

# Absolute Truth & Prophecy

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### TO BOMB OR NOT TO BOMB

This is a classic case of 'He said – she said'. With all that is being claimed and alleged, it is sometimes difficult to get at the real truth. Here are some of the developments thus far. The heat was being turned up the last week or so amid charges and counter-charges regarding Iran's nuclear weapons program. First of all, French President Sarkozy told the world that the fact that Iran had a nuclear weapons program "is a certainty to all of our secret services".<sup>1</sup> A few days later the AP was reporting that a secret UN document revealed that Tehran already had the capability to produce a nuclear weapon and was "on the way to developing a missile system able to carry an atomic warhead".<sup>2</sup> Iran's Ahmadinejad added fuel to the fire when he once again declared the Holocaust to be a lie and predicted the imminent demise of the Israeli "regime", saying "it will soon come to an end". He went on to tell his audience on state radio "Confronting the Zionist regime is a national and religious duty".<sup>3</sup>

That kind of saber rattling only fed what some Israeli leaders were seeing as the nearly inevitable conclusion. Israel was facing an existential dilemma. With the threat of a hostile and nuclear Iran increasing daily, was the time coming when Israel would have to make the fateful choice to strike Tehran's nuclear program. An attack mind you would not likely be clean. And facing hardened bunkers, long flying distances and other tactical problems, long term success was not likely. At most it would seem to postpone the inevitable specter of an Iran as a bona fide nuclear power. Former Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh said that Israel was being pushed "into a corner" by the feckless response to the Tehran regime by the US and the West. Without "crippling sanctions" Israel would be forced to act. "By the end of the year... we will have no choice."<sup>4</sup> Bret Stevens, writing in the Wall Street Journal used the same reasoning to argue that the willingness of the Obama administration to chide rather than confront and negotiate in the face of insult will force Israel to move to guarantee its security. But such a strike could send the price of oil skyrocketing and deal a massive blow to the precarious world economy. Stephens point and the title of his article: "Obama Is Pushing Israel Toward War".<sup>5</sup>

Now here's the 'She said' part. The Iranians have accused the US of fabricating documents for and hiding evidence from the IAEA.<sup>6</sup> To add to the confusion former Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak of the left-leaning Labour Party, announced that "Iran does not constitute an existential threat against Israel".<sup>7</sup> Still Israel is wisely gearing up for an onslaught. Air and naval preparations are underway – and underground bunkers are being prepared for the leadership of the country. But former Carter administration National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski is lobbying President Obama to take concrete action should Israel launch an attack. He wants the US Air Force to confront Israeli sorties flying across Iraqi airspace and shoot them down if they wont turn around.<sup>8</sup> [*That's just plain Biblically stupid!*] So will there be a strike? It's hard to say. On the one hand, as one intelligence analyst points out, Israel is on some level coming to accept the notion of a nuclear Iran.<sup>9</sup> And from Scripture we know that Iran will not be destroyed by Israel at this time. Ezekiel 38 tells us that Persia (Iran) will be one of the players in an End Times invasion; - a leading nation in the Gog / Magog alliance. On the other hand Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu has promised that Iran will never be allowed to go fully nuclear. And with the Washington generated momentum for peace in the next couple of years there is kind of a quid pro quo developing. Simply stated it may be this: Israel will assent to a Palestinian state in return for America's blind-eye-go-ahead for a strike against the nuclear facilities. Netanyahu is speaking now of 'which borders' would serve Israel's security interests best. This, it seems, is the best he can do. "Israel today needs borders where it can always defend itself." Just no return to the '67 lines that Obama and the West and the Arabs are all moving toward. He explained it thus. "The Land of Israel is divided. The question is how it will be divided in the future."<sup>10</sup> Here is God's verdict on such a prospect. His judgment is coming for certain. **"I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land."** (Joel 3:2)

## ISLAM, DECEPTION & THE ANTICHRIST – PART II

*Just as the true essence of the Christian Faith reflects the heart of its' genesis, so too Islam has taken on the characteristics of both its early history and its founding prophet.*

### THE ORIGINS OF ISLAM

The faith that is called Islam emerged out of the religious chaos that characterized the Arabian desert of the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD. Zoroasterism dominated Persia, (today's Iran). The Byzantine Empire practiced the Eastern brand of Christianity, Jewish tribes could be found, scattered about the Arabian Peninsula, maintaining as best they could, the traditions of the faith. Still much of the area was dominated by the multi-god paganism that had its origin in ancient times. Once a year, this pagan world would all come together in the city of Mecca. Now in that city, there was a shrine, the Kaba, that housed 360 idols. During peace and war, the various tribes would come together, encamped about the shrine for this five-day religious festival. This was the world in which the Prophet Mohammed was born.<sup>11 12</sup>

Over the course of his early life, Mohammed had contact with all of the religious traditions that entered his region. Islamic writings tell us that he was meditating in a cave outside of Mecca when, in 610, he had a vision of an angel who ordered him to "recite" the word of God. When Mohammed resisted, this spirit seized him by the throat to compel him to accept the command. He was at first shaken and believed that he had encountered a demon, - but was later convinced by his wife and others to assume the office of prophet and religious reformer.

He preached that there was one true God, Allah. He railed against the pagan idol worship of Mecca. It is true that he was much influenced by the monotheism of Christians and Jews. But the Allah he worshipped was in no way the same as the God of the Bible. In fact the very name Allah was but an adaptation of Alilah, the supreme pagan idol found in the Kaba shrine. This same god Alilah can be traced back to an ancient Hindu deity whose name means mother or goddess.<sup>13</sup> This was one of the chief deities of pre-Islamic paganism, - the god of the crescent moon.<sup>14</sup>

Mohammed spread the faith by preaching, military might and deceit. The Arabs of Medina flocked to him believing that he was the Messiah to come. Unable to support themselves, his Muslim followers in Medina began to attack and rob the desert caravans, justified by a new doctrine called Jihad. War and violence followed this emerging 'man of god'. After the successful battle of Bedr, he expelled from Mecca, one Jewish tribe that did not fully support him. Later he seized the property of another and still later slaughtered the men of a third Jewish tribe that had already surrendered, selling the women and children into slavery. In 628 he signed the peace treaty of Hudaibiah and 2 years later violated it when it served his interests. This led to the establishment of the principle of *hudna*. According to this principle, Muslims are allowed and even encouraged to make treaties with their enemies, when it serves their own interests and they have no intention of keeping them. The time gained is to be used to strengthen their positions after which they may be broken to advance the cause of Islam. All in all, Mohammed led over 80 military expeditions. By Islam's own Hadith, it is admitted that his actions as commander and prophet were characterized by duplicity and cruelty to those thrown on his mercy.<sup>15</sup> After his death, his successors followed in his footsteps, conquering formerly Christian lands in the name of Allah. Their battle cry: Convert or die! It is not much different today. The Islam of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is committed to the establishment of a worldwide empire. It rests strongly on the historical / religious traditions of its birth.

### The Nature Of The Faith

Islam, as practiced today, - is a prisoner to both the character of its founder and the nature of its defining scriptures; - the Koran and the Hadith. But Islam originated in the Middle East, invented and purveyed by the Arab people. Now Genesis 16:12 is viewed as a prophecy of the nature of that people and its relationship to the Jews, God's Chosen People. **"He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."** The Bible is speaking here about Ishmael, Abraham's son through the servant girl, Hagar, - and in the process describing the origin of the Arab nation, the founding race and chief purveyors of Islam. In fact, Jew and Arab alike, both agree that Ishmael is the starting point for the Arab line. That may be where agreement stops. Both Arab and Islamic *thought* have set themselves up in opposition to both the Jewish people and the two great religions founded on the Bible. So this ancient Biblical passage remains somehow a very apt description of the current relations between "*The Religion of Peace*" and both its Semitic Jewish brothers as well as the rest of the world. In the comparison that follows we will show how Islam is both a reflection of and a catalyst for the character of its adherents as demonstrated in their devotion to the notion of 'unending Jihad'.

According to Marvin Yakos, author of *Jesus vs Jihad*: Terror is the true nature of Islam. The ideology that pervades that faith "...stems from a deadly and fervent spiritual war with ancient roots and eternal implications". To Yakov, Islam has one overriding purpose, "...to darken the world and remove any link to its Savior, Jesus Christ". Any reading of the Koran reveals Islam's true goal: The submission of the world to Allah. To that end, the literal adherents to the Koran may employ a rich panoply of theological tools including Dhimmitude (legal superiority), the Hudna (a false truce), and of course, the ever-popular Jihad.

This has led practitioners to jealously guard their religion against any perceived impurities; - against any who would dare to leave this *Religion of Peace*. Take this story that occurred in the Fall of 2008. A Somali by the name of Mansur Mohammed had converted from Islam to Christianity back in 2005. He was working as an aid worker for the World Food Program when he was captured by the al Shabab group of Muslim extremists. Five masked men armed with guns and swords brought him to the square where they had gathered the villagers, telling them there would be a feast. Instead they proclaimed him an apostate, and a spy and recited from the Koran. Then with cries of "Allah Akbar" growing in volume they twisted his neck and sliced off his head, - showing it to the villagers once they had done so. A cell phone video documented the execution. Elsewhere in Somalia, reports were surfacing that anyone found with a Bible was being killed.<sup>16</sup>

At around the same time in Mogadishu, Somalia a 13 year old girl named Aisha was raped. She was then charged with adultery and taken to a stadium and stoned to death by a mob of 50 in front of an audience of about 1,000 men.<sup>17</sup> In Afghanistan a Christian aid worker was murdered by the Taliban in Kabul.<sup>18</sup> Seven Christians were murdered in Mosul, Iraq in a two week span.<sup>19</sup> Persecution is not only an unofficial activity but often has the imprimatur of the government. In Afghanistan a journalism student was convicted of "insulting Islam", and sentenced to death. He purportedly questioned the tenets of Islam by downloading and distributing information that questioned the Islamic view of women's rights. The student told an appeals court that he confessed only under torture. The appeals court reduced his sentence to 20 years. The lenience of this decision caused grumbling among observers, one of which said that the judge "should be hanged", for his mercy.<sup>20</sup>

The concept of Jihad is the driving force behind the terror that now afflicts the world. It is the theological justification for the murder and mayhem perpetrated against innocent populations. Referring to unbelievers, Sura 4:89 reads, "*Seize them and slay them wherever you find them*". The Koranic blessing for this can be found in the pronouncement of Sura 4:102. "*For the unbelievers, Allah has prepared humiliating punishment.*" And he has done so because, "*Allah is an enemy of those who reject faith*". (Sura 2:98) This is the point of one of the great contrasts with the message delivered by Jesus. Paul tells us in Romans 5:8 that "**God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**"

Mr. Yakos points out that Islamic Jihadist terror is driven by "...wicked spiritual devices". It plays upon the emptiness of souls without God, offering them spiritual status and importance in return for their all-sacrificing act of blood worship. It promises the would-be-martyr, rich carnal rewards, forbidden in this life, in exchange for the sacrifice of their own lives in service to this god which demands lethal satisfaction.<sup>21</sup> It is interesting that Jihadist's rewards promised in the Koran, are based almost entirely on the fulfillment of sexual desire. Christ promised the "**peace that passes understanding**", for His followers. In contrast, Allah offers a smorgasbord of sensual delights: covets of virgins and young boys, cohabitation with "demure virgins", "carnal playmates", and "full breasted maidens" are among the promised martyr's rewards. The Islamic paradise resembles more a playground of debauched Roman emperors, - (or Hugh Hefner), - rather than the Heaven described in Scripture.

Blended with a theologically based message of hate that is pounded into the heads of young Muslims by Koran-quoting holy men, and already cognizant of the material and cultural gap between Middle Eastern societies and those in the West, the addition of this sexual fuel makes for a toxically potent mix. Just as Hitler and the great dictators of the last century bred and harnessed the hate of the masses, so too, do the promoters of a literal and radically fundamentalist Islam. We see the contrast with Christianity when we consider Jesus' message of radical peace: "**But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also**", (Matthew 5:39) - "**Blessed are the peacemakers**" (Matthew 5:8) - and Christ's words from the Cross, "**Father forgive them, for they know not what they do**". (Luke 23:34) Instead, fundamental Islam offers encouragements to "*slay the unbelievers*" and the authoritative intoning of Imams calling on believers to act out on that hate. Grant Jeffrey, in his book *War Against Terrorism*, quotes an Official Palestinian Authority Broadcast that followed a bloody suicide bombing in 2001. "Blessed is he who fights in the name of Allah, ....who raids in the name of Allah, blessed is he who dons a vest of

explosives on himself or on his children and goes in to the depths of the Jews". But this is just typical fare for a Friday night sermon, broadcast from mosques throughout the region on official government radio and TV stations.<sup>22</sup>

Driven by this repetitive message of hate, Islam has become genocidal in nature, calling for the complete eradication of Israel and the Jews. It is Homicidal in nature, in that it will openly justify murder in the name of Allah. Yet many Muslims will object to that characterization, saying they are called on by the Koran to strive for peace. But that peace is only deemed possible, if it is established under Islamic rule. On another level, Islam is a religion of intolerance, of unending Jihad. That is why one sees no tolerance in Islamic societies. Peace is only possible when Islam has triumphed. The Koran states in Sura 9:29, "Fight against those to whom the Scriptures were given...and do not embrace the true Faith, until they pay tribute out of hand and are utterly subdued". This is the nature of the Religion of Peace. – And it has led to something practiced in all Islamic Countries called Dhimmitude.

The concept of Dhimmitude is why we see Christians suppressed and persecuted in Islamic dominated countries. It is the institutional legal discrimination against non-believers. In some countries such as Saudi Arabia the penalties for practicing another religion are severe and can be fatal. It is not uncommon for apostates to be put to death. In others it manifests itself through legal inequality: Discrimination, no legal standing in the courts, permission needed to establish a business or take part in various religious activities. This is the nature of the faith. The mindset has led to the systematic maiming of Christians in the Sudan and the torture of Christian converts in Bangladesh. In fact, throughout the Muslim world, whether coming from official or un-official channels, conversion to a belief in Christ as personal savior is met with beatings, torture and even death. Yet remember, those who practice Jihad, and the forceful conversion and submission of unbelievers are only following the expressed, literal commands of the Koran. Islam is a religion born of violence, and spread by violence. This is reflected in the Muslim holy books, the Koran and the Hadith (commentaries), as well as in the nature of its' founder, Mohammed. It would be helpful to look at some of the stark contrasts between Mohammed and Jesus, between Islam and Christianity. Islam tells us that Mohammed received the Koran through an other-earthly visitation that he at first believed was demonic in nature. Jesus was never uncertain of His relationship with the Father.

- Islam is militaristic in nature. Mohammed led 83 military expeditions, - about 83 more than Jesus.<sup>23</sup>
- In Islam the ends justify the means. Mohammed taught that it was permissible to set up a Hudna or 'False Peace'. History records that he signed a treaty he had no intention of keeping. Later he broke the truce when he had become the stronger party, slaughtering his enemies in the process. Modern day Imams routinely interpret the Koran to justify hostage taking and the murder of civilians, - so long as it advances the cause of Islam.<sup>24</sup>
- The rewards that Muslims will find in paradise are carnal in nature. Martyrs are promised 72 virgins and an unending supply of wine. Yet both practices are forbidden here on earth.
- Islam is not a religion of compassion. The Hadith tells us that Mohammed too, had a woman caught in adultery brought to him, much as Jesus did in the Gospels. She repented and much like Jesus, he forgave her. He sent her off until the baby was weaned, after which he ordered her buried and stoned to death. So says the Islamic holy book, the Hadith.<sup>25</sup>
- Islam tells us that Allah hates the sinner. The Bible tells us that God sent His only Son Jesus to die for us while we were yet sinners.
- Islam teaches that separation from God is normal. The Bible tells us that God is seeking a relationship with us. He wants to be our Father. In Islam, there is no concept of God as Father.

In their respective scriptures and in practice, the two faiths reflect the characters of their founders. Their very natures are different. It should be no surprise then that the nature of Islam when practiced should reflect the nature of its founder and the circumstances of its founding.

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