

Absolute Truth & Prophecy

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CONNECTIONS – PART II

Last time out we laid the foundations for understanding just 'what in the world is going on. Now we'll begin to analyze events, fitting them into the puzzle that defines both God's prophetic architecture and the conspiratorial plans of the Enemy. [To put this all in proper perspective you may wish to refer to PART I found in issue #337]

BREAKING IT DOWN

“Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, ‘Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.’ He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.” (Psalm 2:1-4) (ESV)

North Africa, the Middle East is going up in flames. Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Ivory Coast, Libya – now even Syria have or are facing unrest, regime change and revolutions. But it does not signal the triumph of the democratic spirit, as many mainstream media outlets would have us believe. There is something so much darker and sinister going on here. Take Libya, for instance. The rebel commander there has publicly admitted that at least some of his fighters are linked to al-Qaeda. The same day, a story came out saying that the US is considering arming the Qaddafi rebels with weapons. Al Qaeda forces in Israel have already grabbed surface-to-air missiles from a government arsenal.) And the US is having a hard time finding an ally to take command of operations. So just who is running the revolt there? No one quite knows at this point, but if its like any of the other countries in question – like Egypt for instance – it is likely a whole lot more radical a movement than originally portrayed.^{1 2 3 4}

And take Egypt! All of a sudden you have the New York Times saying what some of us have been warning of all along: Watch out for the Muslim Brotherhood. The Times is telling its readers that the Brotherhood is now a “tacit partner with the military government” and will likely “thwart fundamental change”. One analyst is quoted as saying, “There is evidence the Brotherhood struck some kind of a deal with the military early on.” They are likely to gain power in early elections – and have made noises that Egypt should renege on their long-standing peace treaty with Israel.⁵

Or look at Syria. A Sunni revolt is forcing Assad to use the same type of force against his citizens that brought the US and allies into Libya. Over forty protesters are said to have been killed by government forces in a couple of weeks. Yet Defense Secretary Gates is signaling that the Syrian military should “empower a revolution.” It is also winking at a rebel take over in Yemen – whose regime had been a long-time partner of the US.^{6 7}

What does it all mean? Well, President Ahmainejad of Iran believes that it signals the soon arrival of the Imam Mahdi – the Islamic Messiah. This is but the beginning of the chaos that will lead to his rise. “*The final move has begun. We are in the middle of a world revolution managed by this dear (12 Imam). A great awakening is unfolding. One can witness the hand of the Imam in managing it.*” [Now whether you believe that Ahmadinejad is a nut case or not, you have to admit that he is the president of a powerful regional power and a representative of a viewpoint that would promote the Mahdi-bringing-chaos – even if it should cost millions of Iranian lives in the process. He’s told us that before.⁸ The revolts across that region are potentially building the Caliphate that is necessary to fulfill Islamic prophecy and creating the first coalition that is to face Israel; the one laid out in Psalm 83. Just months ago, it was impossible to see how nations like Egypt and Jordan would move into that anti-Israeli camp. Now the Muslim Brotherhood is gaining power in Egypt. Here’s a headline from Al-Arabiya: “*Jordan PM blasts Islamists for trying to ‘create chaos’.*”⁹ And there is more to that ‘creating chaos’ thing than you might initially believe. Now a new video is out – sponsored by the Iranian government – that is making that very point. It is being shown now as a military training film – but is soon to be released to the general public in the Middle East. The feature-length film asserts that the era of Muslim world domination is about to begin. Produced by Ahmadinejad’s Chief of Staff, the video links current and developing events to the soon-return of the Mahdi. Called ‘The Coming Is Upon Us’, it claims that Iran, a “*nation from the East*”, will arise and prepare the way for the Islamic Messiah. Claiming to use the Hadith, it presciently references the American invasion of Iraq, the Yemeni revolt and predicted that the Egyptians would “*rise up against their rulers*”. Former CIA operative and defector from Iran Reza Kahlili, tells us: “*The pursuit*

of nuclear bombs by the radicals ruling Iran is directly connected to this belief, as war, chaos, and lawlessness must engulf the world to pave the way for Imam Mahdi's reappearance." As reported in Newsmax, the timing of the Mahdi's coming is tied to the death of the Saudi Ruler. "*King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia will die, ushering in a final period of unrest and conflict with Israel that will lead directly to the Mahdi's return.*" (The King recently returned to his homeland after being out of the country for medical treatment. He is believed to be fighting cancer.) The movie goes on to predict the destruction of Israel, the emergence of Iran as the leading Islamic nation – and that its spiritual leader, the Ayatollah Khomeini will be the prophetic figure that hands the flag of Islam to the Mahdi when he appears to take over the military forces of the emergent Caliphate. Kahlili warns us that the purpose of the video is "to incite further uprisings with the hopes of motivating Arabs to overthrow U.S. backed governments with the final goal of the annihilation of Israel and Allah's governance of the world!"^{10 11}

That would mean that the very purpose of the spreading Arab revolt would be to humanly fulfill Islamic prophecy. Interesting, that! But perhaps even more interesting is that we have the specter of the US and Western powers aiding the revolting Arab parties in the endeavor. Don't forget that besides abetting the formation of the Caliphate, the unification of that part of the world under a single government would fulfill part of the blueprint laid out by the Club of Rome. Recall that in 1973 they divided the globe into ten Super Nations. That region was designated by the globalists of Rome as regional nation #7. The nations where revolts are allowed and encouraged are those where the leadership is opposing globalist influence and full integration into the emerging world system.¹² Hence you see the American intervention in Libya, couched not in terms of national interest – but in international responsibility. It is all part of the building of the New World Order.¹³ But that opens up a whole new can of worms; one that we'll just have to save for next time.

THE ENEMY WE FACE – PART III

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 7th century AD. Zoroasterism dominated Persia, (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 where there was a shrine, the Kaba, that housed 360 idols. During peace and war, the various tribes would gather about the shrine for this five-day religious festival. This was the world into which the Prophet Mohammed was born.^{14 15}

Early on, 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. Shaken and filled with doubt, the future prophet at first believed himself in the throes of demonic possession. Over time he was reassured by his wife and renewed visits by the spirit being, eventually assuming the office of prophet and religious reformer. His uncle, Waraca, a convert to the Christian faith, declared him a prophet, yet never himself became a Muslim. So Mohammed began his ministry.¹⁶

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.¹⁷

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 slaughtered the men of a third 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. It's admitted by Islam's own Hadith that his actions as commander and prophet were characterized by duplicity and cruelty to those thrown on his mercy.¹⁸ And 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 21st century is committed to the establishment of a worldwide empire. It rests strongly on the historical / religious traditions of its birth.

The True Nature Of The Faith

There are inherent characteristics built into the nature of Islam that define the religion. Islam is prisoner to its defining character. So let's look at both the nature of both Mohammed and the faith he founded, - portraying both only as described in the Muslim scriptures, the Koran and the commentary called the Hadith.

“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. (Genesis 16:12) 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 a very apt description of the current relations between “*The Religion of Peace*” and both the Jewish and the rest of the Gentile 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 not in the Middle Ages, - but in the Fall of 2008. Consider this horrifying account of the Somali Mansur Mohammed who 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 back in September. 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.¹⁹

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.²⁰ In Afghanistan a Christian aid worker was murdered by the Taliban in Kabul.²¹ Seven Christians were murdered in Mosul, Iraq in just the first two weeks of October.²² So the beat goes on, with Islamic rage targeting the Christian faith. However 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.²³

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.²⁴ It is interesting that Jihadist' 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 smorgasboard of sensual delights: coveys 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 playground of debauched Roman emperors 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 the regular Friday night sermons, broadcast from mosques throughout the region on official government radio and TV stations.²⁵

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. It has led to something practiced in Islamic Countries called Dhimmitude.

The concept of Dhimmitude is why we see Christians suppressed and persecuted in Islamic 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 Bangla Desh. 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's 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.²⁶
- 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.²⁷
- 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.²⁸
- 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 as different as the circumstances of their founding's.

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