

GIMME DAT END TIMES RELIGION – PART XVI

Beginning in the early 1990's rigorous study of the Scriptures began to lead several prophecy scholars down a new road. Instead of the traditional interpretation where you wound up with a Roman Antichrist: They began to calculate the probability that the Man of Sin may indeed be Muslim. Through study of the Koran and the Hadith, - they were confirmed in this view. The Pioneers in this area included Perry Stone, Dr Joe Van Koevering and a little known converted Muslim by the name of Walid Shoebat. In this segment we will trace the scenario that emerges from that view.

THE ISLAMIC ANTICHRIST

“Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.” (1John 2:22)

Walid Shoebat came to a very disturbing conclusion. He was studying the Bible in an effort to convert his Christian wife. Now understand that Mr Shoebat had operated as a Palestinian terrorist and so was zealously committed to the Islamic cause. He had rarely questioned the theology which he had been taught. But as he studied the Scriptures, he came to realize, - in his words now, - “My Mahdi was your Antichrist. Your Christ was my Antichrist”. His study of Scripture led him to realize that he had been living a lie. And after praying for discernment to the God of Abraham, - the common ancestor of Muslim, Jew and Christian alike, - God answered. And he gave his life to Jesus as Lord and Savior.¹

It is interesting that Shoebat, the former Muslim should have been convinced of the Truth of the Christian Faith by looking at the teachings of his own religion. But he just saw what many others were beginning to see: That when Islamic writings are compared with the Scripture; - one comes to the almost inescapable conclusion that the Mahdi and the Antichrist are one and the same man. In fact many Islamic scholars, - who believe that the Bible is just a form of ‘corrupted’ scripture, - agree with the Bible on at least this one point. The Mahdi will return after the opening of the first seal judgment. **“Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, ‘Come and see.’ And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.”** (Revelation 6:1-2)² Muslims believe that the Mahdi is coming to claim his kingdom, - actually not figuratively, - riding on a white horse.

Let's review just a few of the similarities between the projected careers of Mahdi and Antichrist.

- The Mahdi is to rule the world from Jerusalem for seven years. According to Daniel and John writing in Revelation, that is to be the exact length of the career of the Antichrist. He too will set up headquarters in Jerusalem.
- The Mahdi will operate with a partner called Issa, (Arabic for Jesus). The two of them will go to Jerusalem where, in line with Islamic teaching, this *Islamic Jesus* will deny that he is the Son of God. Revelation 17:5 tells us that the False Prophet, - head of the world's combined religious systems, - will cause **“the earth and those that dwell in it to worship the first beast”**.³
- The Koran & Hadith teach that the entire world will convert to Islam.⁴ Revelation 13:8 teaches that **“all that dwell upon the earth shall worship”** this pretender prince.
- In Sura 8:11 and elsewhere, Islam teaches that this One World Religion will be enforced under the pain of death by beheading.^{5 6} “I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. Therefore strike off their heads”, says that passage. 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”**.
- Islam brags it will hunt down Jews and Christians in those 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)

There are more parallels with the Bible. The Mahdi will rule both the civil and religious spheres. That theocratic imposition of Sharia law is both the Islamic way and the prophesied nature of Antichrist's rule.⁷ He will lead the final battle between good and evil.⁸ In fact this notion that the Antichrist is the same as the Islamic Messiah, (the Mahdi), - is gaining traction in the prophetic community. Walid Shoebat points out a confirming phenomenon of Scripture: Whenever God goes to war against nations in the

Bible, - they are always Muslim nations! Look at the nations mentioned in Psalm 83:5-8: **“They form a confederacy against You: The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites; Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assyria also has joined with them;”**. Today, all of these people are Muslim. Or take the “burden” prophecies of Isaiah, found primarily from chapters 14 through 23. In that extended passage of Scripture God passes judgment on many nations; - Babylon (Iraq), Philistia (Palestine), Moab (Jordan), Syria (& its capital Damascus), Ethiopia, Egypt, Assyria (Iran & Iraq), Arabia, Edom (Palestinians), and Tyre (in Lebanon). Again all of them are Muslim.⁹

In fact Shoebat sees Islam as the False Religion represented by the woman that rides the beast of Revelation 17:7. And then there is the description that the Bible gives to the coming Antichrist as the King of Babylon and the Assyrian. There is a clear link made between the King of Babylon, who is **“cast from your grave”** (Isaiah 14:19) and Satan’s own Antichrist of Revelation 19:20, where we see the Antichrist and the False Prophet **“cast alive into the lake of fire”**.¹⁰ As for the Assyrian connection, it is Micah 5:5-6 that makes the case. It describes the coming world ruler as **“the Assyrian”** from the **“land of Nimrod”**. Assyria is found in Iran and Iraq. The name Nimrod means “rebel”, and Nimrod ruled his empire from Babylon itself, - the very symbol of mankind’s end-time rebellion.¹¹ Babylon is of course in Iraq. Isaiah 14:24, God promises to **“break Assyria in My Land, and on My Mountains”**; - and Isaiah 30:31 tells us **“The voice of the LORD will shatter Assyria; with his scepter he will strike them down”**. All of this comes at a time when **“The Lord will come down to fight for Mount Zion”**. (Isaiah 31:4) This all is clearly a reference to the Last Days, when Christ Himself will destroy the Antichrist and his evil world system.¹²

Jeremiah takes up the call of judgment on the nations adding Elam (Persia) and Babylon to Isaiah’s list. Again all Muslim and with the exception of the Elamites, all Arab, - sons of Ishmael. It is interesting that Islam’s awaited Messiah, the 12th Mahdi is to be a direct descendant of Mohammed through his daughter Fatima. And that Mohammed traced his ancestry back to Ishmael himself through his second son Kedar.¹³ In fact, the ruling Hashemite family of Jordan is the direct linkage to Mohammed through the proper line and therefore is the only line that can produce an authentic candidate for the office of Mahdi. In addition with the approval of the Israeli government they control the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and had family members on the thrones of Saudi Arabia and Iraq even during the 20th century.¹⁴ The former heir to the throne of Jordan, His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal was even put forward to assume an Iraqi throne prior to the fall of Saddam. Scholars like Dr Joe Van Koevering and others believe that he is a legitimate and prime candidate to serve as both Mahdi and Antichrist.

Here’s the short case for Prince Hassan as Antichrist / Mahdi.

- As a Hashemite he’s related to Mohammed through Fatima
- He is a Prince. Daniel 9:26 requires a **“prince who is to come”**.
- He has both genetic and royal connections to the Assyrian people.^{15 16} He is an known supporter of the Assyrian cause.¹⁷
- He’s the closest thing the world has to a King of Babylon. His family ruled in Iraq and has maintained its claim to the throne in Baghdad.¹⁸ [For a full breakdown of this material ask for a copy of the series Babylon Rising from this newsletter at robpalaszewski@hotmail.com]

So...Gog / Magog Is Turkey...Not Russia

A corollary of this view is that now we are not looking for Gog / Magog to be the Russia but rather Turkey. Russia’s role is then to serve as **“king of the north”** (Daniel 11:40) that comes against Antichrist **“like a whirlwind”**. So Russia is the King of the North and what was southern Soviet Russia, (combined with Turkey) is the Muslim Magog Alliance. Ezekiel 38:2 tells us Gog is **“of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Mashech and Tubal”**. So who’s that? The ancient Greek writer Hesiod clearly identified Magog with the Scythians as did Jewish / Roman historian Flavius Josephus. Consulting ancient Assyrian as well as Herodotus we find that the Scythians or Lydians lived in what is called Anatolia and Asia Minor in modern day Turkey. Other nations Ezekiel names in this alliance; - Meshech, Tubal, Gomer and Beth Togarmah; - are all clearly traceable to either Turkey or the former Islamic Soviet Republics such as Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan, Kyrgystan Turkmenistan etc.^{19 20} Ezekiel’s Tubal likely refers to the Georgian capital Tbilisi, (pronounced Tuh-oo-h-ball-ee-see) and meaning “the land of Tubal”. Meshech is yet another region in Georgia.²¹ That means that component of the alliance is drawn clearly from Turkey and the former Soviet Republics of the Black and Caspian Sea regions; - Muslims all.²²

Ezekiel 38 also puts “**Persia, Ethiopia and Libya**” in the full alliance; - again Islamic countries all. Then Jeremiah 51:27-28, God reveals just who will destroy the nations of the Magog invasion. “**Ararat, Minni and Ashkenaz**” as well as “**the kings of the Medes**”. Minni and Ararat are the Armenians and Ashkenaz refers to the Russians and Europeans.²³ The Russians can’t be part of the alliance that they are going to destroy.

The Religious Connection

So how does this connect to ‘*Dat End Times Religion*’? There is an allusion in Isaiah 14:12 that sheds some very interesting light on the connection between Islam & the Mahdi & Antichrist & the ancient paganism practiced in the Middle East since the time of Babylon. It reads: “**How you are fallen from heaven O Lucifer, son of the morning!**”. In Aramaic the phrase beginning with “**O Lucifer**” is rendered Helel ben Shahar.²⁴ It means “brightness” or significantly “crescent moon”; - not coincidentally the very symbol of Islam.²⁵ Islam arose out of the pre-Islamic pagan traditions of the Middle East. Worship of the Moon god was common to the region, and one of its’ most popular names was Alilah. This god was worshipped at the Kabah Temple, from where he was picked by Mohammed as the god that would reign supreme in this new system. Alilah or Allah was one of the dozens of gods honored there. In fact the very name Kabah means “House of the Moon god”. Its sign was the crescent moon.²⁶ This was the same Moon god worshipped by the Babylonians, - Nimrod, Semiramis et al: - And the crescent moon served that same purpose in all pagan religions. It links back to Gog too. The Lydian King Gugu, from which the name is likely derived, - can be tied to the worship of the god of the crescent moon.²⁷

There is more. In Judges 8:21 Gideon confronts two of Israel’s pagan enemies killing them and then taking “**the ornaments off their camels necks**”. Again in the original, it says that he “**took the crescent ornaments**”. Even over a thousand years before Christ, God’s enemies were honoring the Moon god with the crescent symbol. There is another connection to Islam. On the Temple Mount, Muslims have constructed the Dome of the Rock, where they believe Mohammed ascended into heaven. It is a large black stone, - an asteroid. Muslims believe that that rock “has the power of Jesus”. It can take away sins. There is an interesting parallel there with Acts 14:35, where the people of Ephesus in Turkey were also worshipping an asteroid, - a goddess whose image “**fell from heaven**”.²⁸ Scratch beneath the surface and you will find the pagan connections in Islam are astounding. Conclusion: The Antichrist and the Islamic Mahdi are one. The Antichrist is an Arab, linked to both Assyria (Iran / Iraq) and religiously (and likely geographically) to ancient Babylon.

Islam is seeking just what Nimrod sought since the attempt to build the Tower of Babel on the Plains of Shinar; - The creation of a One World Religion. It offers one language, - the same attempt as at the tower. It seeks the imposition of world wide Sharia law. It calls and expects a world government, - that will for awhile at least be governed out of Jerusalem by the Mahdi aided by the False Jesus (Issa). And it seeks the conversion of the whole world; - and promises war and beheading for those that resist. Now the Antichrist, (Mahdi), - we are told in Daniel 9:37-38 that he “**will show no regard for the gods of his fathers**”. Instead “**he will honor a god of fortresses**”, - power itself. And likely not of this world. We have looked at some of his attributes. That god is Allah!²⁹

MAKING NEVILLE PROUD

It’s 1930-something again, and Israel seems to have learned the wrong lesson from that decade of appeasement. Perhaps they’ve forgotten what followed. Appeasement never works! Jerusalem seems determined to give her enemies every advantage and the US and the West and the rest of the world are willing accomplices in the attempted destruction of the Jewish State. The current Israeli leadership must believe that a determined display of both military and political weakness is necessary to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East. Here’s the set up. Syria has been quietly but steadily preparing for the next war with Israel; - the one that in Damascus’ eyes will result in the recapture of the Golan Heights that serves as Israel’s northern border. WMD capable missiles & effective antitank weapons & armored columns & troops have been moved into place under the cover of night. The latest Russian equipment has been integrated into the Syrian military system. Yet somehow, Israel’s Defense Minister Ehud Barak has seen fit to step down IDF readiness in the region. He has ordered the redeployment of Israeli forces to the south, away from the Syrian border. This follows on the heels of a decision to stop issuing gas masks to civilians, making them vulnerable in the event of chemical or biological attack by the Syrians.³⁰ Thus is the vaunted Israeli military offered up on the altar of peace.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Olmert is taking care to do the same on the political front. He is jumping through all sorts of hoops to create the Palestinian terror state. Reports show, Jerusalem has presented Abbas with a draft agreement outlining a Palestinian State. As reported here before, this new Palestine is to consist of Gaza, Judea and Samaria. A corridor will connect Gaza to the rest of the new nation. Jerusalem will be divided according to neighborhoods. As to the disposition of the Temple Mount, only this cryptic sentence is reported: "Each side will recognize the other's spiritual needs".³¹ Rumors have been flying that Israel is indeed ready to give up complete control of the Temple Mount. But there are other candidates for control of Jerusalem; - a coalition of "moderate" Arab States, The Vatican, or some international arrangement, possibly the UN itself. In any case, the parallel with 1938 seems complete in so many aspects.

- The 'Deal' is being promoted by the Western powers, just as the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia was offered up by Britain's Chamberlain and France's Daladier to appease the anti-Semitic Hitler.
- As was the case with Czechoslovakia, Israel too, will be truncated and left humanly almost indefensible.
- Both nations are being offered up to powers that have vowed to destroy God's People, the Jews. Germany's Nazis, of course, gave us the Holocaust. The Palestinians have consistently called for the complete destruction of Israel. By their own words, any deal made, is just a point along that road to total Palestinian control.

And through it all, the old Neville Chamberlain would be proud. Like the late British PM, the Israelis are signaling their readiness to trade land and physical security for the empty promises of peace. The last time was tried we had World War II.

...And then there is this one more point of the proposed agreement: Jews in Judea and Samaria are to be "expelled". This signals the complete separation of the Jewish and Arab communities. It is this separation, - once it occurs, - that makes possible the complete destruction of the Palestinian people written of by the prophet Obadiah. His prophesy is clearly one for the End Times, when "**the day of the Lord upon all nations is near**". It is then that "**The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. The house of Jacob shall be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau shall be stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, And no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau**" (Obadiah 1:15, 17-18) The House of Jacob is of course, Israel. Remember; God gave Jacob the new name of Israel. The House of Esau refers to today's Palestinians. The Cutting Edge's David Bay points out that Isaiah 34 offers a parallel prophesy, describing the complete destruction of the Edomites, - the Palestinians who today live in Jordan. "**...My sword...it shall come down upon Edom, upon the people I have doomed for judgment...For the Lord has a day of judgment, a year of recompense, for the cause of Zion**". (Isaiah 34: 5, 8)³² We are living in a day when the fulfillment of these prophecies may be near at hand.

SABRE RATTLING

Amid reports that Tehran is continuing to position itself to take advantage of any perceived weakness in Iraq, the US has leaked a strike plan that would target not only the Iranian nuclear facilities, but the entire Iranian military. In the last several months, Iran has continued to step up arms shipments to insurgent forces in Iraq. They are shelling Kurdish towns in northern Iraq, despite protests from Baghdad.³³ President Ahmadinejad has announced that Iran is ready to fill the coming "great power vacuum" that will occur when the Americans withdraw from Iraq.³⁴ Now, the Iranians are claiming that they've achieved their goal of putting 3,000 nuclear centrifuges on-line, in defiance of the UN Security Council.³⁵ The US response: A leaked Pentagon war plan that calls for a campaign that would effectively annihilate the Iranian military in 3 days of massive bombing. With Washington believing the Iranians are just stalling until they complete their nuclear program, the plan rejects surgical strikes in favor of a massive assault that would target 1,200 sites. President Bush recently warned that action would be taken to halt Iranian nuclear ambitions "before it is too late".³⁶ In the past, Iran has threatened to put an end to the State of Israel. Bluff or the real thing: Only time will tell.

-
- ¹ Walid Shoebat, from his presentation at the International Prophecy Conference 2007
 - ² Jack Kinsella, Mahdi Rising..., Omega Letter, April 6, 2006
 - ³ Consulted notes from: John MacArthur, MacArthur Study Bible, notes for revelation 17, pg 2,016-2,017
 - ⁴ Hal Lindsey, The 4 Horsemen, al Mahdi, and the Magnetic Polar Reversal, Oracle, March 14, 2006
 - ⁵ Hal Lindsey, The 4 Horsemen, al Mahdi, and the Magnetic Polar Reversal, Oracle, March 14, 2006
 - ⁶ Jack Kinsella, The Third Pillar of Antichrist, Omega Letter, March 13, 2006
 - ⁷ The Hadith as quoted by Jerry Robinson, Calling Al Mahdi, Understanding The Antichrist – Part II, WIR
 - ⁸ Jerry Robinson, Calling Al Mahdi, Understanding The Antichrist – Part II, WIR
 - ⁹ Walid Shoebat, from his presentation at the International Prophecy Conference 2007
 - ¹⁰ Walid Shoebat, Islam And The Final Beast
 - ¹¹ Chuck Missler, The Return of Nimrod, Personal Update News Journal, October 2002
 - ¹² Walid Shoebat, Islam And The Final Beast
 - ¹³ Hal Lindsey, The 4 Horsemen, al Mahdi, and the Magnetic Polar Reversal, Oracle, March 14, 2006
 - ¹⁴ Dr Joe Van Koevering, The Pope, The Prophecy And The Promise, International Prophecy Conference 2006
 - ¹⁵ Dr Elias, The Genetics of Modern Assyrians...
 - ¹⁶ Dr Joe Van Koevering, The Pope, The Prophecy And The Promise, International Prophecy Conference 2006
 - ¹⁷ Fukuno, Assyrian Liberation Party, Website
 - ¹⁸ Dr Joe Van Koevering, International Prophecy Conference, 2006
 - ¹⁹ Walid Shoebat, Islam And The Final Beast
 - ²⁰ Mark Hitchcock, The Coming Islamic Invasin of Israel, 2002, pg 31
 - ²¹ James Lloyd, Gog And Magog Are Gathering Momentum, Christian Media Research, April 15, 2002
 - ²² Joel Richardson, Will Islam Be Our Future?, Chapter 10 – The Revived Islamic Empire of Antichrist
 - ²³ Walid Shoebat, Islam And The Final Beast
 - ²⁴ JW McKay, Hillel And The Dawn Goddess
 - ²⁵ Walid Shoebat, from his presentation at the International Prophecy Conference 2007
 - ²⁶ Syed Kamran Mirza, Was Allah The Moon God Of Ancient Arab Pagan?, Faith Freedom.Org
 - ²⁷ Walid Shoebat, from his presentation at the International Prophecy Conference 2007
 - ²⁸ Walid Shoebat, from his presentation at the International Prophecy Conference 2007
 - ²⁹ Walid Shoebat, from his presentation at the International Prophecy Conference 2007
 - ³⁰ Ezra HaLevi, : Defense Minister Barak Orders IDF Redeployment From North to Placate Syria, Y-Net News, August 31, 2007
 - ³¹ Gil Ronen, PM Olmert Offers Judea, Samaria, to the Palestinian State, August 31, 2007
 - ³² David Bay, LEADING ORTHODOX JEWISH SCHOLARS CONFIRM CUTTING EDGE TEACHING THAT TODAY'S PALESTINIANS ARE THE "HOUSE OF ESAU", Cutting Edge News 2095, - 2005
 - ³³ Ahmed Rasheed Iraq says Iran continues shelling of northern Iraq despite protest", Reuters, Canada.com, August 31, 2007
 - ³⁴ Edmund Blair, Iran says ready to fill vacuum in Iraq left by US, The Star Online, August 28, 2007
 - ³⁵ Iran claims 3,000 centrifuges benchmark, Jerusalem Post, AP, September 2, 2007
 - ³⁶ Pentagon plan: Annihilate Tehran's military in 3 days, World Net Daily, September 2, 2007