

Absolute Truth & Prophecy

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NEWSLETTER

www.ATPMinistry.com

ZEW'S NEWS REVIEW

November 2, 2014

Issue #525

THE FUTURE – PART V

In the first few parts of this series we've been taking a rather scatter-gun approach to the thing. It's time to get a little more systematic. All of history can be viewed as an ages-long struggle between, on the one hand Satan and his deceived human following opposing the forces of the God of the Universe. The Rebels have their plans and from time to time they reveal some aspects to us. So we'll start by laying out the Human Template of just where all of this is planned to go. In fact there are several somewhat competing scenarios. After all, Satan is the author of chaos.

COMPETING TEMPLATES

Chaos is the key! We can just list the areas: Ebola, Iraq, Iran and it's nuclear ambitions, the War on Christians, Gay Marriage and the Assault on Biblical Truth, Abortion, an Economy on the brink of collapse, ISIS, Terror, tensions between China and Japan, China and Taiwan, and most importantly the situation in Israel, God's Chosen and Promised Land...and the list goes on. Now the Bible has many specific prophecies relating to some of these very critical areas. But we don't even need Biblical prophecy to see the danger we face. There are at least three major crisis areas at which war could erupt any time. Those areas are; The Middle East, (focused on Iran, Iraq & Israel), The Korean Peninsula, and China-Taiwan. Any of these could quickly spread, bringing in more nations and eventually lead to World War. So let's start by looking at some of man's templates for just how things will work out.

False Templates

Introducing the faux prophetic templates of the false prophets! There are several variations. Jesus said, "**Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many**". (Mt 24:11) Here are some of those deceptive scenarios.

- **The New Age / Eastern Religious Scenario** – Followers of New Age and Eastern philosophies believe that we are on the verge of a New Age that will be heralded by the appearance of the Lord Maitreya, - the "Christ consciousness" that will appear to lead mankind to a new level of existence. Lord Maitreya will appear in the near future, coming at a time of chaos and unify mankind religiously and politically. Wars and economic collapse are just part of the necessary birthing process for this New Christ, the One World Government and One World Religion.
- **The Islamic Scenario** – The Mahdi is coming. Again, he will arise at a time of global chaos, - first to unite the Muslim world and then to unite the world with the sword. He will lead victorious armies that will conquer Jerusalem, while ruling the entire globe and hunting down and killing Jews and Christians. The present world situation is preparation for his imminent return.
- **The New World Order Scenario** – New Age author Peter Lemesurier laid out this plan for us in his 1981 best-seller, *The Armageddon Script*. He tells us that the New Age Christ will be humanly produced, - using the fake fulfillment of Messianic prophecies to convince the Jewish authorities of his authenticity. According to the revealed plan of the New World Order types, this New Messiah will rebuild the Jewish Temple and fulfill Daniel's prophecy by remaining and ruling from Israel for 7 years. It comes with a promise to bring peace and a human savior as the entire world is to be united in an eventual One World Government. [That is precisely Satan's plan. But I get ahead of myself.] Suffice it to say that the blueprint laid out by Mr Lemesurier is one of man-created chaos. It calls for three-separate wars merging into one giant global conflict. It adds in, - and I'm not making this up, - UFO / Alien contact, earthquakes, terrorism involving the uses of weapons of mass destruction and a crashing global economy. What's the point? Well the point is that this will set the conditions for the rise of the universal strong man that will come to power offering peace and solutions to all the world's problems. He is to, - and get this, - present himself as Jewish Messiah, Jesus, the Mahdi and Buddha all rolled into one. He will display supernatural power. [Didn't I read something about that in the Bible?] Are you starting to see a trend here? But all of this is just 'man's take' on things. God chimes in with His own through the Bible – and it has a perfect record of being right.

The Three Part Prophetic Template

“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” (Matthew 24:32-35)

Prophecy, as laid out in the Bible alone, is the key to unlocking both the direction and meaning of world events. So we begin to explore the ramifications of those prophecies by examining the outline of coming events that they provide. Now some scoff believing that no ancient book can predict the future. At this time I offer just two lines of thought in its defense. Just look at the unblemished record of Biblical prophecy already fulfilled. Take for instance the over one-hundred prophecies concerning Christ's first coming. Grant Jeffrey writing in Jesus: The Great Debate, figured the probability of anyone fulfilling just 17 of those prophecies at one chance in 480 billion x 1 billion x 1 trillion.¹ With that in mind, let's begin to explore God's Prophetic Template.

Prophecy Fulfilled

In evaluating the days in which we live I've found it helpful to divide God's word into three categories; - Prophecies Fulfilled, Prophecies in Process and Signs of the Age. We'll look first at those passages in Scripture that have been substantially fulfilled already.

- **The Jews Re-Gathered** – There are many prophetic passages that apply, but perhaps one of the foremost and signal prophecies given for the beginning of the End of the Age is Isaiah 11:11-12. It reads: **“In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people...he will assemble the scattered peoples of Judah from the four quarters of the earth”**. The first time God called His people back was after the Babylonian captivity, so that Israel could receive her Messiah at his first coming. This second re-gathering signals the near end of history; - so that Israel will be in the Land to receive the Messiah who is to return in Glory and power. The Jewish return began with the Zionist movement of the late 19th century. It was hurried along by Hitler's attempt to destroy the race during WWII and it continues to this day. The Jews survived as a nation for over 1,800 years without a homeland, - just as God promised. In Leviticus 26:33 God had warned Israel that He would **“scatter you among the nations”**. Through Isaiah He promised them that He would again call them to the Land. **“I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’”** (Isaiah 43:5-6) That promise is echoed over and over again by the prophets. And through Ezekiel he confirmed the permanence of the call. **“They and their children and their children's children will live there forever”** (Ezekiel 37:21, 25) Following: Some specific sub-prophecies.
 - 1) **A Language Restored** – Hebrew was a language as dead as ancient Chaldean. Yet God had promised to restore it. **“For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, That they all may call on the name of the LORD”** (Zephaniah 3:9) He gave one determined scholar the vision of restoring the language for Temple worship. Today it is a vibrant spoken tongue.
 - 2) **A Land Again Fertile** – For 18 centuries, - after the Romans got through with it, - Israel was a desert wasteland. In one example, Isaiah 27:6 promised **“Israel shall blossom and bud, And fill the face of the world with fruit.”** Tiny Israel now supplies Europe with 90% of its citrus fruits.
 - 3) **Increased Rainfall** – As written in Joel 2:23 God promised that when Israel returned from its exile, He would cause **“the rain to come down for you”**. And it has!
 - 4) **Return of the Ethiopian Jews** – Zephaniah 3:10 promised: **“From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, The daughter of My dispersed ones, Shall bring My offering”**. Beginning in the 1980's Israel organized airlifts to bring the Ethiopian Jews to Israel.
- **Israel Reborn In A Day** – Israel's reestablishment as a nation on May 14, 1948 shook up the world, and reoriented much of the Church's view of prophecy. It was literal indeed! And it was all about Israel. Isaiah 66:8 predicted that miraculous birth. **“Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once?”**
- **Israel's First War** – Psalm 83:2-8 lays out Israel's first war when they became a nation again in 1948. It even specifically names their modern enemies, - Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, etc, - using their ancient historical names. Psalm 83 is likely to have its final fulfillment as the momentum of the End Days takes hold and moves the world toward the seven year Tribulation.

- **Jerusalem Is Jewish Again** – When the IDF, - The Israeli Defense Force, - took Jerusalem during the '67 War, it was a fulfillment of Christ's own words. In Luke 21, Christ warned of the impending destruction of Jerusalem by Roman armies which occurred in AD 70. The early Christians took His warning to heart and left the city as the Roman legions were gathering. Despite the fact that about 1.1million Jews were slaughtered during the capture of Jerusalem, - not one Christian is recorded to have lost their lives in the siege.² Jesus went on to describe the ensuing scattering of the Jews throughout the world and that Jerusalem would remain in the hands of Israel's enemies **"trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled"**. (Luke 21:24) Then Jesus goes on to tie that end of the Gentile Era to accelerating birth pangs that will signal the End of the Age. **"Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near."** (Luke 21:29-31) Now a little speculation here! Psalm 90:10 gives 70 years as the length of a generation. And we are told in Luke 21:32, **"this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place"**. Today we find ourselves over 40 years into the window of this generation that saw the recapture of Jerusalem.³

The rebirth of the Jewish State is often referred to by prophecy scholars as the 'Super Sign' that signals that Christ's return is near at hand. God has called His people back into the Land, - just as He said, - and established them there as a nation, - just as He said. Further He promised in Amos 9:15: **"I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them," says the LORD your God"**. As God has fulfilled His promises to restore Israel, so the Enemy is preparing the world for his ultimate rebellion. It will all be played out during the Tribulation. That's the next area we will look at in our Prophetic Template.

REAL ISLAM – PART X

In our last installment we discussed what Scripture has to say about the coming Antichrist that will come upon the earth during the Tribulation. Today we'll look at what Islam has to say about the Last Days; specifically the role they anticipate for the Mahdi, the Islamic messiah. We will find that the parallels between the Biblical Antichrist and the Mahdi are quite astounding indeed. But does that necessarily mean that the Mahdi will be the Antichrist with Islam its vehicle? Or has God ordained another role for Islam and its messiah figure?

WHO DAT MADHI ?

When we examine the resume of the predicted Islamic Mahdi, and what the Bible has to say about the end times **"man of sin"**, we find the similarities astounding. Now, the prospect of an Arab / Islamic Antichrist presents a most interesting scenario: A descendant of Ishmael, Abraham's son with his wife's servant girl, father of the Arab race, leading the assault on Israel, the offspring of Abraham's rightful heir Isaac, all happening in the last days.⁴ The Islamic holy books, the Koran and the Hadith, actually say that this will be so. The only difference is that they portray the Jews and the followers of Jesus as evil. Here are the characteristics and career of the Islamic Messiah, the Mahdi, as outlined in the Islamic scriptures.

- **Called 'The Guided One'** – Guided by Allah, that is. So the question then becomes: Just who is Allah? Let's look to the Koran and compare it to the Bible for the answer. First of all he, Allah, is described in the Koran as a deceiver. *"And they cheated/deceived and Allah cheated/deceived, and Allah (is) the best (of) the cheaters/deceivers."* (Koran.3;54). Revelation 20:10 refers to "the devil that deceived them." [In John 14:6, Jesus, the Son of God is defined as Truth itself. John 14:9 closes that circle, saying: **"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."** (NIV)] Going on, Surah 59:3 describes Allah as *"the Most Proud."* Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:132-19 describes how Lucifer was tossed out of Heaven for the sin of pride. And among the 99 names of Allah are these: The Bringer of Death and The Destroyer. 1Corinthians 10:10 refers to Satan as **"the destroyer."**^{5 6} So by whom will this Mahdi really be guided? You be the judge.
- **Physically Attractive** – He will be tall, and fair with a prominent nose and forehead. So says the Hadith.
- **Partnership With Jesus** – The Prophet 'Jesus' will return to earth. Then The Mahdi and 'Jesus' will head to Jerusalem, where 'Jesus' will deny his divinity. This is strangely parallel to the partnership between the Antichrist and the False Prophet described in Scripture. This False Prophet, a religious figure, is called **"another beast" who "had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon"**. (Revelation 13:11) This False Prophet leads a counterfeit form of Christianity / Biblical religion. Posing as a lamb, Islam claims that it had its origin with Abraham, just following another line.⁷ It speaks like a dragon, when it corrupts the Word of God and denies His message concerning His only Son. Islam expressly denies the Sonship and divinity of Jesus. 1 John 2:22-23 clearly characterizes such beliefs.

“Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.”

- **He Will Convert The Entire World** - Muslim scriptures proclaim a time, in the last days, when all the world will belong to Islam. The Bible describes a time when the world will follow after and worship the Antichrist.⁸ **“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”** (Revelation 13:8)
- **He Is A Co-Ruler With ‘Jesus’ For Seven Years** – That is exactly the length of the Antichrist’s reign given by the prophet Daniel and John writing in Revelation. The False Prophet partners up with the Antichrist for the first half of his reign, establishing a false religious system identified as **“MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT”**. (Revelation 17:5) The False Prophet serves his purpose by causing **“the earth and those that dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed”**. This prophet performs miraculous signs, even making **“fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men”**. (Revelation 13:12-13) After using the ‘prophet’ and his system to consolidate his power over the world, the Antichrist will have no more use for him *or* the religious system he heads and will destroy both. Revelation 17:16 says he will **“hate the harlot, making her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire”**.⁹
- **Conversion Will Be Mandatory** – Islam teaches that there will be a time, under the Mahdi, when there will only be one religion in the world: Islam. Islam offers conversion or death.¹⁰ In Sura 9:5, the Koran teaches Muslims to *“slay the idolaters wherever you find them, and take them captives and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush, then if they repent and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate, leave their way free to them.”*¹¹ (Sounds like ‘convert or die’ to me!) John The Revelator tells us this end times religious revival will not be voluntary. He says of the Antichrist, **“and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations”**. (Rev.13:7) That’s total control.
- **He Makes War On Christians & Jews** – Islamic writings freely describe the hunting and killing of Jews in the last days. The Bible says the same of the Antichrist. **“And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them”**. (Revelation 13:7)
- **The Price...Your Head** – The Koran calls for beheading those who do not bow the knee to Allah.¹² *“I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. Therefore strike off their heads and strike off every fingertip of them.”*¹³ (Sura 8:11, Koran) The Bible concurs that this will be the case in the end times. Revelation 13:15 tells us that, **“as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed”**. Revelation 20:4 talks of **“the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast”**.
- **The Political & Religious Triumph Of Islam** – Islam’s Sharia Law will be triumphant. The Hadith says of the coming Mahdi, *“He will fill the world with justice and fairness at a time when the world will be filled with oppression. He will rule for seven years.”*¹⁴ Again, that seven year career is the exact time given to the Antichrist by both Daniel and John.
- **A Final Battle Between Good & Evil** – The Hadith says the Islamic Messiah will lead the *“forces of righteousness and do battle with the forces of evil”* in a climactic battle.¹⁵ Scripture too, describes such a battle at the end of the Tribulation. It is a time when Jesus returns with His saints to pass judgment **“and make war”** on the nations. (Revelation 19:11) It is the end of the line for both the Beast and the False Prophet. **“Then the beast was captured and with him the false prophet...These two were cast alive into the lake of fire”**. (Revelation 19:20)

We are not discounting the possibility of Antichrist coming from Europe, or the Western part of the revived Roman Empire. Still one must admit that the similarities between the Biblical **“man of sin”** and the Mahdi as described by Islamic writings at the very least leaves open the possibility that they will be one and the same. Hal Lindsey summarized these similarities very well. Both come on the scene during a time of upheaval. Both present themselves as ambassadors of peace, destroying many in the process. Both have a 7 year career, and *“...head a one world religion and one world government, both claim supernatural origins and both reigns end in a battle between good and evil that brings Earth’s final judgment.”*¹⁶ Coincidence? We’ll examine that next time.

¹ Grant R Jeffrey, Jesus: The Great Debate, pg 229-239, 1999

² Chuck Missler, Prophecy Conference 2006, Q&A Session

³ For the material on this subject, I consulted Jack Kelly's Seven Major Signs of the Second Coming, December 30. Mr Kelly argues that the window for prophetic fulfillment is obtained by adding 70 years to either the 1948 or 1967 dates. He therefore sees the earliest possible fulfillment of all End Times prophecies as 2018. That would mean the Rapture could come no earlier than 2011. In my humble reasoning, - fulfillment could occur any time during the life span of that generation. That would preserve the doctrine of imminence as applied to the Rapture of the Church.

⁴ Jerry Robinson, Calling Al Mahdi, Understanding The Antichrist – Part II, WIR

⁵ The greatest proof that Allah is Satan in Islam, The Easy Way to Heaven, viewed October 29, 2014

⁶ Allah IS Satan According to Former Muslims, Counter Jihad, May 6, 2013

⁷ Jack Kinsella, The Third Pillar of Antichrist, Omega Letter, March 13, 2006

⁸ Hal Lindsey, The 4 Horsemen, al Mahdi, and the Magnetic Polar Reversal, Oracle, March 14, 2006

⁹ Consulted notes from: John MacArthur, MacArthur Study Bible, notes for revelation 17, pg 2,016-2,017

¹⁰ Hal Lindsey, The 4 Horsemen, al Mahdi, and the Magnetic Polar Reversal, Oracle, March 14, 2006

¹¹ The Koran, as translated by MH Shakir

¹² Jack Kinsella, The Third Pillar of Antichrist, Omega Letter, March 13, 2006

¹³ The Koran, as translated by MH Shakir

¹⁴ The Hadith as quoted by Jerry Robinson, Calling Al Mahdi, Understanding The Antichrist – Part II, WIR

¹⁵ Jerry Robinson, Calling Al Mahdi, Understanding The Antichrist – Part II, WIR

¹⁶ Hal Lindsey, The 4 Horsemen, al Mahdi, and the Magnetic Polar Reversal, Oracle, March 14, 2006