

War in the Middle East
A Biblical Perspective
Zechariah 12:1–3; 14:1-2

Zechariah 12:1–3 (NKJV)

12 The burden of the word of the Lord against Israel. Thus says the Lord, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: ²“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. ³ And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

14: 1-2

Behold, the day of the Lord is coming,
And your spoil will be divided in your midst.
² For I will gather all the nations to battle against
Jerusalem;
The city shall be taken,
The houses rifled,
And the women ravished.
Half of the city shall go into captivity,

But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Introduction:

Early on the Sabbath morning of October 7th, exactly 50 years to the day from the Yom Kippur war, 1000's of rockets were fired from Gaza into nearby towns to distract from the multiple explosions that would occur along the boundary fencing separating Israel from Gaza. Snipers would take out key communications equipment along with drones remotely controlled to drop explosive devises on warning systems. Thirty breaches would be created by at least 1,500 Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants who had been training for nearly 2 years for this day. Explosives would be detonated at strategic locations followed by Bulldozers that would plow an opening large enough for motorcyclist and trucks loaded with terrorist to enter unsuspecting Israeli towns. At the same time motorized paragliders would fly in with murder as a goal. Some would come by sea, others on foot.

They overran some bases so rapidly that soldiers were killed in their bunks, and the militants took out communication networks so efficiently that the area became a blind spot for the military.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/10/27/hamas-attack-israel-october-7-hostages/>

At the same time this was happening Hezbollah motorcyclist were approaching from the North.

“The attack, exposed the vulnerabilities of Israel’s border security system, long believed to be one of the most advanced and indomitable in the world.

multimillion-dollar...“smart wall,” running the length of the enclave above ground and extending deep into the ground.

Claiming in recent years that Hamas had been successfully contained in Gaza, Netanyahu oversaw the gradual withdrawal of troops from the south. Forces left behind at the military and intelligence bases were trained to rely on sophisticated cameras and sensors to monitor for border infiltrations, and to alert forces on the ground in case of unusual events.”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/10/27/hamas-attack-israel-october-7-hostages/>

It was said by some that a roach couldn’t move near that wall with out alarms going off.

Only at 8:06 a.m. — an hour and a half after the start of the assault — did the Israel Defense Forces report a “combined attack.” At 8:25, with a large number of Israelis already dead, it declared “a state of alert for war.”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/10/27/hamas-attack-israel-october-7-hostages/>

By the time the assault was over

1. Over 6000 unguided rockets had been fired into Israel

2. Over 1400 Israelis and soldiers, including men, women and children, elderly along with their pets, were brutally murdered, raped, burned alive, mutilated and decapitated. The atrocities that the Israeli people experienced that day according to the testimony of some, made the holocaust look civil.

Parents were made to watch their children tortured and killed and children were tied up and forced to watch their parents get mutilated and killed.

Over 5400 were injured, many severely.

3. Over 230 men, women and children were abducted and taken captive by Hamas to their extensive networks of underground tunnels in Gaza.

4. It was the deadliest day in the history of Israel since the Holocaust. They have called it their 9/11

Since this horrific event on October 7

1. A declaration of war has been declared by, Prime Minister Netanyahu: The first since 1973

“This morning, on Shabbat and a holiday, Hamas invaded Israeli territory and murdered innocent citizens including

children and the elderly. Hamas has started a brutal and evil war....

Hamas wants to murder us all. This is an enemy that murders children and mothers in their homes, in their beds, an enemy that abducts the elderly, children and young women, that slaughters and massacres our citizens, including children, who simply went out to enjoy the holiday.

What happened today is unprecedented in Israel – and I will see to it that it does not happen again. The entire government is behind this decision.

The IDF will immediately use all its strength to destroy Hamas's capabilities. We will destroy them and we will forcefully avenge this dark day that they have forced on the State of Israel and its citizens.....

All of the places which Hamas is deployed, hiding and operating in, that wicked city, we will turn them into rubble.

I say to the residents of Gaza: Leave now because we will operate forcefully everywhere.

Since this address, massive pro Palestinian and pro Hamas demonstrations have been seen in cities around the world.

Antisemitism in a massive way has shown its ugly head in universities throughout our land and in the halls of Congress.

The United Nations, has refused to condemn the atrocities of Hamas and have even refused to use the name. Israeli Ambassadors have decided to wear the gold star which has printed on it “never again” as reminder of the way the world turned a blind eye to the holocaust just 78 years ago.

Islamic nations are positioning themselves as tensions continue to rise. Iranian leadership along with their proxies of Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis of Yemen are making formal declaration of their desire to wipe Israel off the map and kill all the Jews.

Turkey, which is under the leadership of Erdogan has had one of their largest demonstrations yet in the 10s of thousands in support of the destruction of Israel and the establishment of the Caliphate.

Erdogan stated,

“that Hamas is a liberation movement dedicated to the liberation of Palestine, calling the group

“‘mujahideen’ waging a battle to protect its lands and people.”

Iran even has posted on the side of one of their tall buildings a picture of a supersonic missile with the words “400 seconds to Israel”

There is constant talk now of WWII.

When most would want out of country under attack 1000s of Jews from around the world are pouring into Israel

Lesson

The Roots of the Conflict

The Religion of the Conflict

The Resolution to the Conflict

I. The Roots of the Conflict

We could definitely say that the main root of this conflict is found in the fall of man in the Garden of Eden.

The Fall of man radically changed the nature of man in such a way that he needed no education or encouragement to hate and murder. He would be born with a natural inclination toward this. Given the right environment with no restraints and positive motivation to hate, man in his sinful condition would not disappoint, but would go on to kill millions.

It only takes a few verses and we find ourselves in Genesis 4:8 where Cain kills his brother. The first children of Adam and Eve, of the first man and woman, and we already have murder. By the time we reach Genesis 6, it is wholesale violence and evil everywhere.

Genesis 6:5 (NKJV)

⁵ Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

Genesis 6:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

But even with this and the judgement of the universal flood where all flesh is destroyed except 8 souls. There is still within the heart of the 8, a fallen

and corrupt nature that would spawn new generations of violent, hateful men.

Romans 3:15–18 (NKJV)

¹⁵ *“Their feet are swift to shed blood;*

¹⁶ *Destruction and misery are in their ways;*

¹⁷ *And the way of peace they have not known.”*

¹⁸ *“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

But we need to back up a minute lest we miss a very important statement given to us in Genesis. The Book of Beginnings, the book of origins. When God is pronouncing a curse on the Serpent, the Devil, for his part in leading men and women into sin, God states,

Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And I will put enmity

Between you and the woman,

And between your seed and her Seed;

He shall bruise your head,

And you shall bruise His heel.”

This is the protoevangelium, the first gospel.

That the seed of the woman would bruise the Head of the Satan.

But there is more here.

God says I will put enmity (hatred, hostility)

The Hebrew word translated “hostility” is derived from the root אִיב (’ev, “to be hostile, to be an adversary [or enemy]”). The curse announces that there will be continuing hostility between the serpent and the woman. The serpent will now live in a “battle zone,” as it were

Biblical Studies Press. (2005). [The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible.](#) Biblical Studies Press.

This prophetic announcement by God would set in motion a murderous attempt on the part of Satan to destroy the Seed of the Woman. Satan would employ every attempt to kill the people through whom the messiah would come. i.e. The JEWS

From the very beginning there has been an attempt to wipe out the Jews so the Messiah could not come. In Exodus 1 we see an effort to destroy all male children in Israel. This would wipe out the purposes of God by wiping out the people of Israel, the Jewish people from whom Messiah was to come.

Satan later tried to break the royal line of Christ when Jehoram was killing all his brothers, 2 Chronicles chapter 21. The royal line was reduced to one son, and that one had sons. Then the Arabians came to the camp and killed all the sons

but one, the youngest, Ahaziah, and he lived to reign according to 2 Chronicles chapter 22. He ruled only a year, wickedly counseled by his vile mother by the name of Athaliah. But the messianic line is down to one person. He was wounded severely, that one person, and the messianic line hung by a breath. He lived, was later killed in a war with Jehu, but not until he had sons, again, according to 2 Chronicles 22. For a number of years, about six years, the hopes of the world and the purposes of God in the Messiah rested in one life, and God saved that life, and the Messianic line continued.

Esther records how the people of Israel were saved by the fact that a pagan king couldn't fall asleep, and the plot to wipe out the Jews and the line of Christ was thwarted. We also know Antiochus Epiphanes tried to destroy the Jews, wipe out the Jewish race. Then came Herod who slew all the baby boys, in an attempt to kill

Christ. <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/81-44/who-is-the-antichrist>

Revelation 12:1–6 (NKJV)

12 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ² Then

being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

This attempt to wipe out the Jewish people and the nation of Israel has continued until this day. From Rome's attempt to destroy the Jews, through many pogroms of the Crusades and Catholic church, to the Holocaust, the 6 day War, the Yom Kippur War of 1973, and the now the constant call from Islamic leadership to wipe them from the earth.

But some might wonder why Satan would care about the destruction of the Jewish people now. After all, the Messiah has already come. Already

died and resurrected and is building his church. Why would he care if the Jews survived at all.

Well, there is one little problem, one promise that God has given to them that must be fulfilled in a permanent way. That promise is the Land.

This piece of real-estate has been and is the most hotly disputed and debated and fought over land in all the world. It is one of the primary reasons why there is war in the Middle East right now. The Palestinians believe that this land is theirs and Hamas is determined to run the occupiers out.

But the land matters for more reasons than just that God had promised that it would be theirs forever.

It matters because this is the plot of land that Jesus is coming back to. He is NOT coming to New York, or London or Moscow. He won't be coming to Washington DC or Madrid Spain, or Istanbul Turkey. He won't be showing up in Egypt or mainland China.

NO, The Bible is very clear, He is coming back to Jerusalem and will set His feet on the Mount of Olives. The same mount on which He prayed the night before his crucifixion, "Not my will but your will be done".

And he is not coming to a land that has no Jews. NO, He is coming to a nation of unbelieving

Jews, called Israel, who will see Him coming and will weep and mourn for the one whom they have pierced and will be saved.

There's a huge reason why this land is fought over more than any other piece of land on the planet. There's a reason why that Satan does not want Israel, to occupy the land that was promised of them through the Abraham at covenant. If Satan can keep the land from Israel, then God is a liar, and he does not keep his promises. Satan knows that this is pitiful and critical to the future fulfillment for the people of Israel.

Lets take a moment and remind ourselves of the Covenant. This Abrahamic Covenant.

Genesis 12:1–3 (NKJV)

Now the Lord had said to Abram:

“Get out of your country,
From your family
And from your father’s house,
To a land that I will show you.
2 I will make you a great nation;
I will bless you
And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you,
 And I will curse him who curses you;
 And in you all the families of the earth shall be
 blessed.”

Genesis 12:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “**To your descendants I will give this land.**” And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

Genesis 13:14–17 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: “Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; ¹⁵ for all the land which you see **I give to you and your descendants forever.** ¹⁶ And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, *then* your descendants also could be numbered. ¹⁷ Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, **for I give it to you.**”

But there is on glaring problem. Sarah is barren and not able to have children. So, how can he give a land to descendants he does not have.

Genesis 15:2–18 (NKJV)

² But Abram said, “Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house *is* Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ Then Abram said, “Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!”

⁴ And behold, the word of the Lord *came* to him, saying, “This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.”

⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”

⁶ And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

⁷ Then He said to him, “I *am* the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it.”

⁸ And he said, “Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?”

⁹ So He said to him, “Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰ Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when

the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror *and* great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is* not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. ¹⁴ And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet complete.”

¹⁷ And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. ¹⁸ On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying:

“To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—

Then he names the current occupants of the land that would be eventually killed or expelled from the Land

Scripture has at least 170 references to the land that God gave to the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God promised the land of Canaan to the Jews as an unconditional covenant – 55 times the Bible records that God confirmed the gift with an oath. Twelve of those times He stated that the covenant was everlasting.

“The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as **an everlasting possession** to you and your seed after you; and I will be their God.”
[Genesis 17:8]

Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty ... said to me ... ‘I will give this land as an **everlasting** possession to your seed after you.’”
[Genesis 48:3-4]

“Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom **You swore by Your own self**: ‘... I will give your seed all this land **I promised them**, and it will be their inheritance **forever**.’”
[Exodus 32:13]

Judges 2:1 (NKJV)

Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: “I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you.

“He remembers His **covenant forever**, the word He commanded, for a thousand generations, the **covenant** He made with Abraham, **the oath He swore** to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a **decree**, to Israel as an **everlasting covenant**: ‘To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit.’”

[1 Chronicles 16:15-18]

They said, “Turn now, each of you, from your evil ways ... and you can stay in the land the Lord gave to you and your fathers **for ever and ever.**”

[Jeremiah 25:5]

“I will plant Israel in their own land, **never again** to be uprooted from the land I have given them,” says the Lord your God.

[Amos 9:15]

And also, Abraham would go on to have 2 sons, Ishmael and Isaac and Isaac would have 2 sons Jacob and Esau, but the sons of the covenant would be Isaac and Jacob, but Ishmael and Esau would be enemies of the sons of the Promise/

So from Genesis 11 and the descendants of Shem that occupied much of the Greater Mesopotamian area to the peoples from Ishmael and Esau, the populations grew into nations of Arabic peoples, that were not inheritors of the land of participants in the Covenants and would grow in hostility toward Israel for the land. The nations once separated by culture and idols would eventually be crystalized into one large monolith of people under the religion of Islam. The Arabic world would become an empire under leadership of Muhammad who would worship a false god named Allah Muhammad was born to a tribe in Mecca, that claimed to be a descendant of Ishmael.

“Muhammad, which means in Arabic “highly praised.” He was born in the Middle East in 570 A.D., almost five hundred years after Christ. He was born to a tribe in Mecca. **He claimed to be a descendant of Ishmael – that fits.** This Muhammad became the source of the Quran,

which is the holy book of Islam. In 622 he made his home in Medina, and it became that date, the sort of an official date as the start of the Muslim era.”

Today radical Muslims call Israel “the small Satan” and America “the great Satan.”

I. The Roots of the Conflict

II. The Religion of the Conflict

The predominant religion of the Middle East is Islam. There are six basic articles of faith in Islam.

1. Allah is the one true God.. He is not a trinity, and he is not the God of the Old Testament, and he’s not the God of Christians. He is Allah, the one true God.

2.The Koran is the most holy book. There are other holy books, holy to some degree, but the Koran is the most holy book.

3. Muhammad is his greatest prophet. Allah sent, according to Islamic literature, a hundred and

twenty-four thousand prophets, Jesus being one; but Muhammad is the greatest prophet.

4. There are many angels, there are many demons, and there is a Satan called Iblis or Shaytan.

5. Allah has predetermined all things by unchangeable decree. Allah is absolutely sovereign, and everyone's destiny is predetermined by Allah.

6. There will be a day of judgment when all will find out whether they go to heaven or to hell. And the criteria for that is the absolute decision of Allah, which may or may not be influenced at all by human beings; but you ought to do good works because they might help. No guarantee, absolutely none.

Then there are five duties; they are called the pillars of Islam. These are required religious practices.

1. Reciting the creed many times a day. And the creed is this: "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet," and you recite that many times a day.

2. Prayer five times a day; and these are prescribed prayers, written prayers, memorized prayers. And the five times a day are identified.

3. give to the poor. And all Muslims are taxed 2.5 percent of their income and their property, one-fortieth of what they have for the poor.

4. a month of fasting called Ramadan. The fast is you eat at night, you can't eat in daylight. And Ramadan commemorates the first revelation that came to Muhammad in the year 610 A.D. When Muhammad was forty years old he received his first supposed revelation from god that is commemorated by Ramadan; eating is allowed only at night and in the morning before dawn.

5. Every Muslim must once in his life, unless it is utterly impossible by some restraint, make a pilgrimage to Mecca.

That's essentially the practice and the theology. A little more clarification is needed.....

The Quran says Christians who believe in the Trinity are infidels.

Also, Allah only loves good people, he does not love sinners.

They teach that Jesus Christ was a man, He was not God the Son, and anyone who says, "Jesus is God," according to the Quran, is an infidel.

A quote: "Any Muslim who believes that Jesus Christ is God has committed the one unforgivable sin called shirk, a sin that will send him to hell forever."

Further, their theology teaches Jesus didn't die on the cross because Jesus was a prophet of Allah, and Allah would never let that happen to one of his prophets. He didn't die on the cross, therefore He didn't rise from the dead, and nor is He ever coming back. They further teach that no one can have salvation but a Muslim. God's going to send some to heaven, but no one who is not a Muslim is going to heaven.

And this is so heartbreaking. Islam has no savior, no savior. They die not knowing where they're going. There is in the Muslim theology no atonement for

sin, no sacrifice for sin, no propitiatory basis for forgiveness.

For Islam, the world is divided into two parts: Dar al-Salaam, house of peace, where Allah rules; and Dar al-Harb, house of war, where infidels live. It's either peace, you succumb to Allah; or it's war.

In 1948, Israel, that infidel people, invaded the house of peace and turned it into a house of war. That's why Arafat the former leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, said, quote: "Peace for us means the destruction of Israel." That is the only condition of peace in the thinking of these extreme Islamic leaders.

When Israel won its first battle with the Muslim-Arabs, they started to take back the land, it was a defeat for Allah. And Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian Ayatollah, said that, "Israel's presence in the Arab land, "is due to the backslidden condition of Muslims; and Allah is greatly displeased. The defeat of Israel, therefore," said the Ayatollah, "will become the sign of Allah's pleasure with Muslims. So if you want Allah's pleasure, you have to defeat Israel." That turns everything into a holy war, a jihad.

For those committed to Jihad who are willing to be martyrs of Allah, The Chief Mufti of the Palestinian police Sheik Abd Al-Salam Skheidm specified the rewards according to Islamic tradition, and I quote:

“From the moment his first drop of blood spills, the martyr feels no pain. He is absolved of all his sins. He sees his seat in heaven, and he is spared the tortures of the grave. He is spared the horrors of judgment day. He is married to the black-eyed virgins. The Quran describes these women, quote: “Beautiful like rubies, with complexions like diamonds and pearls. and “he can vouch for seventy of his family members to also enter paradise.”

One Mufti Sheikh Ikrima said: “The Muslim loves death and martyrdom, just as you Jews love life. There’s a great difference between he who loves the afterlife and he who loves this world. The Muslim loves death and seeks martyrdom.”

Palestinian Sesame Street teaches children the virtues of killing the occupiers of Jerusalem with guns and stones.

USA Today, Jack Kelly, the writer, July 5th of this year, just a couple of months ago, wrote, “In Hamas-run kindergartens there are signs on the walls in the Palestinian area.” Here are the signs: “The children of the kindergarten are the shaheeds, the holy martyrs of tomorrow.” They start with kindergartners.

Another sign: The classroom signs at Al-Najjar University in the West Bank in Gaza’s Islamic university say, quote: “Israel has nuclear bombs, we have human bombs.” At an Islamic school in Gaza City run by Hamas, eleven-year-old Palestinian student’s Ahmad’s small frame and boyish smile are deceiving. They mask a determination to kill at any cost. Quote he says – Ahmad says, “I will make my body a bomb that will blast the flesh of Zionists, the sons of pigs and monkeys.” The reason he says that, in the Quran it says that Allah turned Jews into pigs one time; another time he turned them into monkeys.

Little eleven-year-old Ahmad said, quote: “I will tear their bodies into little pieces and cause them more pain than they will ever know.” Eleven years old. His classmates all responded, shouting in response, “Allah hu Akbar, God is great.” The teacher yelled back, “May the virgins give you pleasure.” And so it goes. *John MacArthur. Terrorism and the Middle East.*

(Washington, D.C., September 24, 2010) — [Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad](#) made an inflammatory speech to the U.N. General Assembly . He began by praying, "O God, hasten the arrival of Imam al-Mahdi and grant him good health and victory and make us his followers and those who attest to his righteousness."

With this prayer, reporters were running about trying to find out what this “Mahdi” was all about. Since 9/11 we have become more acquainted with the Islamic religion than most of us would desire. Perhaps it has been a good thing for the evangelical church to become aware of the real treat Islam gives to the life and ministry of the church. Some would say, that Islam is a false religion, on the other side of

the globe, what do we have to worry about. They are no treat to the church...

Consider a few things with me

1. If things don't change dramatically, Islam will become the largest religion in the world very shortly
2. Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world, 4 times faster than Christianity.
3. "If present trends continue, half of all global births will be to Islamic families by 2055"
4. Islam is also the fastest growing religion in the United States, Canada and Europe at an average of 8 percent per year
5. This amounts to 25,000 converts per year in the United States alone.
6. Since 9/11 the number of converts in America have quadrupled
7. 80 percent of converts in America were raised in Christian Churches

III. His Religion

Most people think of Islam as an utterly distinct religion from Christianity, with no connection to Christianity. We would think if someone is a Muslim, they have absolutely no connection to Christianity. And there are many religions that have no connection to Christianity, Hinduism has no connection to Christianity, Buddhism has no connection to Christianity, many others have no connection. It's amazing how many do connect because Satan wants to counterfeit and deceive and get as close to the truth as he can.

There are actually confessed evangelical people who think that. Muslims not only believe in God because they are monotheist, believing in one God, but who think that Muslims are okay because they actually believe in Jesus. And by the way, they do. Brian McClaren an Emerging Church heretic writer in his book *The Secret Message of Jesus* says, and I quote, "All Muslims regard Jesus as a great prophet. A shared reappraisal of Jesus' message could provide a common ground for urgently needed religious dialogue. This reappraisal of Jesus may be

our own way of saving a number of religions, including Christianity,” end quote.

So if we want to save Christianity and save other religions, we need to all get together and that should be easy for us to do because we can start with the Muslims because they already believe in Jesus. A popular speaker and author, Tony Campolo, says, quote: “When we listen to the Muslim mystics as they talk about Jesus and their love for Jesus, I must say it’s a lot closer to New Testament Christianity than a lot of Christians.” Really! So you think that the Muslim Jesus is the same Jesus?

I can help you with that because they describe Jesus. The Muslim Jesus plays a crucial role in Islamic eschatology. Now you do know that the Muslims have an eschatology. In other words they have a theology of the end. They know where they’re going, according to their writings. They know where they’re going.

Let me describe the Muslim Jesus to you. This is out of their own writings, the Koran and the Sunnah. The Koran is supposedly the word of Allah, actually the word of Satan, but they think it’s the word of Allah. The Sunnah...the Sunnah are the words of and the works of Mohammed. The Koran then constitutes

their holy Scripture and the Sunnah, sometimes called the Hadith constitutes their holy tradition. Their theology comes out of the Koran and the Sunnah, just as Roman Catholic theology comes out of the Bible and Tradition, or Judaism comes out of the Old Testament and rabbinic tradition...the Muslims have two sources of authoritative truth.

In their system they have Jesus. Jesus was a man, he was not God. He did not die, he went to heaven like Elijah. He did not die, therefore he did not rise. He did not rise, therefore he did not provide an atonement for anyone because no one can provide an atonement for anyone else. He is a man. He is a prophet. He is nothing more. He went to heaven like Elijah. And he's in heaven right now, standing alongside Allah, waiting for Allah to send him back. In their system, this man, this prophet Jesus who is now in heaven, never having died, plays a key role in the end times because he will return from heaven without dying, he will come back when Allah sends him back.

Now the question to ask, is why would Allah want to send Jesus back? He has a lot of prophets to pick from, why does he send Jesus back?

Answer...so that when he shows up he can correct all the Christians who have misunderstood who he is. The sources for this, again, are the Koran and the Sunnah. The great event of the coming of Christ, or coming of Jesus, is so that this prophet, this man who comes back can straighten out the misdirected, misguided, misconceiving Christians who think He was God who died and rose again and provided atonement...he'll come back and straighten it out. And by the way, after he gets here, he'll get married, have children and die and be buried next to Mohammed. That's the Muslim Jesus.

a. ***The Mahdi***

In Islamic eschatology, there are three great signs of the end of history...three great signs. There are some lesser signs, or some minor signs, or some major signs. In their eschatology, again quoting their sources exclusively, there are three great signs of the end of history. And each of them is a man. Let me tell you about those three men.

First of all, the first man that will come in the end of history is the Mahdi...M-a-h-d-i. Sometimes he's

called the Twelfth Imam. Every time Ahmajinedad over in Iran gives a speech, he gives glory to the Mahdi, glory to the Twelfth Imam, every time. He's waiting for the coming of the Mahdi.

What is he coming to do? He's coming, listen carefully, to slaughter all who will not worship Allah, convert to Islam. They are identified in their writings as pigs and dogs. And to establish the everlasting world dominating kingdom of Islam. That's what he will do.

The Mahdi, or the Twelfth Imam, that means the guided one, is the long-awaited savior. He is the establisher of the final Caliphate. The world must follow him as he takes over or he will destroy all enemies of Islam. He will come and he will carry on holy war and either you convert or you're killed by the Mahdi. He will have an army. His army will be a massive army and his army will go from nation to nation to punish the unbelievers. The holy writings of Islam say that this army will carry black flags. And on those black flags there will be one word and that one word will be the word Punishment. By the way, the Iranian army today carries black flags. They want to be ready for the coming of the Mahdi.

He will lead the army of black flags first to Israel, slaughter all the Jews, and then he will establish his rule in Jerusalem on the temple mount. That's what their literature says. Slaughter the Jews, establish his rule on the temple mount.

According to their holy writings, the Mahdi will bring rain and wind and crops and wealth and happiness so that all will love him and no one will speak of anyone but him. Their writings say the Mahdi will come and make, at first, a peace agreement with the Jews and the west for seven years. The reign of Mahdi will last seven years in which he establishes Islam on the earth.

Their holy writings say this, the Mahdi will come riding on a white horse, and it even says in their writings, "As it says in [Revelation 6:1](#) and [2](#). Saddam Hussein, by the way, painted murals of this Mahdi on a white horse all over Baghdad. And he comes carrying a sword to kill the infidels.

When the Mahdi arrives, he will discover hidden scriptures, he will discover them, interestingly enough, somewhere near the Sea of Galilee and there will be there hidden scriptures, hidden gospels and a hidden Torah and they will be the true scriptures which will be used by the Mahdi to show

the Jews and the Christians they were wrong, that their scriptures were the false scriptures.

Let me summarize. The Mahdi will be a messianic figure. He will be a descendant of Mohammed. He will be an unparalleled, unequaled leader. He will come out of a crisis of turmoil. He will take control of the world. He will establish a new world order. He will destroy all who resist him. He will invade many nations. He will make a seven-year peace treaty with the Jews. He will conquer Israel and massacre the Jews. He will establish Islamic world headquarters at Jerusalem. He will rule for seven years, establish Islam as the only religion. He will come on a white horse with supernatural power. He will be loved by all people on earth.

If that sounds familiar, that is a precise description of the biblical Antichrist...absolutely step-by-step-by-step-by-step. The Bible's Antichrist is their Mahdi. We know that the rider on the white horse in Revelation 6 is the Antichrist. They use that verse to describe their Mahdi.

Why am I giving you all this? Because the description of the Mahdi is exactly the description of the biblical Antichrist, the beast of Revelation 13, and you go into any kind of a study of that and you

will find that all the details match up perfectly. The Bible's Antichrist is Islam's Savior and world conqueror who establishes a universal Islamic kingdom.

b. ***The Prophet***

And there's a second sign, a second person, and it is Jesus. The Mahdi is not Jesus. The Mahdi is greater than Jesus, and that's important to their system because if you have somebody greater than Jesus then the Christians were wrong. So Jesus will return. Yes, Muslims believe that Jesus will come again. They believe in the return of Jesus, not the true Jesus, the Jesus of Islam, not God, didn't die, didn't rise, didn't provide a sacrifice for sin, but he does return. He's a prophet and he comes back and he has one purpose when he comes back and that is to assist and aid the Mahdi. He returns, listen to this, as a radical Muslim. He comes back as a radical Muslim. He will arrive, by the way, at a minaret near Damascus. And he will come back holding the wings of two angels who flew him down to meet the gathering army of the Mahdi in the east, the army of the black flags.

Jesus when he comes back will pray to the Mahdi who is greater than he. He will acknowledge the Mahdi as his lord. He will make a pilgrimage to Mecca. He will worship Allah and thus he will lead all Christians who will follow him to reject their notion of Jesus and accept the real Jesus who is nothing but a prophet and a man. He will establish worldwide Sharia law. He will become the greatest Muslim evangelist and he will be the final witness on the day of judgment against non-Muslims. Christians everywhere will affirm that they were wrong, that the gospel is wrong, the New Testament is wrong, He didn't die, He didn't rise, He isn't God, He isn't the Son of God. He Himself will come back and point out how wrong we've been. He will correct all misinterpretations and all misrepresentations.

Let me quote what their literature says. "He will shatter crosses." That's metaphoric for the destruction of the church, a symbol of Christianity being placed in the church. He will kill pigs. He will abolish the tax on non-Muslims because there won't be any living non-Muslims, can't tax dead people. And then he will do one more thing. He will kill the Islamic Antichrist. He will kill the Islamic Antichrist. Then he will die and be buried by Mohammed, but

not until he has destroyed Christianity by revealing who he really is.

Who is this? You compare what he does to the false prophet in the book of Revelation, chapter 13, 16, 19, 20 refer to the beast coming out of the earth, the false prophet, who aids and abets the Antichrist. He is as the Mahdi is the exact replica of the Antichrist, the Jesus prophet in Islam is the exact parallel to the false prophet who aids and abets the Antichrist. One of their writings says he espouses the cause of the Mahdi. He is the Mahdi's executioner. He is the Mahdi's enforcer. He is the Mahdi's prophet. And it is he who kills the Antichrist.

c. ***The Antichrist***

That leads me to the third person. The Antichrist will show up. The Muslims call him Dajjal, he is the great deceiver. He comes to earth on a mule and he's blind in one eye. He is an infidel. He is a false miracle worker, this Antichrist, this Islamic Antichrist. But you know who he claims to be? He claims to be Jesus, the son of God. He claims to be deity. He will attempt to stop the Mahdi and the true Jesus but the true Jesus will slaughter him.

This is their view of the true Christ. Our Jesus is their Antichrist. Our Antichrist is their redeemer. It is a satanic counterfeit that is in complete reverse. The army...this is a quote... “The army of Satan will be led by a person who will claim to be Jesus Christ.” There will be a battle. The Muslim Jesus will fight the false Jesus and kill him and establish Islam forever. The truth is, the true Jesus will destroy the Antichrist and the false prophet and establish His Kingdom forever. This is Satan’s complete counterfeit, Muslim world domination. *John MacArthur. Grim Reality of the Last Days. Joel Richardson, Islamic Antichrist.*

Now in the end, will Islam win the jihad? With all there hate and desire to murder and banish Israel from the land. Will they be able to do so in a final way where Islam will occupy the land for the remainder of time..... No.

Unlike most nations - Israel has a clear prophetic future.

Neither Hamas nor Hezbollah or even Iran can change it!

I. The Roots of the Conflict

II. The Religion of the Conflict

III. The Resolution to the Conflict

The Bible talks of a time of great distress and trouble that is coming for Israel and the world. The hub of this distress will be centered in Israel and Jerusalem

Jeremiah 30 calls it “Jacob’s Trouble”

Daniel 12:1–2 (NKJV)

“At that time Michael shall stand up,
The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your
people;

And there shall be a time of trouble,
Such as never was since there was a nation,
Even to that time.

And at that time your people shall be delivered,
Every one who is found written in the book.

- ² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall
awake,
Some to everlasting life,
Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

Zechariah 12:1–3 (NKJV)

12 The burden of the word of the Lord against Israel.
Thus says the Lord, who stretches out the heavens,
lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit
of man within him: ² “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a

cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.

³ And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

Zechariah 12:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David *shall be* like God, like the Angel of the Lord before them. ⁹ It shall be in that day *that* I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only *son*, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. ¹¹ In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

Zechariah 13:2 (NKJV)

² “It shall be in that day,” says the Lord of hosts, “*that* I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered. I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land.

Zechariah 14:1–16 (NKJV)

- 14** Behold, the day of the Lord is coming,
And your spoil will be divided in your midst.
- ² For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem;
The city shall be taken,
The houses rifled,
And the women ravished.
Half of the city shall go into captivity,
But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.
- ³ Then the Lord will go forth
And fight against those nations,
As He fights in the day of battle.
- ⁴ And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,
Which faces Jerusalem on the east.
And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two,
From east to west,

Making a very large valley;
Half of the mountain shall move toward the north
And half of it toward the south.

- 5 Then you shall flee *through* My mountain valley,
For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal.

Yes, you shall flee
As you fled from the earthquake
In the days of Uzziah king of Judah.

Thus the Lord my God will come,
And all the saints with You.

- 6 It shall come to pass in that day
That there will be no light;
The lights will diminish.

- 7 It shall be one day
Which is known to the Lord
Neither day nor night.
But at evening time it shall happen
That it will be light.

- 8 And in that day it shall be—
That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem,
Half of them toward the eastern sea
And half of them toward the western sea;
In both summer and winter it shall occur.

- 9 And the Lord shall be King over all the earth.
In that day it shall be

“The Lord *is* one,”
And His name one.

¹⁰ All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. *Jerusalem* shall be raised up and inhabited in her place from Benjamin’s Gate to the place of the First Gate and the Corner Gate, and *from* the Tower of Hananel to the king’s winepresses.

¹¹ *The people shall dwell in it;*
And no longer shall there be utter destruction,
But Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.

¹² And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem:

Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet,
Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets,
And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.

¹³ It shall come to pass in that day
That a great panic from the Lord will be among them.

Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor,
And raise his hand against his neighbor’s hand;

¹⁴ Judah also will fight at Jerusalem.
And the wealth of all the surrounding nations

Shall be gathered together:

Gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance.

¹⁵ Such also shall be the plague
On the horse *and* the mule,
On the camel and the donkey,
And on all the cattle that will be in those camps.
So *shall* this plague *be*.

¹⁶ And it shall come to pass *that* everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Revelation 19:11–20:1 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His

mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, ¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great.”

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Luke 5:27–39 (NKJV)

²⁷ After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “**Follow Me.**” ²⁸ So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.

²⁹ Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. ³⁰ And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, “Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

³¹ Jesus answered and said to them, “**Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.** ³² I have not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

³³ Then they said to Him, “Why do the disciples of John fast often and make prayers, and likewise those of the Pharisees, but Yours eat and drink?”

³⁴ And He said to them, “**Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them?** ³⁵ But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast in those days.”

³⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them: “**No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one; otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was *taken* out of the new does not match the old.** ³⁷ And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. ³⁸ But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved. ³⁹ And no one, having drunk old *wine*, immediately desires new; for he says, ‘The old is better.’ ”

Romans 16:25–27 (NKJV)

²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began ²⁶ but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—²⁷ to God, alone wise, *be* glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Psalm 18:46–50 (NKJV)

- ⁴⁶ The Lord lives!
Blessed *be* my Rock!
Let the God of my salvation be exalted.
- ⁴⁷ *It is* God who avenges me,
And subdues the peoples under me;
- ⁴⁸ He delivers me from my enemies.
You also lift me up above those who rise against me;
You have delivered me from the violent man.
- ⁴⁹ Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles,
And sing praises to Your name.
- ⁵⁰ Great deliverance He gives to His king,
And shows mercy to His anointed,

To David and his descendants forevermore.