

Absolute Truth & Prophecy

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NEWSLETTER

www.ATPMinistry.com

ZEW'S NEWS REVIEW

October 4, 2009

Issue # 260

BIBI'S CHOICE

(A Commentary by Robert Palaszewski)

The time for talk, and threats, and pleas is dwindling away. Prime Minister Benjamin (Bibi) Netanyahu faces one of the most critical decisions that a statesman can ever face. The course of action he chooses will likely, - (as far as any man's action can), - determine the fate of his nation. And it is not necessarily an easy choice.

Over the end of last week, the Prime Minister, - as well as the rest of the world found out that Iran had been lying all along and in fact has built another uranium enrichment plant. Tehran made the admission in the face of evidence by the Western powers that they planned to reveal just before the G-20 economic summit in Pittsburgh.¹ Western leaders; - President Obama, - as well as Prime Minister Brown of Great Britain and President Sarkozy of France, - trooped to the microphone and condemned the Iranians while calling for some sort of sanctions. But while some sort of sanctions, - perhaps just from the West without Russian or Chinese support, - may be finally in the works: It is all likely too little too late to really effect the game. But such action, - even if it squeezes the Iranians at the fuel pumps, - (they have almost no gasoline refining capacity), - would be unlikely to dissuade Tehran from crossing the finish line and being able to produce their own nuclear weapons. In effect the new plant doubles their capacity to refine uranium to weapons grade. Estimates are that they've already refined enough to produce a couple of bombs. And all of this does not even account for their plutonium-based work. By next year the Iranians should be able to marry this bomb making ability to their mid-range missile arsenal, tested again in the midst of these unfolding developments. That means that in just about a year, - an Iranian nuclear arsenal will be fully operational, - and capable of striking Israel and well as US bases in the region.^{2 3}

The whole situation was created through years of neglect; - by a refusal of the last several administrations in Washington to address the problem with sufficient pressure, - or force if necessary. The Israeli governments acquiesced in those actions. Thus we are faced with an Iran that is likely to go nuclear before too long, - with their government still firmly in the hands of Islamic revolutionaries dedicated to the destruction of the Jewish state. Now the Obama administration seems to be preaching more of the same. According to DEBKA, both Secretary Gates and Russia's PM Putin, - in DEBKA's words, - "Israel, like the rest of the world, must accept life under the shadow of a nuclear armed Iran and make the best of it".⁴ Now that's a hard pill to swallow, - especially in the light of what the President had to say at the UN, calling for Israel to "end the occupation that began in 1967". Yes, according to the President, Israel is to return to the pre-67 borders - all as it were, - in the name of "peace and security".⁵ [Again, there is that phrase "peace and security" - used so many times by world leaders in recent years when referring to Israel, - God's land. **"While people are saying, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape."** (1Thessalonians 5:3) (ESV)] There's even talk among some administration advisors that the US Air Force should confront any Israeli strike force that would deign to use American controlled Iraqi airspace to attack the Iranian nuclear plants. Such was the suggestion of Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Advisor to President Carter and an Obama supporter.

This is all very much like a game of chicken, with Netanyahu, the PM of a very small, - though powerful country, - having to square-off against the world's big boys. While the US gears up some, - (it ordered the delivery of the latest round of bunker-buster bombs needed to take out the deeply buried Iranian nuclear facilities to be moved up by 3 years to this December) - it is telling Israel to back down and let Uncle Sam take care of it, - if we so choose. That's a hard choice to make. Once Iran is fully armed there may be nothing stopping it from striking out at the Jewish state.

But to defy the Americans and attack would be to risk alienating Israel's best and only effective ally. Would that mean that Israel would be cut off from essential spare parts or some even worse fate? Then there's the fact that Obama's Washington is in the process of trying to strong arm Israel into a Middle East peace on the World's terms. And the cost of some effective resolution of the Iranian situation may just be Jewish acquiescence in the establishment of a "contiguous" Palestinian State. By the way, - if Palestine were "contiguous", - that would necessarily mean that Israel wasn't. So what price will Netanyahu be willing to pay for an Iranian solution? Only time will tell, - but that time of decision is drawing near. Some Israeli politicians are saying that it may be necessary for Israel to strike before the end of the year. Others put the drop dead date as sometime in the Spring of 2010. Yet a strike now, would likely only delay Iran's program by at the most a few years. And it may cause a reaction that would see the straits at least temporarily closed with oil shooting up to perhaps \$300 per barrel with all the concomitant economic fallout that would likely bring with it. Perhaps it could even set off a general Middle East war, - with Iranian proxies Hamas and Hezbollah unleashing attacks, and perhaps Syria, - and others joining in. Yet to do nothing, - could be to seal the fate of the Jewish nation and make a nuclear holocaust inevitable. Iran, led by the Mullah's and current President Ahmadinejad is committed to destruction of Israel; - as a means to the glory of Greater Persia, the Worldwide Caliphate of Islam, - and to prepare the way for the Return of the Mahdi. In any case, this is a call that only one man will ultimately make. This is Bibi's choice! Pray for wisdom for that man.

But while on one level this remains the choice of one nation and ultimately one man, it is a decision that will affect the fate of all of mankind. The world has taken up the cause of what it sees as the bereaved Palestinians – a people that has no history and did not even claim itself a nationality until the middle of the 1960's. Yet it must face the judgment of God on this matter. The Prophet Joel writes of a time at the End of the Age, when Israel is restored to the Land, - the time in which we now live. **"In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, 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 3:1-2) (NIV) In the wars of those days, the Palestinians will not fare well. Look at the word pronounced by Obadiah. **"For violence against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever...As you have done, it shall be done to you; your reprisal shall return upon your own head... 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 1:10, 16, 18) For the Palestinians "no survivor shall remain". But for Israel, a time of triumph is on its way. **"I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them', says the LORD your God"** (Amos 9:15)

ISLAM, DECEPTION & THE ANTICHRIST – PART III

Conflict and war are integral parts of the character of Islam itself. Its history and practice has created an atmosphere of animosity with those who do not worship Allah and a culture of hate and death among its adherents. It is a conflict that had its beginning in the dim recesses of time, dating back to the days of Abraham and his sons Ishmael and Isaac. It is a conflict destined to continue to the End of the Age.

ISLAM: SOURCE OF UNENDING CONFLICT

The problem is the Land! And the problem is the promise God made to give it to Israel! That is the source of the entire conflict. In Deuteronomy 1:7-8, God defined the boundaries of His promise to Israel. **"Turn and take your journey, and go to the mountains of the Amorites, to all the neighboring places in the plain, in the mountains and in the lowland, in the South and on the seacoast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the River Euphrates. See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give to them and their descendants after them."** This was a territory whose expanse was from the Sinai to Egypt, from the Euphrates to the Mediterranean, - very much larger than the Israel of today. It extended across the Jordan River into Jordan, and encompassed parts of

Iraq. And it was promised to Israel (Jacob) and his descendents forever. But just who are those descendents? That is the crucial question!

You see, in the beginning, this was strictly a family matter. Arabs trace their ancestry back to Ishmael, - Jews, to his half-brother Isaac. God had promised their father, called Abram, a son with his wife, Sarai, (later Sarah). At that time, God changed Abram's name to Abraham, and told him that he would be **“a father of many nations”**. As the years passed without an heir, Abraham grew impatient and fathered Ishmael with one of his wife's servants. [Now a modernist might say; *‘Hey, it was his wife Sarah's idea, so what's the harm?’* Well, he found out, as did we all. The Middle East has been living out the results of that poor decision for the last 4,000 years or so.] But Ishmael was not the ‘son of the promise’. God set him straight in Genesis 17:19-21. **“Then God said: “No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.”** So Ishmael became the father of the Arab nations. Yet Isaac, of the Jewish line, was established as the ‘son of the promise’.

The issue was further complicated in the next generation by a conflict between Isaac's sons, Esau and Jacob. Esau, also called Edom, was the firstborn, though cared so little for the distinction, that he sold his birthright for a bowl of soup. Afterwards Jacob, whose name God later changed to Israel, tricked Esau out of their father's blessing. With the birthright and the blessing came the Land of the Promise. So was fueled a blood rivalry. Esau swore to **“...kill my brother Jacob”**. (Genesis 27:41) Later, Esau and his line intermarried with the descendants of Ishmael who were already estranged from the people that would become the future nation of Israel. These became the Edomites. History shows their leading tribe, the Amalekites, became a perpetual enemy to both Israel and God. Exodus 17:18 tells us, **“the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.”** Now in the present, confirmed by no less a source than the Israeli Embassy, the House of Esau, Edom, is none other than the modern day Palestinian People.⁶ And so this war has continued down to this day.

Historical and prophetic confirmation can be found in the words of Psalm 83:1-8. **“Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God! For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against our people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, “Come, and let us cut them off from *being* a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more.” For they have consulted together with one consent; 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; They have helped the children of Lot. Selah”**

It is interesting that the current antagonists in the Arab / Israeli conflict can be clearly identified in this ancient Scripture. We saw that Edom is representative of the Palestinians, The Moabites were Lot's descendants living East of the Jordan as did the Hagrites and Ammon.⁷ There are over a million Assyrians living in Iraq today. The others were the ancestors of the Arab and Bedouin, Muslim peoples that remain in conflict with Israel to this day. And all of these have truly said, **“Come, and let us cut them off from *being* a nation”**. There is evidence for this in the wars of annihilation prepared by the confederated Arab States in 1948, 1967 and 1973. It is evident in the Palestinian National Charter, which calls for the destruction of the State of Israel. In the Arab / Muslim mind, it is religiously justified by a theology that envisions a complete destruction of the Jews before the return of the Islamic Messiah. According to the Hadith, “The Last Hour would not come unless the Muslims will fight against the Jews”.⁸

The “Last Hour” of Islamic theology goes a long way toward explaining the notion of the “unending Jihad” and the religious justification of the terror. Dr. David Cook of Rice University, explains that to the devout Muslim, the conflict with the West and especially Israel, is in reality a conflict between good and evil. It is the very outworking of

the historical plan of God. Remember, in its forming, Islam borrowed heavily from and then distorted the beliefs of the Biblically based religions of Judaism and Christianity, so there is a patina of similarities in their views of the last days. Islam too, is looking for the “Last Days” to be preceded by moral decay, and natural and cosmic disasters. Then will come a “Tempter” or Dajjal, who will lead all but the true Muslims astray. This is to be followed by the return of Jesus, who will kill Dajjal, ending his evil reign. This will be followed by a Messianic reign under the Mahdi, who will triumph in a struggle with evil in the form of Yajuj and Majuj. This is the Islamic version of the Gog / Magog struggles described in Ezekiel 38 & 39. Many Muslims believe that we are now living in the time leading up to the end of the age. Their traditions tell them that this will be a period of struggle with West and with Israel. Violent Jihad is the natural outworking of this philosophy.⁹

And this theology of hate is preached in the Mosques, fueling the fires of resentment in an attempt to fulfill the will of Allah and bring about the triumph of the last days. Marvin Yakos, in *Jesus vs. Jihad* quotes Imam Sarbal, of Islamic Jihad in one sermon he gave. “Israel will exist until ...Islam will obliterate it...Kill so many Jews that they will eventually abandon Palestine...Allah! Kill them all, do not leave even one.” Another typical sermon broadcast back in 1997 referred to Jews as “...descendants of monkeys and pigs”, while calling confidently on the vengeance of Allah. Another Saudi Sheikh, Abd Al-Rahman Al Sudayyis, begged Allah to annihilate the Jews.¹⁰ A London cleric called for outright murder. And *PA TV*, an official arm of Arafat’s so called moderate Palestinian Authority, regularly targets children, inciting them to accept the culture of violence. “In one commercial for a summer camp children scream, ‘Commando’, and jump into a burning ring.” In another children chant “My children, my children, o my country / Are in the suicide squad”, - as the announcer intones, “Jihad – holy war – is the main belief. It will never end.”¹¹

This notion of Jihad, and forced conversion, is not some justified response to the sins of the West. This was institutionalized long before the Crusades. No, jihad, and conquest and suppression of Jews and Christians were and still are integral and essential teachings of Mohammed and the Koran itself. We see the inevitable results. There were centuries of Christian martyrdom at the hands of Muslims. In a book entitled, *The New Persecuted*, Antonio Socci tells the story of 45 million murdered Christians in the 20th century alone, and up to 70 million since the time of Jesus. An average of 160,000 Christians have been killed every year since 1990 – the overwhelming majority by Muslims.¹²

If Jihad is the expression of Islam to the outside world, Sharia Law is what defines the relationship of Islam with its members. Sharia is a cruel task master, requiring unswerving obedience and offering punishments of extreme cruelty to those that fail to live up to its standards. It is routine to have hands or feet cut off in Saudi Arabia, for instance. Women routinely face the death penalty in many Muslim countries for adultery. The compassionate authorities generally delay the execution of a mother until the product of the adultery, the baby, is fully weaned. In one case, a woman, a French citizen, who had gone to the police to report a rape, - was charged with adultery and faces jail time for sex outside of marriage. Her rapists were not charged.¹³ Blasphemy and conversion from Islam are also punishable by death. In Iran, a scholar and war hero, was sentenced to death for criticizing the religious hierarchy, - it was reckoned as blasphemy.

Islam has set itself up, not as a “Religion of Peace”, but instead a “Religion of Violence”. We must recognize that this is a religious war that we are fighting; - not against all who call themselves Muslim, - but against this ‘Theology of Violence’. Some would have us believe there is a moral equivalency between Islam and Christianity, between this culture and the culture of the West. There is not! - This is an ideology of hate – justified in the name of religion. The killings of the Nazis and the Communists were cold and impersonal, - bureaucratic in nature. Fundamentalist Islam offers a unique hate that is more personal, warm and passionate. In the words of Srdja Trifkovic, “Islam ...has created jihad and remains defined by jihad...a quasi-religious ideology of cultural and political imperialism that knows no natural limits”.¹⁴ This is the force that has been raised up in opposition to the God of the Bible.

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