunni-Shia Tensions in the Iran-Iraq War,” E-International Relations Students, Apr. 21, 2012).

When Shiites and Kurds rose against Hussein, he slaughtered them by the tens of thousands.

Nouri Al-Maliki, who has been Iraq's Prime Minister since 2006, is a Shiite ruling a Sunni minority. When America pulled out its troops in 2011, Maliki began rooting Sunnis out of top positions in the government and overlooking the torture and murder of Sunnis by Shiite militia.

“Iraq has a Shia-majority population, a Shia-led government under Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, and an embattled Sunni minority, which dominated the country for centuries, from the Ottoman Empire until the U.S. invasion deposed Saddam Hussein in 2003. ... “The prime minister, a Shiite, has failed abysmally in creating a formula to share power with the Sunnis, the traditional political masters in Iraq” (Joe Mintz, “How the Sunni-Shiite Conflict Frames the Current Crisis in Iraq,” *International Business Times*, June 17, 2014).

“[Former Deputy Prime Minister Rafi al-Issawi] listed the Sunni grievances that had simmered until they had finally boiled over. Maliki had detained thousands of Sunnis without trial, pushed leading Sunnis out of the political process by accusing them of terrorism, and reneged on payments and pledges to the Awakening members who had bravely fought al-Qaida in Iraq--its leaders were dead, fled, or in jail. The request by provincial councils in Salah al-Din, Diyala, and Mosul to hold a vote on the formation of regions--in accordance with the Constitution--was prevented by force. Peaceful, yearlong Sunni protests demanding an end to discrimination were met by violence, with dozens of unarmed protesters killed by Iraqi security forces. Maliki had completely subverted the judiciary to his will, so that Sunnis felt unable to achieve any form of justice” (“How Obama Abandoned Iraq,” *Business Insider*, Apr. 17, 2015).

The Islamic State (ISIL), which has conquered a large part of Iraqi territory, has the objective of establishing a Sunni

Muslim caliphate and has declared that Shiite Muslims deserve death. ISIL appeals to Iraqi Sunnis who resent the way they have been treated by the Shiites and desire to regain their power base (“ISIL terrorists raises flag at Turkish border,” AhlulBayt News Agency, Jul. 1, 2014).

“Maliki’s new lease on life led him to steer Baghdad ‘toward a very pro-Iranian and sectarian agenda, which inevitably disillusioned and disenfranchised Sunni Arabs for a second time.’ The rise and resilience of the Islamic State, which rampaged across northern Iraq from neighboring Syria last summer, is partly a manifestation of this Sunni discontent” (“A former top adviser destroyed Obama’s Iraq policy in one sentence,” *Business Insider*, Apr. 14, 2015).

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, founder of al-Qaeda in Iraq, the predecessor to ISIL, has been hailed as the descendant of Ibn Taymiyyah, founder of Salafism. Al-Zarqawi called the Shiites “the lurking snake, the crafty and malicious scorpion, the spying enemy, and the penetrating venom” (Michael Weiss and Hassan Hassan, *ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror*, p. 28). Al-Zarqawi’s brutality, especially his love for “head lopping,” earned him the title “Sheikh of the Slaughterers” from his admiring fellow terrorists.

The Islamic State (ISIL) is simply the latest incarnation of Sunni anti-Shiite terrorism in Iraq.

“The United States has been at war with ISIS for the better part of a decade under its various incarnations, first as al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), then, then Mujahidin Advisory Council, and then the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI). ... If ever there was a familiar foe, ISIS was it” (*ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror*).

Iran is fighting against the Islamic State in Iraq by assisting Shiite militia groups, but it has its own agenda of conquering Iraq for a Shiite caliphate.

“In the contest for regional dominance with the Sunni kingdom of Saudi Arabia, **Iran’s Shiites have extended their reach and created what has been called an ‘arc of power’ or a Shia crescent.** The Iranian sphere of power now stretches across **Iraq**, where Iran has joined in the fighting to beat back ISIS, to **Syria**, where the government in Tehran has worked to keep President Bashar al-Assad in power throughout the country’s four-year civil war. It stretches to **Lebanon**, where the Iranian-backed Hezbollah is the unquestioned power and is pushing to enter the political mainstream. And it has spread to **Yemen**, where Houthi rebels, a Zaidi Shia group, recently took control of the government. ... While Syria was a former ally of Iran, today, it is more or less its proxy. Hezbollah has similarly shifted from a Shiite force supported by Tehran into Iran’s surrogate” (“Iran is creating an ‘arc of power,” *Business Insider*, Mar. 18, 2015).

In Iraq, the Islamic State is killing Shiites (*and* Sunnis), while Shiite militias are killing Sunnis (*and* Shiites):

“According to Human Rights Watch, Iraqi security forces and volunteer fighters ransacked and burned down homes of civilian Sunni Muslims after they liberated the town of Amerli from the Islamic State. The report states that the militias destroyed at least two entire villages. ... ‘Iraq clearly faces serious threats in conflict with ISIS, but the abuses committed by forces fighting ISIS are so rampant and egregious that they are threatening Iraq long term,’ Joe Stork, HRW’s deputy Middle East and North Africa director told *The Independent*” (“ISIS blows up 10 Christian Families’ Homes,” *The Christian Post*, Mar. 26, 2015).

In **SAUDI ARABIA**, Sunnis are in power in the form of the Saudi royal family.

“Most Shia holy places in the kingdom have been destroyed. A particularly rabid brand of local Sunni fundamentalism entwined with the state, known as

Wahhabism, places severe restrictions on Shia practices, with some leaders being jailed” (“How the Sunni-Shiite Conflict Frames the Current Crisis in Iraq,” *International Business Times*, June 17, 2014).

Saudi Arabia has exported its Wahhabism by building mosques and schools and providing support for terrorists in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Most of the hijackers who attacked the World Trade Center were from Saudi Arabia, though the royal family denounced the act publicly.

Currently, Saudi Arabia is bombing the Shiite Houthi forces in Yemen (“US Worried about Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guard training Houthi rebels,” *Business Insider*, Mar. 28, 2015).

In **AFGHANISTAN**, the Sunni Taliban received the greatest support from Sunnis in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, and from Sunni Al Qaeda. The Taliban have often attacked Shiite places of worship.

In **NIGERIA**, Boko Haram, a Sunni organization that has vowed allegiance to the Islamic State, has targeted Shiite Muslims as well as Christians (“Suicide bomber kills 20 Shia Muslims in Nigeria,” *The Telegraph*, Nov. 3, 2014). Boko Haram (meaning “Western education is a sin”) killed 10,000 people in 2014. It has destroyed hundreds of churches “in a sweeping religious cleansing campaign” (“A New Arc of Evil: The Boko Haram/ISIS Merger,” *Breitbart.com*, Mar. 27, 2015). It has displaced over 2 million people and expanded operations into neighboring Chad, Cameroon, and Niger.

In **SYRIA**, Sunni forces are trying to overthrow the Shiite majority government of Bashar al-Assad. He is supported by Shiite Iran. *But as in Iraq and elsewhere, the diverse Sunni jihadist groups are as much at one another’s throats as at the Shiite throats.*

In **EGYPT**, the vast majority of people are Sunni, and the Shiite 10% minority has been persecuted to various degrees under various governments. Egypt was ruled by a Shiite

caliphate (the Fatimid) from 909 to 1171, but this was overturned by the Sunni Abbasid caliphate. The Salafist sect views Shiite Islam as heresy and wants to destroy it. The Salafists were supported by Mohamed Morsi, who was in power from June 2012 to July 2013, and represented the Muslim Brotherhood. At a rally in Cairo in June 2013 at which Morsi was present, Salafi clerics described Shiites as “filthy” and called them “nonbelievers who must be killed” (“Egypt’s Shiite Muslims Saw the Sunni Hatred Grow under Morsi,” *Los Angeles Times*, Aug. 10, 2013). Morsi reportedly said that “the Shia are more dangerous to Islam than the Jews” (“Egypt’s Shiite Minority: Between the Egyptian Hammer and the Iranian Anvil,” Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, No. 591, Sept.-Oct. 2012).

We also see the Sunni-Shiite struggle in **YEMEN**. In early 2015, the Houthi tribe, which is Shiite, took over the government. The Houthi are receiving training and equipment from Shiite Iran’s Revolutionary Guards as well as from Egypt. This threatens the dominance of the Sunnis in Yemen (called Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula or AQAP) and probably spells out-and-out civil war between the rampaging Muslims.

In March 2015, the Sunni Islamic State claimed credit for a coordinated suicide bomb attack on two Shiite mosques in Yemen’s capital city of Sanaa that killed and injured hundreds. An online statement described the massacre as a “blessed operation” against the “dens of the Shiites” (“ISIS Claims Responsibility,” *Breitbart.com*, Mar. 20, 2015).

Sunnis and Shiites will doubtless continue to slaughter each other until Jesus comes.

And as we have noted, this is not to say that Muslim on Muslim violence is limited to the Shiite vs. Sunni divide. Shiites kills Shiites, and Sunnis kill Sunnis on a regular basis!

Islam’s fundamental weakness, which is its chronic divisiveness and internecine hatred, is why every attempt to build a “fundamentalist” caliphate has failed.

It is why Ayatollah Khomeini failed. It is why the Islamic State will fail.



# Preparing for the Antichrist

Islam is a sign of the end times. It is helping to prepare the way for the Antichrist in multiple ways.

## Islam a Major Force behind Anti-semitism

Many voices have described the resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe, and Islamization is a major force behind this phenomenon. This is a preparation for the Antichrist, because he will prove to be the Jewish hater of all times.

“Europe is being haunted by radical Islam; and 70 years after the Holocaust, Jews once again do not feel safe. While European leaders denounce anti-Semitism, **they have adopted an anti-Israel, pro-Muslim agenda.** In a symbolic vote, the European Union Parliament voted overwhelmingly to endorse a Palestinian state. ... Law professor Halm Schein warns that hypocrisy is flourishing again in Europe, turning Jews into a familiar scapegoat. ‘Before the Holocaust, Jews were held responsible for the bad economic situation, and today, for the situation with the Palestinians,’ he says. ‘This is happening because the Europeans are afraid of Islam, which is about to conquer the continent.’ ... **The Muslim population of European cities keeps growing, and with it, anti-Semitism.** Marseille has a population of 40 percent Muslims, Barcelona 30 percent, Brussels 30 and Amsterdam 25. And the big cities are deciding Europe’s policies. In Brussels, the capital of the European Union, Islam has more influence than the Catholic Church” (“Resurgent Anti-Semitism in Europe,” *Israel Today*, Feb. 2015).

“A French Jew wrote to me Monday: ‘No one in France can protect the French Jews, who will be massacred one by one. And even with 50,000 officers in front of synagogues, there are over 12 million Muslims in France. If 10% of them go extremist (which is low), there

will be a bloodbath in Paris, and that blood will be Jewish.’

“He said this about the massive march in Paris Sunday that was attended by political leaders from all over the world (except Barack Obama): ‘As you saw on TV, three million people marched for *Charlie Hebdo*, **but believe me, no one marched for the Jews who were massacred in the Hyper Cacher supermarket! No one cares. People are getting used to it.** France let its Jews die in World War II and it will do it again.’

“So will the rest of Europe. **The Holocaust, while it was a German initiative, was carried out by every nation in Europe, save for the Danes.** There were Dutch Nazis, Polish Nazis, French Nazis, etc. Europe as a continent decided it was a good idea to get rid of the Jews. Researchers at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum have catalogued 42,500 Nazi ghettos and camps. That number includes death camps, forced labor camps, POW camps, brothels, and ‘care’ centers in which the Nazis forced pregnant women to have abortions. ... **That wasn’t just the Germans**” (Pamela Geller, “The Death of the Jews of France,” Breitbart.com, Jan. 12, 2015).

## **Desire for a Strong World Leader**

The turmoil caused by rampaging Muslims and the seemingly insurmountable problems presented by Islamic jihad, plus the “Palestinian issue,” are creating a desire for a world leader who can work miracles.

As we will see, the Antichrist will be that man. When he comes on the scene, he will come as the problem solver of problem solvers, the diplomat of diplomats, the peace maker of peace makers.

## Motivating Jews to Return to Israel

Islamic terrorism and anti-Semitism are pushing Jews back to Israel, and the return to Israel sets the stage for the return of Christ.

“Soon we may see mass Jewish immigration to Israel. Islamic terrorism could be the giant spatula of God to scrape up the Jews and bring them home to Zion” (Victor Mordecai, “Ben Gurion’s Prophetic Letters,” *Israel Today*, Feb. 2015).

“After the attack on the kosher grocery in Paris, many French Jews are considering *aliya* (immigration) to Israel” (“Resurgent Anti-Semitism in Europe,” *Israel Today*, Feb. 2015).

# Antichrist and the Middle East Problem

According to the Bible, the next event on God's calendar is the Rapture (catching away) of church age saints.

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness” (1 Thessalonians 5:1-5).

The Rapture will be followed by the appearance of the Antichrist. The “church” has no part in the events described in Revelation 6-18. The churches are seen on earth in Revelation 1-3 and then are not seen on earth again until the return of Christ in Revelation 19. The events of Revelation

6-18 pertain to the nations and to Israel. These events occur during the last week of Daniel's 70 Week prophecy.

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate” (Daniel 9:24-27).

This prophecy pertains to Israel and the fulfillment of God's promises in the Old Testament covenants and prophecies. This is made plain in the first verse.

The 70 Weeks are 70 weeks of years or 490 years. The first 69 weeks have been fulfilled. Jerusalem, which had been destroyed by the Babylonian army, was rebuilt. Messiah came and was cut off but not for himself, meaning that He died on the cross as an atonement for man's sin. One week of years remains. At the beginning of this seven years, the Antichrist will make a false peace covenant with Israel which he will break “in the midst of the week,” meaning after 3.5 years. He will then desecrate the Third Temple and there will be abominations and desolations until the end of the seven years, when Christ shall return and establish His kingdom.

The church age is a parenthesis between the 69th and the 70th weeks of Daniel's prophecy. Paul taught that the church age is a mystery that was not revealed in Old Testament prophecy. (For more about these things see *The Future According to the Bible*, available in print and eBook editions from [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).)

Note that the Antichrist will come as a man of peace.

Revelation depicts the Antichrist coming on the scene on a white horse, signifying peace, and carrying an empty bow.

“And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer” (Rev. 6:2).

The horse and empty bow signifies that the Antichrist will have the capability to make war but initially he will come as a man of peace.

The Antichrist will make a false peace pact with Israel, as we have seen in Daniel 9:27.

Five times in Daniel the Antichrist is called a liar and a flatterer (Dan. 11:21, 23, 27, 32, 34). Daniel says by peace he will destroy many (Dan. 8:25).

When he comes on the scene, the Antichrist will be the greatest diplomat the world has ever seen, and he will solve the “Israel-Palestinian problem.”

A false prophet will be associated with the Antichrist. He is called “another beast” in Revelation 13:11-17 and a “false prophet” in Revelation 20:10. He is described as having horns like a lamb but speaking as a dragon, which means that he will appear to be a man of peace and religion, but he will speak blasphemies against God. He will promote the worship of the Antichrist through miracles, such as making fire to come down from heaven and giving life to the image of the Antichrist in Jerusalem so that it will speak.

The Jews demanded a sign from Jesus (Mat. 12:39), and though He performed mighty miracles by the power of God, they rejected Him.

The Antichrist and his false prophet will perform *lying wonders* by the power of Satan, and the Jews will receive him.

As a co-ruler with the Antichrist, the prophet will force the world to worship the Antichrist's image, and those who refuse will be put to death (Rev. 13:15-17).

It is probable that either the Antichrist or his prophet or both will be accepted by the Jews as their Messiah and by apostate Christians as theirs and by the Muslims as theirs.

## **The Islamic Mahdi**

Members of both Sunnis and Shiites believe in an Islamic messiah, the Mahdi, who will appear at the end of the world to establish Allah's kingdom on earth.

Both Sunnis and Shiites accept hadiths (writings of Muhammad collected after his death) which predict the coming of a Mahdi who will establish a global caliphate in Allah's name and rule for a period of time (seven, nine, or nineteen years, according to varying interpretations), ridding the world of evil before the day of judgment.

The coming of the Mahdi is believed to coincide with the second coming of Jesus, whom they call Isa, who will join hands with the Mahdi against a false messiah or antichrist.

The Shiites have developed this theology more extensively and emphasize it more forcefully.

As we have seen, "**Twelver**" **Shiites** (and Sufis) believe that the 12 Imams who succeeded Muhammad inherited Muhammad's spiritual perfection and wisdom and are therefore interpreters or trustees of the light of Islam.

They believe that the 12th Imam, Muhammad ibn Hasan al-Mahdi, was the prophesied Mahdi. He is believed to have died or otherwise disappeared in AD 941 and to be hidden by God until he will reappear at the end of time. The hiding is called the *Occultation*. (This is "an event that occurs when one object is hidden by another object that passes between it and the observer," such as a sun eclipse.)

Other groups of Muslims, such as the Druze, the Mustaali, the Zaidi, and the Nizari, believe in a different Mahdi and are not “Twelvers.”

The Sunnis believe that the Mahdi has not yet been born but will be named Muhammad and will be a descendant of Muhammad.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, former president of Iran, has zealous faith in the coming of the Imam Madhi, and Iranian radio has broadcast prophecies of his coming.

“In short, when he reappears, peace, justice and security will overcome oppression and deceit and one global government, the most perfect ever, will be established. ... Another beautiful moment of the Savior’s appearance is the coming down of Prophet Jesus (PBUH) from heaven. Hazrat Mahdi receives him courteously and asks him to lead the prayers. But Jesus says you are more qualified for this than me. We read in the book *Tazkarat ol-Olia*, ‘the Mahdi will come with Jesus, son of Mary, accompanying him.’ This indicates that these two great men complement each other. Imam Mahdi will be the leader while Prophet Jesus will act as his lieutenant in the struggle against oppression and establishment of justice in the world. Jesus had himself given the tidings of the coming of God’s last messenger and will see Muhammad’s ideals materialize in the time of the Mahdi” (“Police Storm Home,” *WorldNetDaily*, June 23, 2007).

We see that Islam’s “Jesus” is given a subordinate position in these prophecies.

The following is from the *London Telegraph*, Jan. 14, 2006:

“As Iran rushes towards confrontation with the world over its nuclear programme, the question uppermost in the mind of western leaders is ‘What is moving its President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to such recklessness?’ ... **The most remarkable aspect of Mr. Ahmadinejad’s piety is his devotion to the Hidden**



**Imam, the Messiah-like figure of Shia Islam**, and the president's belief that his government must prepare the country for his return. One of the first acts of Mr. Ahmadinejad's government was to donate about £10 million to the Jamkaran mosque, a popular pilgrimage site where the pious come to drop messages to the Hidden Imam into a holy well. ... A common rumour--denied by the government but widely believed--is that Mr. Ahmadinejad and his cabinet have signed a 'contract' pledging themselves to work for the return of the Mahdi and sent it to Jamkaran."

From time to time, various individuals have claimed to be the Mahdi and have gotten large, enthusiastic followings. One of these was Siyyid Ali Muhammad Shirazi, who was called the Bab ("gate") and is one of the central figures of the Baha'i. They consider the Bab to have been the Mahdi, Elijah, and John the Baptist. Others who have claimed to be the Mahdi are Muhammad Jaunpuri, founder of the Mahdavia sect, Muhammad Ahmad, founder of the Mahdist state in Sudan in the late 19th century, and Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, founder of the Ahmadiyya sect.

In this way, we probably see what will happen in the time of the Antichrist, in that either he or his prophet or both will be accepted as the fulfillment of prophecy by Muslims.

## **The Jewish Messiah**

The Jews are also looking for the Messiah, and the Messiah they are looking for is actually the Antichrist.

The Jews are not looking for a Messiah who will save them from sin. They have no sacrifices, and they are content with that, thinking that they don't need a blood atonement. They celebrate the Passover and the Day of Atonement without a lamb and without the shedding of blood.

We asked a Reformed Jewish rabbi in Jerusalem, "How do you purge your sins?" and he replied, "We ask God for

forgiveness through prayer and through actions.” When queried about Leviticus 17:11--“it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul”--the rabbi said that to interpret that to mean that man needs a literal blood sacrifice is a false interpretation.

A representative of the Temple Institute told us the same thing:

“God knows that we don’t have the sacrifices. That is why He has given us a different way of atonement, and that’s by prayers. We have prayers that great rabbis wrote just after the destructions, and we say these prayers and that’s as if we are sacrificing.”

The Jews stumbled at the Suffering Messiah 2,000 years ago. They were looking for a Messiah to save them from Rome, not a Messiah who would die for their sins. They wanted a king, not a Saviour.

Since the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD, the Jews have been looking for a Messiah that will rebuild the temple. In Jewish tradition that has developed since then, the rebuilding of the temple is associated with the coming of the Messiah. According to Maimonides (also called Rambam), the highest rabbinical authority, any Jew that starts rebuilding the Temple is a potential Messiah.

Shimon ben Kosiba was considered a Messiah in the second century when he led a revolt to recapture Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. He was named Bar Kokhba (“Son of the Star”) based on the Messianic prophecy of Numbers 24:17, and a coin was struck by the Jews that depicted the temple with the ark of the covenant inside and the Messianic star on the roof.

A representative of the Temple Institute told us in 2010 that they are looking for a temple builder:

“We are waiting for a Messiah. In Jewish tradition, we believe that in every generation there is someone who can be the Messiah. The question is who will he be. The

answer is only someone who does specific things can be called the Messiah. The one who brings Israel back to Israel. The one who builds the temple again.”

By this tradition, it is simple to see how the Antichrist will be looked upon as the Messiah. He will come as a peacemaker, and by his satanic power he will make a way for the Jewish temple to be rebuilt in spite of Muslim animosity.

The Jews are looking for a Messiah that will solve their problems and bring peace when things look dark. In a video interview in Jerusalem in 2010 a Reformed Jewish rabbi told us that the Messiah will come when things look really dark and will establish peace. He said:

“Jerusalem is to be whole, and when the Messiah comes the temple will be returned to us. But that can’t happen until there is eternal peace. Ultimately we have to go deeper into destruction before we come out into the light and until God redeems not only the Jewish people but also the rest of the world. Peace has to come, but peace can only come when things get really dark.”

But the Jewish prophets said there is no peace to the wicked (Isa. 57:21). There can be no peace for Israel until she is in right relationship with God, until she repents of her sin and is forgiven and converted. Until then, any so-called peace will turn out to be a false peace, which is exactly what the Antichrist will bring.

“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape” (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

Thus, the Jews are not looking for a Saviour from sin; they are looking for a Messiah that will bring peace, that will solve their problems, that will help them to rebuild the Temple, that will not rebuke them as sinners but will help them follow their “positive inclinations.”

Though they don't know it, they are actually looking for the Antichrist, and the Bible says they will accept him when he comes.

The world is crying out for peace today, and the nations will believe the Antichrist's lies and lying wonders. The nations will rejoice, thinking that the world's greatest problems have been solved and the long-awaited "Age of Aquarius" has arrived, but the global peace party will be short-lived and the Antichrist will soon show his true colors, setting himself up as God in Israel's temple and requiring worship at the point of death.

The Antichrist will make a way for the Jewish Third Temple to be built on the Temple Mount, something that seems impossible today.

Bible prophecy associates the Antichrist with the building of the Third Temple.

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

(The First Temple was built by Solomon, and the Second Temple was built after the Jews returned from the Babylonian captivity and was extended and glorified by King Herod, so that it was called Herod's Temple.)

Great preparations are being made in Israel for the building of the Third Temple. The Temple Institute, founded in 1986, has prepared all of the articles, including a menorah (candlestick) fashioned from 95 pounds of gold (valued at \$2 million) and the high priest's golden crown costing \$30,000. When I visited Jerusalem in 2010 and 2013, the menorah was on display on the Western Wall Plaza across from the Temple

Mount. In December 2014, the Temple Institute also completed an altar of sacrifice intended for the Third Temple.

## Muslim Nations in Prophecy

Bible prophecy describes Israel's relationship with the modern Muslim nations following her restoration to the place of God's blessing in Christ's kingdom. It will be a dramatic turnaround compared to the conditions that exist today.

Israel is surrounded by Muslim nations.

To the north are Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey.

To the east are Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the former satellites of the Soviet Union (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan).

To the south are Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Yemen, Oman, and the Muslim nations that occupy northern Africa (Sudan, Libya, Algeria, etc.).

Since the birth of the modern state of Israel on May 14, 1948, Israel has fought frequent wars with her Muslim neighbors.

There was the War for Independence in 1948 against the Arab League composed of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq.

There was the Suez War in 1956 to force Egypt to allow free access for Israel's ships through the Canal.

There was the Six-Day War in 1967 against the coalition of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, with Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria contributing troops and arms.

There was Egypt's War of Attrition against Israel from 1968-70.

There was the Yom Kippur War of 1973 when Israel was attacked by Egypt and Syria.

In addition to these major conflicts, Israel has been under constant attack by Muslim organizations such as Hamas, the PLO, and Hezbollah.

This is the present situation. Now let's look to the future through the sure word of Bible prophecy.

If it were not for Bible prophecy, it would appear that the Muslims would eventually take over the world. As we have seen, they are well on the way to taking over England and Europe by immigration and population increase, and a majority of Americans are clueless about Islam's objective of world dominion and therefore don't take the issue seriously. America's current president, Barak Obama, doesn't even believe that violent jihad is Islamic, claiming that ISIS is not Muslim!

But Bible prophecy does not see an Islamic takeover of the world.

The situation is described in general in Ezekiel 36:6-7.

“Prophecy therefore concerning the land of Israel, and say unto the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I have spoken in my jealousy and in my fury, because ye have borne the shame of the heathen: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I have lifted up mine hand, Surely **the heathen that are about you, they shall bear their shame.**”

Whereas Israel has borne shame for 2,000 years under God's judgment, in that day she will be exalted and empowered and her enemies will bear the shame. The “heathen that are about you” refer most directly to the Muslim nations that surround Israel.

### **The Palestinians (Philistines)**

“The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them” (Isaiah 11:13-14).

“And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead” (Obadiah 1:19).

The ancient name “Philistine,” from the Hebrew “Peleshet,” is the source of the modern name “Palestinian.” The original Philistines were not Arabs or Middle Eastern in origin; they migrated from Asia Minor and were of Greek stock.

The only thing that the modern Philistines, the Palestinian Arabs, have in common with the ancient Philistines is that they hate Israel and want to own the land.

Today the Palestinians control the Gaza Strip which was one of the strongholds of the old Philistines. Bible prophecy describes the Philistines as being west of Israel in the day of Christ’s return, and Gaza is in the western part of Israel.

The Palestinians envision a Palestinian state composed of Gaza and the West Bank, with East Jerusalem as the capital. If this ever happens, it will be short-lived, because when Christ returns, a converted Israel will conquer the modern Philistines.

## **Jordan (Edom, Moab, Ammon)**

“The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them” (Isaiah 11:13-14).

“But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it. And they of the



south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead. And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south. And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S" (Obadiah 1:17-21).

Jordan occupies the land of ancient Edom, Moab, and Ammon east of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea.

Today Jordan is a somewhat pro-Western Arab nation, but it fought against Israel in the War of Independence and the Six-Day War.

It will be conquered by Israel when Christ returns. Southern Jordan (ancient Edom) in particular will be devastated.

"Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. 2 Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? 3 I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. 4 For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. 5 And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. 6 And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth" (Isaiah 63:1-6).

“Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land” (Joel 3:19).

Isaiah sees the conquering Christ coming from Edom or southern Jordan with his garments stained in blood from a great slaughter.

Bozrah was the capital of Edom when Isaiah prophesied. Archaeological excavations have uncovered there the largest buildings from the Transjordan region, which were probably the king’s palaces. Amos spoke of the “palaces of Bozrah” (Amos 1:12). The modern name is Buseirah, and the area is largely desert plain and small mountains.

Apparently the Lord will defeat some of the Antichrist’s armies here. Joel says that Edom will be “a desolate wilderness” (Joel 3:19).

“Scripture seems to indicate that both Egypt and Edom are going to be particularly desolated by the end-time wars of the Antichrist. The Lord will arrange that as punishment for their violence against the Jewish people” (John Phillips).

Edom’s hatred of Israel is ancient. Edom was a name given to Esau when he sold his birthright, which was the Abrahamic covenant, for a bowl of red stew (Gen. 25:29-34). Though he despised his birthright and valued it less than a mere bowl of soup, Esau never forgave Jacob for taking it. When he later tried to regain the blessing of the firstborn by bitter tears, he was unable to do so because Isaac had already given the blessing to Jacob (Gen. 27:33-41). Though Jacob and his mother Rebekah sinned in the matter of deceiving Isaac, God had already said that Jacob would receive the greater blessing (Gen. 25:23). Isaac eventually acknowledged this (Gen. 28:1-5), and God spoke from heaven and personally gave the promise to Jacob (Gen. 28:12-15).

Esau's descendants, who conquered the Horites and settled the land of Edom (Deut. 2:12), perpetually nurtured their father's hatred of Jacob or Israel. But by hating Israel, they also hated the God who had blessed Israel.

All of the territories occupied by Jordan, representing Edom, Moab, Ammon, will "obey" restored Israel when Christ returns.

"... they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them" (Isaiah 11:14).

### **Egypt, Syria, and Iraq (Assyria)**

"In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which he shaketh over it. And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts, which he hath determined against it. In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the LORD of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction. In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD. And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them. And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform it. And the LORD shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the LORD, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them. In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve

with the Assyrians. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance” (Isaiah 19:16-25).

“Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, *saying*, Surely God *is* in thee; and *there is* none else, *there is* no God” (Isaiah 45:14).

“And this man shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men. And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver us from the Assyrian, when he cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our borders” (Mic. 5:5-6).

Egypt is Israel’s most ancient enemy, and nothing has changed. Egypt attacked Israel in 1948, 1949, 1967, and 1973, and she remains a part of the Islamic alliance that hates Israel. But Egypt’s attitude will change dramatically in the future.

The day will come when Egypt will be terrified of Israel. This is an amazing prophecy. Historically, Egypt was a mighty power compared to Israel, and it still has a much larger military machine. Some believe that this prophecy is being fulfilled today, since Egypt has lost four wars to Israel, but though Egypt might hesitate to go to war with Israel again, it can hardly be said that she is terrified of Israel. This prophecy will be fulfilled when Israel is converted and becomes an indestructible weapon in the hands of Almighty God.

Egyptians will be among those who are brought in chains to Israel (Isa. 45:14).

Egypt will cry out to the Lord and He will send them a saviour. We don't know if this refers to Christ Himself or to one of His generals.

Egypt's prophetic destiny is different than that of the other nations surrounding Israel. She will not merely be conquered; she will be converted and become an intimate associate of Israel (Isa. 19:18-21).

Many Egyptians will learn Hebrew and use it to swear allegiance to Jehovah God. There will be an altar to the living God in the midst of the nation and a pillar in His name at the border (Isa. 19:18-19). The name of *Allah* will be forgotten.

As for **Iraq and Syria**, which formed the heart of the ancient kingdom of Assyria, Micah says that Israel will lay waste to this region (Mic. 5:6). Micah also calls Iraq "the land of Nimrod," as Nimrod and his associates founded the first city states in that region, including Babylon which lies in southern Iraq and Nineveh which lies in northern Iraq (Gen. 10-11).

A highway will be built from Egypt to Assyria. The ancient Assyrian kingdom occupied the land held today by Syria and Iraq, plus the eastern portion of Turkey and the western portion of Iran. The highway will facilitate travel between the two regions (Isa. 19:23-25). Instead of being partners to oppose Israel, as they did in the Six-Day War, Egypt, Iraq, and Syria will be partners *with* Israel.

In place of division and animosity between these nations, there will be unity and love. Instead of Israel dividing the nations as she does today, she will unite them in that day! The highway from Egypt to Assyria will doubtless run right through Israel.

"Never then shall there be rivalry of armies, fleets of sea or air. In vain shall be the search then for Protestant or Romanist, for Democrat or Republican, for Monarchist

or Anarchist, for Aristocrat or Proletariat, for Jesus, Lord of all, has caused the earth to bask in universal peace and concord; and He, the Melchizedek Priest, is here seen spreading His hands in blessing over the whole scene. Egypt, those of the Gentiles once expressive of corruption, are now His ‘people;’ Assyria, those of the Gentiles once expressive of violence, are now ‘the work of His hands,’ and quite a different handiwork will they be then” (Jennings, *Studies in Isaiah*, p. 236).

We see, too, that Israel will maintain her exalted status as God’s “inheritance” even when she is joined by other nations (Isa. 19:25).

## **Lebanon**

“I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and place shall not be found for them” (Zechariah 10:10).

The land of Lebanon belongs to Israel by right of the Abrahamic covenant, and she will own it when Christ returns (Gen. 15:18).

The city of Hamath is mentioned by Ezekiel as the northern border of the tribes of Israel during the Millennial kingdom (Ezek. 47:15-17), and Hamath was located at the northern extreme of modern Lebanon.

## **Iran (Persia)**

“And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and

helmet. ... And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone” (Ezekiel 38:3-5, 22).

Iran, which was called Persia until 1935, is a friend of Russia and a vicious enemy of Israel. Iran’s defense ministry has hailed the nation’s military ties to Russia (AP, Feb. 20, 2009).

In September 2008, Israel’s ambassador to the United States, Sallai Meridor, warned that Russian arms sales to Iran and Syria are “destabilizing and dangerous for Israel” (“Israel Irked by Iran-Russia Military Ties,” PressTV.ir, Sept. 13, 2008).

Russia is a major player in providing Iran with nuclear technology. In 2014, Russia pledged to build two more nuclear power plants in Iran (“Iran, Russia Agree to Continue Nuclear Cooperation,” ITAR-TASS, May 29, 2014).

In August 2012, Iran’s president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, said “the ultimate goal of world forces must be the annihilation of Israel” (*Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 2, 2012). That same month, Ahmadinejad called Israel a “cancerous tumor” that must be removed, and a top Iranian military commander said he would welcome an Israeli strike against Iran’s nuclear facilities because it would give his nation a reason to retaliate and “get rid of the Jewish state forever” (“Top Iranian Commander,” *The Blaze*, Aug. 18, 2012).

Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also calls for the annihilation of Israel. On November 8, 2014, he Twittered, “This barbaric, wolflike & infanticidal regime of Israel which spares no crime has no cure but to be annihilated.” A year earlier, Khamenei called Israel the “sinister, unclean rabid dog of the region.”

According to Bible prophecy, the armies of Persia will join Russia’s attack on Israel and suffer destruction with her.

## **Saudi Arabia (Arabia, Midian)**

“For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it. ... To wit, Jerusalem, and the cities of Judah, and the kings thereof, and the princes thereof, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, an hissing, and a curse; as it is this day. ... And all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the mingled people that dwell in the desert. ... And all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another, and all the kingdoms of the world, which are upon the face of the earth: and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them. Therefore thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, and fall, and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you” (Jeremiah 25:15, 18, 24, 26-27).

“The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD” (Isaiah 60:6).

Saudi Arabia will join the international alliance against Israel that will be destroyed at the Battle of Armageddon (Jer. 25).

Afterwards, Arabia will worship Christ and send offerings to Him (Isa. 60:6).

## **Yemen (Sheba)**

“The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD” (Isaiah 60:6).

Yemen, which is in the southern Arabian Peninsula, will submit to Christ and send offerings to Him.



Yemen is where the Queen of Sheba had her spice empire of old, but over the past 2,000 years the region has become impoverished. This will change dramatically after Christ returns, and Sheba will again have riches which she will bring to glorify the God of Israel.

### **Northern Africa (Ethiopia, Libya, the Sabeans)**

“Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, *saying*, Surely God *is* in thee; and *there is* none else, *there is* no God” (Isaiah 45:14).

“And the sword shall come upon Egypt, and great pain shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain shall fall in Egypt, and they shall take away her multitude, and her foundations shall be broken down. Ethiopia, and Libya, and Lydia, and all the mingled people, and Chub, and the men of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword” (Ezekiel 30:4-5, 19).

“And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet” (Ezekiel 38:4-5).

Northern Africa is largely populated with Muslim nations today, and three of these are mentioned by name in Bible prophecy: Ethiopia, which borders the Red Sea, Libya on the northern coast, and the Sabeans. The Hebrew word for Sabean (*sebawee*) is from *sebaw*, which is Seba the son of Cush (Gen. 10:7). Seba's descendants inhabited northern Africa.

Ethiopia and Libya will join the military alliance led by Gog and Magog which will attack Israel in the latter days and be destroyed (Ezek. 38:4-5).

Ethiopians and Sebans will be among those who are brought in chains to Israel at the return of Christ (Isa. 45:14).

## **About Way of Life's eBooks**

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**BIBLE TIMES AND ANCIENT KINGDOMS: TREASURES FROM ARCHAEOLOGY.** ISBN 978-1-58318-121-8. This is a package consisting of a book and a series of PowerPoint and Keynote (Apple) presentations which are a graphical edition of the book. The PowerPoints are packed with high quality color photos, drawings, historic recreations, and video clips. Bible Times and Ancient Kingdoms is a course on Bible geography, Bible culture, and Bible history and has a two-fold objective: to present apologetic evidence for the Bible and to give background material to help the student better understand the setting of Bible history. We cover this fascinating history from Genesis to the New Testament, dealing with the Table of the Nations in Genesis 10, the Tower of Babel, Ur of the Chaldees, Egypt, Baal worship, the Philistines, the Canaanites, David's palace, Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, Ahab and Jezebel, the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel, the Assyrian Empire, Hezekiah and his times, Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylon, the Medo-Persian Empire, Herod the Great and his temple, the Roman rule over Israel, and the Roman destruction of Jerusalem. Many of the archaeological discoveries from the past 200 years, which we relate in the course, are so fascinating and improbable that they read like a novel. It is easy to see God's hand in this field, in spite of its prevailing skepticism. The course also deals with Bible culture, such as weights and measures, plant and animal life, Caesar's coin, the widow's mite, ancient scrolls and seals, phylacteries, cosmetics, tombs, and the operation of ancient lamps, millstones, pottery wheels, and olive presses. The course begins with an overview of Israel's geography and a timeline of Bible history to give the student a framework for better understanding the material. Each section includes maps to help the student place the events in their proper

location. The course is packed with important but little-known facts that illuminate Bible history and culture. The preparation for the book is extensive, the culmination of 40 years of Bible study, teaching, and research trips. In this context the author built a large personal library and collected information from major archaeological museums and locations in North America, England, Europe, Turkey, and Israel. We guarantee that the student who completes the course will read the Bible with new eyes and fresh enthusiasm. 500 pages book + DVD containing 19 PowerPoint presentations packed with more than 3,200 high quality color photos, drawings, historic recreations, and video clips.

**THE BIBLE VERSION QUESTION ANSWER DATABASE.**

ISBN 1-58318-088-5. This book provides diligently-researched, in-depth answers to more than 80 of the most important questions on this topic. A vast number of myths are exposed, such as the myth that Erasmus promised to add 1 John 5:7 to his Greek New Testament if even one manuscript could be produced, the myth that the differences between the Greek texts and versions are slight and insignificant, the myth that there are no doctrines affected by the changes in the modern versions, and the myth that the King James translators said that all versions are equally the Word of God. It also includes reviews of several of the popular modern versions, including the Living Bible, New Living Bible, Today's English Version, New International Version, New American Standard Version, The Message, and the Holman Christian Standard Bible. 423 pages.

**THE FOREIGN SPIRIT OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

**MUSIC.** This hard-hitting multi-media video presentation, published in March 2012, documents the frightful spiritual compromise, heresy, and apostasy that permeate the field of contemporary worship music. By extensive documentation, it proves that contemporary worship music is impelled by "another spirit" (2 Cor. 11:4). It is the spirit of charismaticism, the spirit of the latter rain, the spirit of the one-world church, the spirit of the world, the spirit of homosexuality, and the spirit of the false god of The Shack. The presentation looks carefully at the origin of contemporary worship in the Jesus Movement of the 1970s, examining the lives and testimonies of some of the most influential

people. Nearly 60 video clips and hundreds of photos are featured. It is available on DVD and as an eDownload from the Way of Life web site.

**THE FUTURE ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE.** ISBN 978-1-58318-172-0. One of the many reasons why the Bible is the most amazing and exciting book on earth is its prophecies. The Bible unfolds the future in great detail, and *The Future According to the Bible* deals in depth with every major prophetic event, including the Rapture, the Judgment Seat of Christ, the Tribulation, the Antichrist, Gog and Magog, the Battle of Armageddon, the Two Witnesses, Christ's Return, Muslim nations in prophecy, the Judgment of the Nations, the resurrection body, the conversion of Israel, the highway of the redeemed, Christ's glorious kingdom, the Millennial Temple, the Great White Throne judgment, and the New Jerusalem. The first two chapters deal at length with the amazing prophecies that are being fulfilled today and with the church-age apostasy. Knowledge of these prophecies is essential for a proper understanding of the times and a proper Christian worldview today. The 130-page section on Christ's kingdom describes the coming world kingdom in more detail than any book we are familiar with. Every major Messianic prophecy is examined. Prophecy is a powerful witness to the Bible's divine inspiration, and it is a great motivator for holy Christian living. In this book we show that the Lord's churches are outposts of the coming kingdom. The believer's position in Christ's earthly kingdom will be determined by his service in this present world (Revelation 2:26-27; 3:21). The book is based on forty years of intense Bible study plus firsthand research in Israel, Turkey, and Europe.

**INDEPENDENT BAPTIST MUSIC WARS.** ISBN 978-1-58318-179-9. This book is a warning about the transformational power of Contemporary Christian Music to transport Bible-believing Baptists into the sphere of the end-time one-world "church." The author is a musician, preacher, and writer who lived the rock & roll "hippy" lifestyle before conversion and has researched this issue for 40 years. We don't believe that good Christian music stopped being written when Fanny Crosby died or that rhythm is wrong or that drums and guitars are inherently evil. We believe, rather, that Contemporary Christian Music is a

powerful bridge to a very dangerous spiritual and doctrinal world. The book begins by documenting the radical change in thinking that has occurred among independent Baptists. Whereas just a few years ago the overwhelming consensus was that CCM was wrong and dangerous, the consensus now has formed around the position that CCM can be used in moderation, that it is OK to “adapt” it to a more traditional sacred sound and presentation technique. The more “conservative” contemporary worship artists such as the Gettys are considered safe and their music is sung widely in churches and included in new hymnals published by independent Baptists. As usual, the driving force behind this change is the example set by prominent leaders, churches, and schools, which we identify in this volume. The heart of the book is the section giving eight reasons for rejecting Contemporary Christian Music (it is built on the lie that music is neutral, it is worldly, it is ecumenical, it is charismatic, it is experienced-oriented, it is permeated with false christs, it is infiltrated with homosexuality, and it weakens the Biblicist stance of a church) and the section answering 39 major arguments that are used in defense of CCM. We deal with the popular argument that since we have selectively used hymns by Protestants we should also be able to selectively use those by contemporary hymn writers. There are also chapters on the history of CCM and the author’s experience of living the rock & roll lifestyle before conversion and how the Lord dealt with him about music in the early months of his Christian life. The book is accompanied by a DVD containing two video presentations: The Transformational Power of Contemporary Praise Music and The Foreign Spirit of Contemporary Worship Music. 285 pages.

**KEEPING THE KIDS: HOW TO KEEP THE CHILDREN FROM FALLING PREY TO THE WORLD.** ISBN 978-1-58318-115-7. This book aims to help parents and churches raise children to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to avoid the pitfalls of the world, the flesh, and the devil. The book is a collaborative effort. It contains testimonies from hundreds of individuals who provided feedback to our questionnaires on this subject, as well as powerful ideas gleaned from interviews with pastors, missionaries, and church people who have raised godly children. The book is packed with practical suggestions and deals with many issues:

Conversion, the husband-wife relationship, the necessity of permeating the home with Christian love, mothers as keepers at home, the father's role as the spiritual head of the home, child discipline, separation from the pop culture, discipleship of youth, the grandparents' role, effectual prayer and fasting. Chapter titles include the following: "Conversion," "The Home: Consistent Christian Living and the Husband-Wife Relationship," "Child Discipline," "The Church," "Unplugging from the Pop Culture," "Discipleship," "The Grandparents," "Grace and the Power of Prayer." 531 pages.

**MUSIC FOR GOOD OR EVIL.** This video series, which is packed with photos, video and audio clips, has eight segments. I. Biblical Principles of Good Christian Music. II. Why We Reject Contemporary Christian Music. It is worldly, addictive, ecumenical, charismatic, shallow and man-centered, opposed to preaching, experience-oriented, and it weakens the strong biblicist stance of a church. III. The Sound of Contemporary Christian Music. In this section we give the believer simple tools that he can use to discern the difference between sensual and sacred music. We deal with syncopated dance styles, sensual vocal styles, relativistic styles, and overly soft styles that do not fit the message. IV. The Transformational Power of Contemporary Worship Music. We show why CCM is able to transform a "traditional" Bible-believing church into a New Evangelical contemporary one. Its transformational power resides in its enticing philosophy of "liberty" and in its sensual, addictive music. We use video and audio to illustrate the sound of contemporary worship. V. Southern Gospel. We deal with the history of Southern Gospel, its character, its influence, and the role of the Gaithers in its renaissance. This section is packed with audio, video, and photos. VI. Marks of Good Song Leading. There is a great need for proper training of song leaders today, and in this segment we deal with the following eight principles: Leadership, preparation, edification, spirituality, spiritual discernment, wisdom in song selection, diversity. One thing we emphasize is the need to sing worship songs that turn the people's focus directly to God. We give dozens of examples of worship songs that are found in standard hymnals used by Bible-believing churches, but typically these are not sung properly as



“unto God.” VII. Questions Answered on Contemporary Christian Music. We answer 15 of the most common questions on this subject, such as the following: Is rhythm wrong? Isn't this issue just a matter of different taste? Isn't the sincerity of the musicians the important thing? Isn't some CCM acceptable? Didn't Luther and the Wesleys use tavern music? What is the difference between using contemporary worship hymns and using old Protestant hymns? VIII. The Foreign Spirit of Contemporary Worship Music. This presentation documents the frightful spiritual compromise, heresy, and apostasy that permeate the field of contemporary praise. Through extensive documentation, it proves that contemporary worship music is controlled by “another spirit” (2 Cor. 11:4). It is the spirit of charismaticism, the spirit of the “latter rain,” the spirit of Roman Catholicism and the one-world “church,” the spirit of the world that is condemned by 1 John 2:16, the spirit of homosexuality, and the spirit of the false god of The Shack. The presentation looks carefully at the origin of contemporary worship in the Jesus Movement of the 1970s, examining the lives and testimonies of some of the most influential people. 5 DVDs.

**ONE YEAR DISCIPLESHIP COURSE**, ISBN 978-1-58318-117-1. This powerful course features 52 lessons in Christian living. It can be broken into sections and used as a new converts' course, an advanced discipleship course, a Sunday School series, a Home Schooling or Bible Institute course, or for preaching outlines. The lessons are thorough, meaty, and very practical. There is an extensive memory verse program built into the course, and each lesson features carefully designed review questions. Following are some of the lesson titles (some subjects feature multiple lessons): Repentance, Faith, The Gospel, Baptism, Eternal Security, Position and Practice, The Law and the New Testament Christian, Christian Growth and Victory, Prayer, The Armor of God, The Church, The Bible, The Bible's Proof, Daily Bible Study, Key Principles of Bible Interpretation, Foundational Bible Words, Knowing God's Will, Making Wise Decisions, Christ's Great Commission, Suffering in the Christian Life, The Judgment Seat of Christ, Separation - Moral, Separation - Doctrinal, Tests of Entertainment, Fasting, Miracles, A Testing Mindset, Tongues Speaking, The Rapture, How to Be Wise with Your Money, The Believer and Drinking, Abortion,

Evolution, Dressing for the Lord. 8.5X11, coated cover, spiral-bound. 221 pages.

**THE PENTECOSTAL-CHARISMATIC MOVEMENTS: THE HISTORY AND THE ERROR.** ISBN 1-58318-099-0. The 5th edition of this book, November 2014, is significantly enlarged and revised throughout. The Pentecostal-charismatic movement is one of the major building blocks of the end-time, one-world “church,” and young people in particular need to be informed and forewarned. The author was led to Christ by a Pentecostal in 1973 and has researched the movement ever since. He has built a large library on the subject, interviewed influential Pentecostals and charismatics, and attended churches and conferences with media credentials in many parts of the world. The book deals with the history of Pentecostalism beginning at the turn of the 20th century, the Latter Rain Covenant, major Pentecostal healing evangelists, the Sharon Schools and the New Order of the Latter Rain, Manifest Sons of God, the charismatic movement, the Word-Faith movement, the Roman Catholic Charismatic Renewal, the Pentecostal prophets, the Third Wave, and recent Pentecostal and charismatic scandals. The book deals extensively with the theological errors of the Pentecostal-charismatic movements (exalting experience over Scripture, emphasis on the miraculous, the continuation of Messianic and apostolic miracles and sign gifts, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the baptism of fire, tongues speaking, physical healing guaranteed in the atonement, spirit slaying, spirit drunkenness, visions of Jesus, trips to heaven, women preachers, and ecumenism). The final section of the book answers the question: “Why are people deluded by Pentecostal-Charismatic error?” David and Tami Lee, former Pentecostals, after reviewing a section of the book said: “Very well done! We pray God will use it to open the eyes of many and to help keep many of His children out of such deception.” A former charismatic said, “The book is excellent and I have no doubt whatever that the Lord is going to use it in a mighty way. Amen!!” 487 pages.

**A PORTRAIT OF CHRIST: THE TABERNACLE, THE PRIESTHOOD, AND THE OFFERINGS.** ISBN 978-1-58318-178-2. (new for 2014) This book is an extensive study on the Old Testament tabernacle and its priestly system, which has

been called “God’s masterpiece of typology.” Whereas the record of the creation of the universe takes up two chapters of the Bible and the fall of man takes up one chapter, the tabernacle, with its priesthood and offerings, takes up 50 chapters. It is obvious that God has many important lessons for us in this portion of His Word. Speaking personally, nothing has helped me better understand the Triune God and the salvation that He has purchased for man, and I believe that I can guarantee that the reader will be taken to new heights in his understanding of these things. Everything about the tabernacle points to Jesus Christ: the design, the materials, the colors, the court walls and pillars, the door into the court, the sacrificial altar, the laver, the tabernacle tent itself with its boards and curtains and silver sockets, the tabernacle gate, and veil before the holy of holies, the candlestick, the table of shewbread, the incense altar, the ark of the covenant, the high priest, and the offerings. All is Christ. The tabernacle system offers brilliant, unforgettable lessons on Christ’s person, offices and work: His eternal Sonship, His sinless manhood, His anointing, His atonement, His resurrection glory, His work as the life and sustainer and light of creation, His eternal high priesthood and intercession, and His kingdom. In addition to the studies on every aspect of the tabernacle, *A Portrait of Christ* features studies on the high priest, the Levitical priests, the five offerings of Leviticus, the day of atonement, the ransom money, the red heifer, the cherubims, strange fire, the golden calf, leprosy, the Nazarite vow, the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire, and the transportation of the tabernacle through the wilderness. The tabernacle is very practical in its teaching, as it also depicts believer priests carrying Christ through this world (1 Pet. 2:5, 9). Like the Israelites in the wilderness, believers today are on a pilgrimage through a foreign land on the way to our eternal home (1 Pet. 2:11). Don Jasmin, editor of the *Fundamentalist Digest* says, “This new book on the Tabernacle constitutes the 21st-century classic treatise of this rich theme.” 420 pages.

**SEEING THE NON-EXISTENT: EVOLUTION’S MYTHS AND HOAXES.** ISBN 1-58318-002-8. This book is designed both as a stand alone title as well as a companion to the apologetics course **AN UNSHAKEABLE FAITH.** The contents are as follows: Canals

on Mars, Charles Darwin and His Granddaddy, Thomas Huxley: Darwin's Bulldog, Ernst Haeckel: Darwin's German Apostle, Icons of Evolution, Icons of Creation, The Ape-men, Predictions, Questions for Evolutionists, Darwinian Gods, Darwin's Social Influence. The ICONS OF EVOLUTION that we refute include mutations, the fossil record, homology, the peppered moth, Darwin's finches, the fruit fly, vestigial organs, the horse series, the embryo chart, the Miller experiment, Archaeopteryx, bacterial resistance, the big bang, and billions of years. The ICONS OF CREATION that we examine include the monarch butterfly, the trilobite, the living cell, the human eye, the human brain, the human hand, blood clotting, the bird's flight feathers, bird migration, bird song, harmony and symbiosis, sexual reproduction, living technology, the dragonfly, the bee, and the bat. The section on APE-MEN deals with Cro-Magnon, Neanderthal, Java Man, Piltdown Man, Nebraska Man, Peking Man, Lucy, Ardi, Ida, among others. The section on PREDICTIONS considers 29 predictions made by Biblical creationism, such as the universe will behave according to established laws, the universe will be logical, and there will be a vast unbridgeable gulf between man and the animal kingdom. DARWINIAN GODS takes a look at inventions that evolutionists have devised to avoid divine Creation, such as panspermia and aliens, self-organization, and the multiverse. 608 pages.

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conversions as opposed to mere “decisions.” The course is also unique in its breadth. It covers a wide variety of situations, including how to deal with Hindus and with skeptics and how to use apologetics or evidences in evangelism. There is a memory course consisting of 111 select verses and links to a large number of resources that can be used in evangelism, many of them free. The course is suitable for teens and adults and for use in Sunday School, Youth Ministries, Preaching, and private study. **OUTLINE:** The Message of Evangelism, Repentance and Evangelism, God’s Law and Evangelism, The Reason for Evangelism, The Authority for Evangelism, The Power for Evangelism, The Attitude in Evangelism, The Technique of Evangelism, Using Tracts in Evangelism, Dealing with Skeptics. 104 pages, 8x11, spiral bound.

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