

# Absolute Truth & Prophecy

Robert Palaszewski

NEWSLETTER

www.ATPMinistry.com

## ZEW'S NEWS REVIEW

February 28, 2010

Issue #281

### MOMENTUM

While the world stumbles through its Olympic vacation, events in the Middle East keep driving toward conflict...and prophetic fulfillment. The rhetoric between Israel on the one hand and its sworn enemies – both Persian and Arab – continues to escalate as does the real possibility that war will break out in the foreseeable future. With tensions high, Syrian Prime Minister al-Otari warned that any future conflict would likely spread throughout “the region and beyond”. That followed earlier warnings from Syria that the next round of warfare would make targets of Israeli cities.<sup>1</sup> Iran’s Ahmadinejad is stoking the fires of war for some practical – and some would say – more spiritual reasons. We must remember the background that underlies all of Ahmadinejad’s provocative announcements. He has publicly committed himself to paving the way for the ascension of the Islamic Messiah – the Mahdi, or Twelfth Imam. Now according to Islamic belief, this Mahdi will come as the savior of mankind, converting the entire world to Islam, ruling in partnership with an Islamic version of Jesus called Issa – from Jerusalem – for seven years and making war on Christians and Jews. 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. In fact, the Koran calls for the beheading of those who will not bow the knee to Allah. *“I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. Therefore strike off their heads and strike off every fingertip of them.”* (That cozy little verse can be found in the Koran, Sura 8:11.) 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.”** And with the imposition of Sharia law, the Islamic Messiah will exercise complete religious, political and even economic control of the entire planet. At least that’s the Islamic plan.<sup>2 3 4</sup>

Ask President Ahmadinejad, and he’ll tell you that the current trend of globalization is part of Allah’s plan for the Mahdi. After all it’s to be an Islamic dominated world. Even the acquisition of nuclear weapons is part of the preparation for the coming of the Mahdi. It is essential that Islamic states be able to dominate politically in order to fulfill their Islamic-prophesied end times role.<sup>5</sup> Iran’s political leader is expecting him to arrive any time now. And the Mahdi is supposed to make his appearance during a time of chaos. Being the generous soul that he is, Ahmadinejad has indicated in the past that he is willing to cooperate in helping to create that chaos that will bring the Mahdi. Some are even intimating that his bellicose rhetoric and actions are geared to goad the Israelis into an attack that he hopes will both bring the Mahdi and result in Israel’s elimination. The interesting parallel here is the one between the Mahdi and the Biblically prophesied Antichrist. The career that is predicted for the Mahdi directly parallels the one laid out in Scripture for the coming Man of Sin – including the beheading of the saints, ruling from Jerusalem, the set up of a religious leader that the Bible calls the False Prophet, and on and on. Both Islamic and Biblical traditions even call for a final battle between good and evil – with only the ending coming out different. **“Then the beast was captured and with him the false prophet...These two were cast alive into the lake of fire.”** (Revelation 19:20)

With that we see Ahmadinejad at it again with regard to Israel. He has repeated his call for their ultimate destruction. “In the event of recurrence of mistakes the Zionist regime must be finished off”, said he.<sup>6</sup> On a more practical level, Iran has stepped up the training of Hamas in preparation for what Tehran anticipates is a coming confrontation with

Israel over Iran's nuclear program. They expect it will come some time later this year. An Egyptian security official told World Net Daily that Iran is preparing terrorist operatives in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran itself, all to carry out strikes against Israel should Iran's nuclear sites be attacked. In fact Hamas and Hezbollah have been training together in Lebanon.<sup>7</sup>

Iran's latest announcement that it can now enrich uranium up to 90% - (up from 20%) - means that they are now capable of producing their own nuclear weapons within the year. That's what has many analysts believing that conflict is almost inevitable in the very near future. Dr Michael Evans of the Jerusalem Prayer Team, who has been on the ground there for a very long time, believes that if the international community continues to dither past the beginning of April, war will indeed become inevitable. The planned Iranian response seems to be to send their clients – Syria, Hezbollah, Hamas, even Lebanon – to attack the Israelis. [Interestingly, the head of the Arab League just announced that that organization would “stand by Lebanon” should the Israelis attack again, as in 2006.) Hezbollah – which is based in Lebanon and has increasingly integrated into the mainstream of Lebanese society - is believed to have upwards of 40,000 rockets, many of them capable of striking Tel Aviv, and some of those able to carry chemical or biological payloads. Now any strike against Iran's nuclear facilities would be a major operation targeting over 1,100 sites including Iran's air defenses. The length of the operation would give plenty of time for Arab reaction to develop among Iran's allies and toadies.<sup>8 9 10</sup>

If Tehran stayed away from a full fledged military commitment themselves, this war would seem to fulfill the requirements of what I and many believe is the next prophetic war on the horizon; - the Psalms 83 War. In that conflict an inner ring of Israel's Arab enemies will be confronted and destroyed as they plot and try to carry out the destruction of the Jewish state. When seen in conjunction with Obadiah and certain passages in Isaiah it foretells the obliteration of both Damascus and the Palestinians, and Israel's expansion into southern Lebanon. It will result in the establishment of Greater Israel as the Jews finally take hold of the Land promised to them by God Himself. So what we are seeing then is the coming together of prophecy through the unfolding of current events. We might not see the exact shapes clearly, yet we can be certain of God's will ...no matter the plans of men. **“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.”** (Psalm 2:1-6) (KJV)

## THE TERROR ANOMALY

Keeping track of events on the terrorism front is becoming harder. It's no longer just about what the bad guys are doing any more. Now we've got to keep watch on some of the stupidity being practiced by our side. There are moves being made within the Obama administration that almost leads one to question just who is playing on whose team. Here are some examples of both kinds.

Five Muslim servicemen have been arrested for attempting to poison the food supply at Fort Jackson, SC. It was reported that all five were part of the Arabic Translation Unit. CBN reports that the five may have been in contact with other Virginia based Muslims who traveled to Pakistan and made contact with terror groups there. Two of these had links to al-Qaeda.<sup>11</sup>

The President has appointed Rashad Hussain to be a special envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Hussain has connections with the Muslim Brotherhood, recently speaking at events sponsored by several of their affiliates. Judicial Watch describes the Muslim Brotherhood as “a sort of parent organization of Hamas and Al Qaeda.”<sup>12</sup> One such subsidiary group was an “unindicted co-conspirator” in a scheme to funnel money to those nice gentlemen at Hamas through something called the Holy Land Fund. Hussain blames anti-American terror on US foreign policy in the Middle East.<sup>13</sup>

John Brennan, another Obama terror advisor, is calling for more power and legitimacy for the terrorist Hezbollah.<sup>14</sup> [*That's always a good plan – to give the homicidal maniacs a bigger gun!*]

Trembling over a potential Muslim backlash after Fort Hood, Homeland Security chief Janet Napolitano quietly met with Muslim and Sikh groups – including the Muslim Brotherhood – to brief them on national security issues. Here's Judicial Watch's take on the matter. *“The top-secret event was part of President Obama's innovative program aimed at creating an information-sharing framework with Muslim organizations, even those with known extremist ties and terrorist connections. The idea, laughable as it may seem, is to win over Muslims and get them to collaborate with the U.S. government.”*<sup>15</sup>

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton signed a special order allowing 2 previously banned radical Islamic scholars to enter the United States. Both have endorsed Islamic terror. And one of them, Tariq Ramadan, has the following on his resume: He worked for Iran, is a supporter of Hamas and has donated money to terrorist groups. He is also the grandson of the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>16</sup> *That's the kind of people we need more of in this country!*

## **THE IDENTITY OF JESUS – PART V**

*The identity of Jesus is the central question of all time. On it, hinges the salvation of all men and the fate of the world. But reason tells us He cannot just be a good teacher. Here's the claim in Christ's own words. “**He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**” (John 3:18)*

### **“BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM ?”**

Despite what the skeptics may claim, Jesus was not ambiguous about just who He claimed to be. Let's get right to the point and begin with his most direct assertions of divinity. Going back to Exodus God gives His own name as “I AM WHO I AM.” (It is from the Hebrew pronunciation of this name that we get the word Yaweh, the Hebrew term for Lord.) This is the holy name of God. Isaiah 43:11 identifies that name with the Savior. **“I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no savior.”** Now Jesus referred to himself in those very words on several occasions. In John 8:58 he is facing a crowd of unbelieving Jews. **“I tell you the truth,”** Jesus answered, **“before Abraham was born I am.”** The crowd understood what he was saying. The use of that term angered them so much that they wanted to stone him. Later John tells us of Christ's use of the term when he is betrayed and the mob comes to seize him. **“I am he,”** he declares and the crowd is knocked to the ground by just the power inherent in that statement when expressed by the Son of God. Apparent in the meaning of the term, “I Am,” is the notion of the eternal. That is the intended sense of the term. Again in John we find Christ's personal confirmation of his claim. **“And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had before the world began.”** He is declaring not only his glory, but also the eternal nature of that glory.

Other assertions of his divinity were revealed in a series of statements in which he assumed the prerogatives of God as laid out in the ancient Scriptures. As far back as Genesis 2:7 it was declared that God was the giver of life. There it was written that it was the **“breath of the Lord”**, that made man a living being. We find in John 5:21 Jesus' clear assertion of this power when he states, **“...even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.”** Later he states that **“eternal life”** comes from him, and positively affirms **“I am the resurrection and the life.”** (John 10:28 & 11:25) He also held that he could exercise the godly prerogative to forgive sins. He told a paralyzed man, **“Son, your sins are forgiven.”** And to answer the objections of the rabbis and establish that prerogative he continued, **“But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...”** He said to the paralytic, **“I tell you, get up, take up your mat and go home.”** Even in his assertions of divine authority he was not unaware of the difficulty of belief and provided evidence of His authority.

Other examples abound. In Matthew he spoke of his coming judgment of the nations referred to by the prophet Joel. John 5:27 justifies that claim stating that he was given that **“authority to judge because he was the Son of Man.”** Elsewhere in John’s account we find that Jesus said, **“I am the good shepherd”**, and **“I am the light of the world”**, (John 10:11 & 8:12), both referring back to Old Testament passages. The claims of some critics that Jesus was just a great moral teacher but did not see Himself as the Son of God are sheer nonsense. As we have seen in this series, the Gospels were written during the lifetimes of many witnesses to the events described in them. There was no chance for mythmaking. Jesus clearly felt He was, and claimed to be the Messiah, the Son of God. No ‘great moral teacher’ could make such a claim if it were not so. Such a lie would automatically disqualify him as a ‘great moral teacher’. Jesus said, **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** (John 14:6) He is saying, all access to the Father must come through Him. The aggregate significance of all these claims taken together is weighty indeed. He was the forgiver of sins, the giver of life, the judge of all the nations, the light of the world, existent for all eternity. If he were wrong about any of these things he would be either hopelessly deluded or a deliberate liar. In either case not the mettle of some great moral teacher. But he was no liar. He followed those convictions to death.

Looking at the evidence it can be confidently said that Jesus truly believed himself to be the Messiah, the Son of God. But what of those who knew him the best? Peter, when asked by Jesus, **“Who do you say I am?”** replied, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** (Matthew 16:15-16) No more straightforward answer could be forthcoming. Thomas, seeing him for the first time after his Resurrection called him **“My Lord and my God.”** (John 20:28) These were no mere words. Both of these apostles paid with their lives for holding to those beliefs. John’s testimony can be found throughout the Gospel he authored. Paul converted from one who’s overriding aim was the persecution of members of the new Christian sect to one who would eventually give his life for the faith. The author of Hebrews called Jesus the **“...radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”** (Hebrews 1:3) The Apostles who had lived with him side by side during his lifetime all worshipped him as God, eventually giving their lives for the cause. In Matthew 14:22-32, we have the story of Jesus walking on the water and calming the storm. At the conclusion of that account we are told of Jesus’ companions, **“Then those who were in the boat worshipped him saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God’.”**

But it was not just the apostles that bore witness to his divinity. Many of those who saw him preach or felt his healing touch also paid him homage. It would have been anathema for any Jew steeped in the Shema to have worshipped any but the One True God. Yet many saw Jesus as a member of that godhead and did give him worship. (Significant too, is the fact that unlike his disciples, Jesus accepted it.) It began very early on. The second chapter of Matthew records the successful search of the Magi to find the Christ and worship him. Later we are told a leper came and knelt before him to beg for healing. (Matthew 8:2) A newly healed blind man worshipped him also. (John 9:38) There are many other examples in the Gospel accounts. Perhaps the most compelling, however, is recorded by Matthew. (Matthew 28:16-17) Speaking of the eleven remaining disciples, those same who had lived the better part of three years with him, witnessing all he had done, Matthew writes: **“When they saw him they worshipped him; but some doubted”** That last little note brings an extra ring of truth to the passage. Of course we can understand the human sense of uncertainty that must have crept in. This after all was the Jesus that they had taken their meals with, at whose side they had traveled the Judean countryside. Yet in the end we know that all these overcame their doubts and gave the most perfect form of worship, the work of their hands and the sacrifice of their lives.<sup>17</sup>

The pattern is beginning to become clear. The ancient Scriptures pointed to the appearance of the Messiah somewhere during the first part of the 1<sup>st</sup> century. Jesus specifically fit the identity of that Messiah as laid out in the Old Testament. He pointedly claimed that office and was accepted as such by those who knew him best. They saw his very life as a testimony of his holiness. Peter described him as a **“lamb without blemish”**, and quoting Isaiah 53:9 wrote of him, **“He committed no sin, and no deceit was in his mouth.”** (1 Peter 1:19 & 2:22) John wrote of his purity in his first epistle. (1John 3:3) Jesus himself challenged his enemies on this very point. **“Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?”** (John 8:46) His question was met only with silence. Even at the trial that eventually condemned him only false and contradictory witnesses could be found. This sinless-ness, this perfected moral character is one of the keystones to the validity of His claims. This is not the pattern of saintly men throughout the ages. The Buddha, Mohammed, Gandhi,

Isaiah, the great church saints and others were all overwhelmingly aware of their moral failings once compared with the perfection of the All-Mighty. Yet neither Jesus nor his enemies could ever find fault in his actions. A fitting apostrophe was put on this fact by a Pharisee and member of the Jewish ruling council named Nicodemus. Speaking for more than just himself he told Jesus, **“Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”** (John 3:2)<sup>18 19</sup>

\*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*

## **WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

**Want to get a deeper understanding of what you're reading? If you have any issues or questions you'd like us to address – or if you'd like this Newsletter's author, Rob Palaszewski, to come and speak to your church or organization please contact us at [rob@atpministry.com](mailto:rob@atpministry.com)**

EDITOR : Robert Palaszewski  
ATPMinistry.com  
COPYRIGHT Robert Palaszewski – 2010

Absolute Truth & Prophecy Ministry  
[MY FATHERS HOUSE MINISTRY](#)  
140 Pound Rd - Elma, NY 14059

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Syria warns: Next war will be ruinous, Jerusalem Post, February 20, 2010
  - <sup>2</sup> Jack Kinsella, The Third Pillar of Antichrist, Omega Letter, March 13, 2006
  - <sup>3</sup> Hal Lindsey, The 4 Horsemen, al Mahdi, and the Magnetic Polar Reversal, Oracle, March 14, 2006
  - <sup>4</sup> The Koran, as translated by MH Shakir
  - <sup>5</sup> Timothy R Furnish, The Importance of Being Mahdist, The Weekly Standard, September 8, 2008
  - <sup>6</sup> Ahmadinejad Says Finish Israel Off, Press TV (Iran), February 20, 2010
  - <sup>7</sup> Aaron Klein, Iran steps up training of Hamas, World Net Daily, February 21, 2010
  - <sup>8</sup> Checkmate, The Jerusalem Gift Shop, February 20, 2010
  - <sup>9</sup> Dr Michael Evans, Israel's Coming Attack On Iran, Jerusalem Prayer Team, February 19, 2010
  - <sup>10</sup> Arab League would back Lebanon if attacked by Israel, Yahoo (UK), February 18, 2010
  - <sup>11</sup> Report: 5 Muslim soldiers arrested in SC, World Net Daily, February 18, 2010
  - <sup>12</sup> Napolitano Secretly Hosts Terrorist Groups In DC, Judicial Watch, February 18, 2010
  - <sup>13</sup> Obama's New Envoy to Muslim World Has Troubling Ties, Front Page Magazine, February 18, 2010
  - <sup>14</sup> President Obama's counter-terrorism advisor: Give Hezbollah more power, World Net Daily, February 17, 2010
  - <sup>15</sup> Napolitano Secretly Hosts Terrorist Groups In DC, Judicial Watch, February 18, 2010
  - <sup>16</sup> Hillary Clinton Welcomes Banned Islamic Radicals, Judicial Watch, January 21, 2010
  - <sup>17</sup> Norman Geisler & Peter Bocchino, Unshakeable Foundations, Bethany House, Minneapolis, 2001, pg 287-288
  - <sup>18</sup> Paul E Little, Know Why You Believe, Chariot Victor, 1999, pg 36
  - <sup>19</sup> Norman Geisler & Peter Bocchino, Unshakeable Foundations, Bethany House, Minneapolis, 2001, pg 303-304