

# Absolute Truth & Prophecy

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### ISLAM, DECEPTION & THE ANTICHRIST – PART VI

*OK, so we're coming to the conclusion that the coming Antichrist likely will come from the ranks of Islam, and in fact be their 'Expected One', the Mahdi. But can we go farther than that? God's prophetic word becomes increasingly clear as time marches on. Often, the words given to the prophets can be bewildering to those men of God who received His messages. So as we become more aware that we are indeed living on the edge of Christ's return and we approach the fulfillment of God's promises, ever more is being revealed. Inspired by a teaching given by Dr Joe Van Koevering, we'll look at how God's Word is shedding Divine light on the historical events of our day. We will explore what we can know about the coming Kingdom of the Antichrist and whether we can even now begin to lift the veil on his possible identity.*

#### OUT OF CHAOS

**“But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end.... None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.” (Daniel 12:4, 10)**

In 2006, the Iraq War was in full flower. Signs were everywhere. Chaos had descended on the land of the Tigris and Euphrates; the ancient home of Babylon. Ramadan 2006 saw a marked increase in the slaughter from ‘The Religion of Peace’. Their victims for the most part were their fellow worshippers of Allah. This was nothing short of anarchy. It is out of just such a time of chaos that Iranian President Ahmadinejad hopes to use to pave the way for the ascendance of the Mahdi. Such are the promises of Islamic tradition! Descending into the chaotic pit of civil war, the Iraqi problem at times seemed insoluble. This, of course, was before the surge of American combat troops had righted the security situation. But a solution may already have been planned, - by disparate parties, - whose agendas may seem not at all the same. While many Americans may view Iraq as a sideshow in the war against terror, that is certainly not the case for many of the principles of the region. Here is the way King Abdullah II of Jordan characterized the situation in the Spring 2005 edition of Middle East Quarterly. He argued that the “core problem” in the region was not the relationship between Israel and the Palestinians. The “core problem is going to be based around Iraq, and...within Islam – a Shiite-Sunni conflict”. The King, perceived as the most moderate of Arab leaders, believes that problem lies with Iran, Iranian sponsored terrorists in Iraq, Syria, and their control of the powerful and radical Hezbollah. Listen to this! He urged the US to create “a capable, independent, secure Iraq [as] the best way of containing Iran”. He went on to argue that of course the Iranians realize that Iraq is the key to success in the worldwide struggle. “Iraq is the battleground, - the West against Iran”.<sup>1</sup> That, from the Islamic King of Jordan!

So what's the idea that may be driving the ‘Peace Agenda’? How about this; A king for Iraq; -a constitutional monarchy. The idea actually harkens back to the ‘between-the-wars’ arrangement the British had with the area. “We need not shy away from the 1925 [Iraqi] constitution because it establishes a constitutional monarchy”, wrote Bernard Lewis and R James Woolsey back in 2003.<sup>2</sup> Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, thought that that was a good idea all the way back in 1996. He commissioned an Israeli think tank to put to paper some of those ideas, which he later presented to the US Congress. Roll-back Syria and remove Saddam Hussein from power were among its recommendations. Then let the Hashemites take over the country. Here's the key quote. “Were the Hashemites to control Iraq, they could use their influence [to]...wean the south Lebanese Shia away from Hizballah, Iran and Syria. Shia retain strong ties to the Hashemites: the Shia venerate foremost the Prophet's family, the direct descendants of which – and in whose veins the blood of the Prophet flows – is King Hussein”.<sup>3</sup>

“The Hashemites” refers to the ruling House of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and so much more. The Hashemites may be the leading family of Arabia / Islam. The official website of the Crown Prince of Jordan will tell you that the

Hashemites actually ruled Mecca from 1201 until 1925.<sup>4</sup> During the interwar period, - (1918-1939), - family members sat on the Arab and Iraqi thrones, - part of a royal federation between Kings Feisel and Hussein. Feisel II was overthrown as King of Iraq in 1958. The idea that seems to have percolated in some circles is to revive this historical Hashemite monarchy for Iraq. The family has all the right bloodlines. They are descended from both Islamic factions: The Sunni as well as the Shiite through Mohammed's daughter Fatima. They claim historical rights to control all of the Islamic Holy Sites. They serve as Guardians of Jerusalem and the Golden Dome of the Rock. They controlled Saudi Arabia until the 1920's.<sup>5</sup>

The specific candidate folks have in mind for the Iraqi throne is the former heir to the throne of Jordan, - brother to the late King Hussein and uncle to the current King Abdullah, - His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal. Many believe that the Prince would be just the right man to bring peace to the region. At his election to the Presidency to the Club of Rome, the outgoing President described him as "a statesman, an intellectual, a promoter of human dignity and a peacemaker".<sup>6</sup> He is a renaissance man, broad in interest and highly accomplished. Among many others, he is a founding member of the Parliament of Cultures. He was the prime architect of the Oslo Accords between the Palestinians and Israel.<sup>7</sup>

The Prince himself seems to have been angling for the job since the late King Hussein of The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan removed him from the line of succession to the throne as he lay on his deathbed. But it seems the family had more important jobs for him than mere Jordanian royal office. A cryptic last letter from his brother the King promised that "the world at large would be your world".<sup>8</sup> Prince El Hassan's maneuvering has been somewhat on the radar now for the last several years. Before the invasion of Iraq, in July of 2002, the Prince spoke to a group of Iraqi dissidents opposed to the Saddam regime about "assuming his ancestral responsibilities", - by assuming the throne, - no doubt.<sup>9</sup> His lobbying continued throughout that summer and fall of 2002, in meetings with Iraqi opposition leaders and American officials.<sup>10 11</sup> Now Iran has much to gain from an eventual American withdrawal from Iraq. Tehran has been looking longingly at the oil-rich southern region. Iran is the expected beneficiary of any impending US withdrawal.

Could an emerging chaos mean that it was time for this 'man of peace', the Prince El Hassan bin Talal to ascend the throne? Interestingly however, this comes at a time of great expectations. Recall here President Ahmadinejad's preparations for the return of the Islamic Messiah. Orthodox Jews are assembling materials and implements to rebuild the Temple and renew the sacrificial system, - as a sign to them of the coming of Messiah. Evangelical Christians await the Rapture and the return of King Jesus. Meanwhile a humble 'Man of Peace' with a proven track record of cross cultural tolerance offers himself as possibly the only man capable of ending the bloodshed between Shiite and Sunni; between Muslim and Jew.

## **THE ECONOMIC HORIZON – Part II**

*Last time we examined the claims of the recovery and the possible inherent weaknesses in the solution that are causing many respected analysts, - who had previously predicted the component parts of the last crises, - to now call for yet another round in the ongoing economic crisis. This time we'll look at how the world is mobilizing against the American dollar. This is prophetically significant. The end of American economic dominance is a necessary condition for the creation of the One World Economy of the Antichrist. An end of American military hegemony is essential in order for the Antichrist figure to gain power.*

### **Threatening The Dollar**

At the beginning of October, the attack on the dollar started to go public and gain some steam, slamming dollar prices as the currency markets reacted to the speculation that plans were being put in place to replace the American currency as the world's currency. It began when Britain's Independent reported that the Arab Gulf States, - Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Qatar, - were talking with the Chinese, Russia, Japan, Brazil and France, - to work out a plan to replace the dollar within the next nine years. Many of these countries are heavily invested in US dollars and don't want to just dump them, destroying the value they have left. What they're looking at is a basket of currencies which

would include the Japanese yen, the Chinese yuan, the euro and SDRs, - or special drawing rights that can be converted to any number of currencies. They would achieve this by no longer pricing oil in dollars. That's an arrangement that Kissinger worked out with the Saudis and OPEC, - and it has served the US well; - forcing purchasers of oil to purchase dollars first. A move away from the dollar would of course hurt the ability of the US government to sell its bonds to finance its debt. And in case anyone hasn't noticed, - that debt has been skyrocketing since the crisis, - as the government stimulates and bails and puts in place new programs costing billions of dollars in new, un-financed spending. It has been the debt purchases of especially the Chinese that has paid for the American standard of living over the last several years.<sup>12 13 14</sup>

Now the Big Oil States have denied that these talks about the dollar were even going on, - but let's not be naïve. Following on the heels of the story in the Independent two of the world's international banks, the IMF and the World Bank, joined in the attack. President Robert Zoelick of the World Bank talked about a coming change in the dollar's "status". Turkey joined in the chorus by calling for the use of SDRs. Central banks, and governments were selling dollars, as were Chinese sovereign wealth funds, - opting instead to invest in strategic investments like gold and oil. Right after that, the UN's man for economic affairs railed against the "privilege" of the United States in having the dollar serve as the world's reserve currency and called for, - again, - "a truly global reserve currency, such as the IMF's special drawing rights" (SDRs).<sup>15 16 17</sup> Now in case you are wondering just what the big deal is about the establishment of a One World Currency. Well it is prophesied as an essential element of Antichrist's One World Government that will occur during the Tribulation. Here's the relevant passage. **"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."** (Revelation 13:16-17) (KJV)

The decline of the dollar however is not unforeseen. It's something that has been going on for a long time. From its near peak in 1984, the dollar dropped more than one-third by 2002. From 2002 to 2007 it lost another 40% of its value. And with the current creation of billions of new dollars, its value is dropping as you read this. Now it makes sense for the government to want to drop the value of dollar. They then can use those cheaper dollars to pay off the debt incurred in more expensive dollars of just a few years ago. Make sense? So according to several sources, the government and the Fed are "on a full scale mission to cut the dollar value in half". John Lee, writing in the Asia Times, points out that "Debt based monetary systems are inherently unstable". In systems like this, "Money is created out of thin air", and therefore has little chance of retaining any real value. It's been the fate of all similar systems. That's why its "fate is written in history". Of course a dollar with less value poses many problems for the American consumer. First of all foreign imports become more expensive. And just look at how much of what we consume comes from overseas. It also means that foreign investors / powers will be able to start picking up American assets - (real estate etc). And of course, as the dollar loses value, it accelerates the drive to set up a One World Currency.<sup>18</sup>

This trend shows no sign of weakening. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office expects the government to go a further \$1 trillion in the hole each year for the next decade, creating an "unsustainable" fiscal crisis down the road. [The problem is, trends analysts like Celente believe that it's a very short road to that inevitable crisis.] This is all reflective of what the National Intelligence Council called a "global shift in relative wealth and economic power without precedent in modern history".

Driven forward by the financial crisis that broke in the Fall of 2008, this long term trend will very soon result in major budget and services cuts, large tax increases and the resulting interest rate hikes. What's more, in the scramble to save its economy we can expect that the US will be forced to cut its defense spending. From that will flow a real and perceived decline in the ability of the US to project its power around the globe. The strength of the US military will reflect the multi-polar nature of the new, emerging economic reality. Writing in the LA Times, Christopher Layne and Benjamin Schwarz argue that this will increase the virulence of international economic competition and a rising nationalism, that will create a global economy that will "more closely resemble that of the 1930's".<sup>19</sup> If you recall, that's what led to the international conditions, - including the rise and survival of fascist dictatorial regimes, - that preceded the horrors of the Second World War.

## **IRAN, ISRAEL & THE NEXT PROPHETIC WAR – Part I**

*Headlines in French and Israeli papers scream about an soon-coming Israeli strike against Iran's nuclear reactors. An ABC report muses that America is getting ready to take out Tehran's nukes. This is all taking place amid the background of ongoing talks between Iran, the United States, Russia and France. The Iranians were warning going in that they would not follow through on previous understandings with the West to turn over their enriched uranium. If that is what is insisted on, - they will begin to make the high-grade stuff themselves. And just because they may arrange to buy it from abroad, doesn't mean that they'll stop enriching their own stuff.<sup>20 21</sup> So what's all this talk? Wars or rumors of wars? It's hard to tell, - even prophetically. In this opening installment we'll start to scratch the surface of just what may be on the horizon.*

### **Background: The Situation On The Ground**

Though the world may choose to turn the other way, - falsely blame Israel for war crimes, - turn a blind eye to the threats coming from Iran - or demand that they (Israel) cede their land to form a Palestinian terror state, (and that's just what it would be), - Israel must rightly appraise the threats before them. The Israeli defense / intelligence establishment is now fully convinced that the threat coming from Tehran is very real indeed. And well they should be. After comprehensive study, Israeli intelligence is fully persuaded that the regime in Tehran, - headed by President Ahmadinejad - is fully committed to both the anticipated near-term return of the Mahdi, - Islam's political / religious messiah figure, - and more importantly to Jerusalem, - the destruction of Israel. Back in 2003 Ahmadinejad declared that "Israel must be uprooted and wiped off of history". He punctuates his speeches with cries of "Marg bar Esraail", - or "Death to Israel". He is seeking more than just a change in government. He is seeking the total destruction of the Jewish state.<sup>22</sup>

Now Israel, - and the US Air Force both concur that Iran is emerging as a real threat indeed. Tehran has been speeding along its development of long-range ballistic missiles. It now possesses an arsenal capable of hitting targets over 1,800 miles away and that range will soon be increased to over 2,400 miles. Furthermore, the Washington Times Bill Gertz reveals that North Korea, China and even Russia are cooperating with the Iranians in the development of both nuclear and ballistic-missile technology. Now the US will have to develop a new generation of interceptor missiles to keep up with the advancing technology.<sup>23</sup> During his last trip to Moscow, Prime Minister Netanyahu actually handed the Russians a list of Russian scientists working on Iran's nuclear program.<sup>24</sup> And then there is the fact that going back to 2002, Russian Deputy Chief of Staff General Yuri Baluyevsky let it slip in a news conference that "Iran does have nuclear weapons". He self-servingly characterized them as "non-strategic" and not a threat to Russia.<sup>25 26</sup> These likely were purchased off the shelf from the fragments of the former Soviet Union.

Now let's put this brewing future conflict between Israel and Iran into some context. There are other threats and scenarios to Israel's existence that provide the background for the current circumstances. Led by the head of the UN's nuclear watchdog, Mohammed El Baradei, that organization, - and increasingly the world at large, - (with even hints from the Obama administration), - has begun to put pressure on Israel to, - in the words of Joel Rosenberg, - "disclose and dismantle" its nuclear arsenal; - the very thing that guarantees that it can hold out against overwhelming odds against its Islamic foes. Secondly, there is growing determination to carve a Palestinian state out of tiny Israel. So, the table is being set, - despite anything that Israel or its Prime Minister may have to say on the matter.<sup>27</sup> Third, we have the threat from Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria with their rocket arsenals growing in numbers, range and lethality. Finally, there is the conviction that Iran will be able to start producing its own nuclear weapons by early next year. The recipe is in place for some real fire works. *Next time we'll look at how Israel is preparing to meet these growing threats and start to unfold the prophetic scenario that gives some solid clues on what to expect next in this crucial Middle East drama.*

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