

David W. Cloud

THE
BIBLE

AND

ISLAM

The Bible and Islam
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Introduction

In light of today's news events, we do well to ask what the Bible says about Islam.

Islam controls a large part of the world and is on a jihadic rampage that hasn't been seen in hundreds of years.

"Today, there are 44 Islamic states; half of these are Arab. There are about one and a half billion Muslims worldwide, about one-fifth of the world's population. Muslims cover half of the globe, from Northern Africa to Southern Russia, from Northern India to Indonesia. There are about 24 million Muslims in Europe ... There are two million Muslims in France. More than a million Muslims live in Germany. There are also roughly 80 million Muslims in Russia. There are more than one billion Muslims represented at the United Nations..." (Michael Evans, *Beyond Iraq*, p. 49).

Islam is in the process of doing what it failed to do earlier in its history, and that is to conquer Europe. It is winning this objective by immigration, prolific breeding, and crafty politics, all made possible by the spiritual blindness, lack of wisdom, and pacifism of Europeans in general.

The most "radical" form of jihad is supported by a large portion of the Islamic world. The modern jihadists have murdered tens of thousands, toppled two of the world's largest buildings in the world's most powerful nation, threatened presidents and prime ministers, and conquered territory amounting to millions of square miles.

If it weren't for Bible prophecy, it would not be unreasonable to assume that Islam would eventually reach its perpetual objective of establishing a world caliphate.

But this won't happen. According to the Bible, Islam is simply another false religion that will be destroyed at Christ's return. Islam is ultimately under God's hand, and

from Islam's inception, God has used it to judge apostate Christianity just as He used ancient pagan nations to judge Israel.

Bible prophecy describes the future of each of the Muslim nations surrounding Israel today.

Islam's Beginning

From a Biblical perspective, Islam is another false religion.

Islam or the Muslim religion* was founded in the seventh century AD by Muhammad (570-632).

[* *Muslim* means “one who surrenders himself to God,” and *Islam* means surrender.]

There is much about the early history of Islam that is uncertain. The earliest surviving biography of Muhammad's life was written by Ibn Ishaq in 767, 135 years after Muhammad's death. The next earliest extant biographies were written in about 833 (Ibn Hisham) and 922 (al-Tabari).

The following study is based on standard Muslim tradition. To question the official Muslim teaching about Muhammad is to commit blasphemy, which is punishable by death under Sharia law. When Tom Holland published a documentary in England (*Islam: the Untold Story*) in 2012 that cast doubt upon Islam's traditional history, he received hundreds of death threats.

Muhammad's life can be divided into two major parts:

Early life in Mecca and Visions

Muhammad's father died before Muhammad was born, and he was raised by his mother (who died when he was five), his grandfather, and an uncle, Abu Talib.

After growing to adulthood, he married a wealthy widow named Khadija, and they had six children. Two sons died in childhood, and four daughters survived to adulthood.

Muhammad spent time in contemplation and prayer in a cave, and during one session in about 610 the angel Gabriel allegedly appeared to him. He said that a “luminous being” forcefully commanded him to read something, and when Muhammad said he could not read it, the being “caught me

and pressed me so hard that I could not bear it anymore.” This happened three times until Muhammad obeyed. The being told Muhammad that God made man “of a clot of blood.” Muhammad thought he was demon possessed, and only at the encouragement of his wife did he become convinced that the experiences were of God. We never see an angel treating a prophet of God like this in Scripture, and only a fallen angel speaks lies such as man being made of a clot of blood.

Over the next 20 years until Muhammad’s death, Gabriel allegedly dictated revelations to him, and these became the Quran (Qur’an, Koran), Islam’s most holy book.

For the first 13 years after announcing himself a prophet, Muhammad was able to gather only about 100 followers, including his uncle Abu Talib, a prominent tribal leader, and Abu Bakr, a wealthy merchant.

For the most part, Muhammad’s message was rejected and he was mocked in Mecca.

Things became worse when Muhammad agreed to recognize the Arab gods, but afterward he recanted, saying that Satan had spoken through him.

Muhammad’s Conquest

In 619, Muhammad’s uncle and protector, Abu Talib, died, and in 622 Muhammad was forced to flee Mecca to Yathrib. Yathrib was later named Madinat al Nabi or “the city of the prophet” and shortened to Medina. This event is called the **Hijrah** (emigration) and is the beginning of the Muslim calendar.

At this point, Muhammad’s life and message changed, becoming harsh and warlike.

The change is reflected in his messages, which can be divided into two parts: the more tolerant ones in Mecca and the harsh, militant ones in Medina. Earlier commandments

urging peace and religious harmony are superseded by later ones urging violent jihad. We will see more about this when we consider the Islamic doctrine of abrogation.

From Medina, Muhammad sent his followers on murderous pillaging campaigns against Meccan caravans, and he took at least one-fifth of all loot.

Sometimes captives would be brought before Muhammad to determine their destiny and would plead for their lives, to no avail. One man begged Muhammad not to kill him because it would leave his daughter an orphan. Muhammad heartlessly replied that hell would take care of her.

In Medina, after the Jews refused to accept Muhammad as a prophet, he banished them and confiscated their land and property. He later massacred and enslaved two of the tribes, the Banu Nadir and the Banu Qurayza, as we will see.

Eventually Muhammad marched on Mecca with an army of 10,000 and the city submitted to him. When given a choice of converting to Islam or accepting a servant status, most of the people converted.

Muhammad began the Muslim custom of forcing non-Muslims to convert, die, or pay a heavy “protection” tax called *jizya* and thus live under the status of “dhimmi.” The “protection” is from jihad, and if the dhimmis don’t obey dhimmi laws, they are subject to renewed jihad.

“At Khaybar Muhammad instituted the first dhimmis. After the best of the goods were taken from the Jews Muhammad left them to work the land. Since his men knew nothing about farming, and the Jews were skilled at it, they worked the land and gave Muhammad half of their profits” (*Sirat Rasul Allah* by Ibn Ishaq, 786).

All who did not convert were banned from Mecca, and it is still illegal for non-Muslims to enter the city.

Muhammad had at least 27 people murdered. The first was Asma bint Marwan, a young poetess with five children. She

was stabbed to death as she and her children lay asleep, “her babe on her breast.” “The stealthy assassin removed the child and drove the knife into her with such force that he pinned her to the bed” (*Life of Muhammad* by William Muir, 239). When the murderer told Muhammad of the deed and wondered about the consequences, he said, “You have helped Allah and his Apostle. Two goats won’t butt their heads together over this” (Ibn Ishaq, *Sirat Rasul Allah*, 996). Another victim was Abu Afak, a woman over 100 years old who had protested previous murders. Another was Al Ashraf, an elderly Jewish merchant who had composed poems bewailing the murder of his friends by Muslims. When Muhammad asked “Who will rid me of Al Ashraf?” three Muslims entered the Jew’s home by lies and slew him. After his murder, Muhammad’s followers revealed that “there was not a Jew there who did not fear for his life” (Ibn Ishaq, 548, 551, 552).

Muhammad waged jihad on many cities and tribes, looting them, taking slaves, and forcing them to submit to Islam. Consider the Jews of Khaybar. He attacked these peaceful settlements, killed many of the men, robbed them of their hard-earned wealth, enslaved their women and children, and forced the surviving men to farm the land and give half of the income to the Muslims. The following is from Muhammad’s official biography:

“After the treaty of Al Hudaibiya, Muhammad stayed in Medina for about two months before he collected his army and marched to the forts of Khaybar, a community of wealthy Jewish farmers who lived in a village of separate forts about 100 miles from Medina.

“Muhammad seized the forts one at a time. Among the captives was a beautiful Jewess named Safiya. Muhammad took her for his sexual pleasure. [Her husband and father had been killed by the Muslims.] One of his men had first chosen her for his own slave of pleasure, but Muhammad traded him two of her

cousins for Safiya. Muhammad always got first choice of the spoils of war and the women. ...

“Muhammad knew that there was a large treasure hidden somewhere in Khaybar, so he brought forth the Jew who he thought knew the most about it and questioned him. The Jew denied any knowledge. Muhammad told one of his men, ‘Torture the Jew until you extract what he has.’ So the Jew was staked on the ground, and a small fire built on his chest to get him to talk. When the man was nearly dead and still would not talk, Muhammad had him released and taken to one of his men who had had a brother killed in the fight. This Muslim got the pleasure of cutting off the tortured Jew’s head” (Ibn Ishaq, *Sirat Rasul Allah*, 756-764).

After an elderly woman named Umm Qirfa joined the fight against Muslim raiders who attacked her tribe, Muhammad’s adopted son Ali tied her legs to two camels and ripped her body apart. He killed her two sons and made her daughter into a sex slave.

By the time of Muhammad’s death, his followers had conquered most of Arabia and were looking beyond to lands controlled by Catholic and Byzantine Christians. Before he died, Muhammad wrote letters to governors in these lands, saying, “Embrace Islam and you will be safe.”

Muhammad had eleven to fifteen wives and many sex slaves. His wives included his own daughter-in-law and the nine-year-old daughter of one of his original converts. He married the latter (Aisha) at age six and consummated the marriage when she was nine, according to her own writings. “She was allowed to bring her dolls into the harem due to her age” (*A Simple Koran*).

In 620, the angel Gabriel allegedly woke Muhammad up and brought him to a winged horse or mule called *al-Buraq* (having a woman’s face, eagle’s wings, and a peacock’s tail), which he mounted and rode to the Temple Mount in

Jerusalem. From there he was led by Gabriel to each of Seven Heavens where he was met by Adam, John, Jesus, Enoch, Aaron, Moses, Abraham, and finally Allah (Dore Gold, *The Fight for Jerusalem*, 2007, p. 89). The journey is known as ***al-Isra*** or *Night Journey*. It is mentioned in the Quran as follows:

“Glory to Allah, Who took His servant on a night time journey from the Sacred Mosque in Mecca to the furthest Mosque” (17:1).

In the seventh heaven, Muhammad claims to have seen “a beautiful woman with red lips” that was “very attractive to him.” When he asked who she was, Abraham told him that she belonged to Muhammad’s adopted son Zaid.

Muhammad died of a fever in 632 at age 63.

The Quran

1. The Quran contains the supposed words of Allah as given to Muhammad.

“This Book has come down from the Lord of the worlds. The faithful spirit [Gabriel] has come down with it upon your [Muhammad] heart so that you may warn others in the clear Arabic language” (Surah 26:192).

The Quran is the prime source of authority for Islam. The other two sources are the Hadith and the Sira.

The **Hadith** are collections of Muhammad’s sayings.

The **Sira** (Sirah or Sirat, meaning “journey”) are Muhammad’s biographies. They are called *Sirah Rasul Allah* (*Life of the Apostle of God*) and *Sirat Nabawiyya* (*Life of the Prophet*). The two earliest extant are by Ibn Ishaq (767) and Ibn Hisham (833).

The Sira and Hadith form the **Sunna**.

The earliest extant written sources for these date to nearly a century and a half after Muhammad’s death.

The sayings of the Quran were allegedly collected by Abu Bakr, the first caliph, and by Muhammad’s scribe, Zaid ibn Thabit, and given to Hafsa, one of Muhammad’s widows. The Quran was established in its final form by Uthman, the third caliph (653-656) and one of Muhammad’s sons-in-law. After the final edition was made, Uthman ordered the burning of all variant copies.

2. Muslims believe that the Quran is the final revelation of God, superseding the Bible.

“Mohammad said repeatedly that the Jews and Christians corrupted their sacred texts in order to conceal the fact that he was prophesied in their scriptures. ... According to Muhammad, the scriptures

of the Jews have been changed to hide the fact that Islam is the true religion” (A Simple Koran).

“The Koran could not have been created by any but Allah, but it confirms what was revealed before it and is a fuller explanation of the Scriptures” (Surah 10:37).

“Oh, people of the Scriptures, Our Messenger has come to you to clear up what you have hidden of those Scriptures and to pass over many things that are now unnecessary. Now you have a new light and a clear Book from Allah....” (Surah 5:15).

3. The Quran consists of 114 surahs, or chapters, arranged by length, from the shortest to the longest. It is not arranged by history or even by topic.

Therefore it is disjointed and confusing. Unlike the Bible, the Quran cannot be interpreted by context.

“The Koran you buy at the bookstore has no context to the verses. There is no time[line] in the Koran, since the chapters are laid out in order of their length, not in time sequence. Imagine that you took a novel and cut off the spine and rebound the book starting with the longest chapter and ending with the shortest. The novel would have been randomized and the plot would be destroyed. That is what has been done with the Koran. ... The sum total is that the Koran is confusing, contradictory, makes no sense, and is strange ... It’s difficult to understand and daunting to attempt” (A Simple Koran).

A Simple Koran: The Reconstructed Historical Koran is a helpful book that gives the biography of Muhammad from official documents, together with statements from the Quran arranged according to their historical context.

4. The only official language of the Quran is Arabic, which must be used in prayers, readings, and memorization.

Any translation is considered far inferior and is called an “interpretation.” No translation existed in English until 1649.

5. The Quran can be divided into three divisions according to three periods in Muhammad’s life:

- *Early Meccan Surahs* (610-622) - composed in Mecca before Muhammad’s flight to Medina
- *Medina Surahs* (622-630) - composed during the time Muslims controlled Medina
- *Late Meccan Surahs* - composed between 630-632 when Muhammad was in control of Mecca

As already noted, these Surahs are not arranged in the Quran according to historical context.

6. The Quran contains many contradictions to and strange additions to the Bible, such as the following:

Heaven and earth were a single mass before Allah cut them apart (Surah 21:30)

God made “every living creature from water” (Surah 21:30).

There are seven heavens (Surah 23:17).

God told the angels to fall down and worship Adam, and all of them did except Iblis [Satan] (Surah 20:115).

Cain regretted killing his brother (Surah 5:30-35).

Noah had a fourth son who died in the flood (Surah 11:42-43).

Noah prayed that God would kill all unbelievers. “And Noah said, ‘Lord, do not leave one family of Kafirs alive on earth. Because if you do, then they will trick your servants and will only breed more sinners and Kafirs” (Surah 71:26).

Abraham was not a Jew (Surah 3:66).

Abraham smashed his father’s idols (Surah 21:56).

Abraham offered Ishmael rather than Isaac. Though the Quran itself doesn't say which son Abraham offered, the Hadith and Sira say it was Ishmael.

Ishmael was a "steadfast and patient" man, one of "the chosen," an "apostle and prophet" (Surah 21:85; 38:48; 19:54).

God commanded Abraham and Ishmael to build the Kabah at Mecca for a pilgrimage. "And We commanded Abraham and Ishmael, 'Purify My house [Kabah] for those who go around it, those who meditate there and those who bow down and worship there'" (Surah 2:124).

Abraham asked God for a sign, and God instructed him to cut four birds into pieces and scatter them on the mountains "and then call to them and they will quickly fly back to you" (Surah 2:260).

The angels told Lot that his wife would not go out of Sodom because she was "one of those who will stay behind" (Surah 29:32)

God rained "blocks of baked clay" upon Sodom and Gomorrah, each block targeted by God upon a specific individual to be destroyed (Surah 11:82; 15:71).

Moses was taken from the river by his mother rather than his sister (Surah 28:6-8).

When Moses struck the rock, "twelve fountains gushed out so that each tribe knew its drinking place" (Surah 2:60)

God told Moses to kill a cow and hit a dead boy with it so he could revive, identify his killer, and die again (Surah 2:67-73).

The golden calf was fashioned by a Samaritan (Surah 20:86-88).

When Saul was chosen as king, God had the Ark of the Covenant brought to Israel by angels as a sign (Surah 2:247).

Solomon could control the wind and was assisted by devils. "We made the wind subject to Solomon. ... We subdued the devils forcing them to dive for pearls for

Solomon and do other work besides, and We kept close guard over them” (Surah 21:81).

There was a battle between Solomon’s army of jinn (spirit beings lower than angels) and an army of men, birds, and ants (Surah 27:17; 27:20).

The Queen of Sheba’s envoy was told by Solomon, “What? Will you try to bribe me with riches?” (Surah 27:36).

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was the sister of Moses and Aaron and she gave birth to Jesus under a palm tree (Surah 19:21-28).

Mary wished to die because of the pain of childbirth (Surah 19:21).

Jesus made a bird of clay and brought it to life (Surah 5:109).

The crucifixion of Jesus didn’t happen; Jesus didn’t die but ascended to heaven. “They said, ‘We killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, Allah’s messenger.’ But they did not kill him or crucify him, although it appeared so to them. And those who argued about it were in doubt concerning him. They had no clear knowledge about him and only went with opinion. They did not really kill him, but Allah lifted him up to Himself. Allah is mighty and wise!” (Surah 4:156).

7. The Quran contains many statements from Allah justifying Muhammad’s actions as well as those of his friends.

When Muhammad’s wife Aisha was accused of an improper relationship with a young man after they had spent time alone, Muhammad had a revelation that she could not be charged with adultery except on the testimony of four witnesses and that those who made such allegations were to receive 80 lashes with the whip. This not only let Aisha off the hook, but also resulted in severe punishment for her accusers. This is found in Surah 24:1-23.

One section of the Quran gives Muhammad the privilege of having slave girls and wives of whomever he pleased as a special dispensation from Allah.

“Messenger! We allow you your wives whose dowries you have paid, and the slave-girls Allah has granted you as spoils of war, and the daughters of your paternal and maternal uncles and aunts who fled with you to Medina, and any believing woman who gives herself to the Messenger, if the Messenger wishes to marry her. **This is a privilege for you only, not for any other believer.** We know what We have commanded the believers concerning wives and slave-girls. We give you this privilege so you will be free from blame. Allah is forgiving and merciful! You may turn away any of them that you please, and take to your bed whomever you please, and you will not be blamed for desiring one you had previously set aside for a time...” (Surah 33:50, 51).

When Muhammad married his daughter-in-law, Zeinab, Allah approved. After Muhammad expressed interest in her, his adopted son Zaid divorced her so Muhammad could marry her. Allah’s comment on this was as follows: “And when Zaid divorced his wife, We gave her to you as your wife, so it would not be a sin for believers to marry the wives of their adopted sons, after they have divorced them. And Allah’s will must be carried out. The Messenger will not be blamed for anything that Allah has given him permission to do” (Surah 33:36, 38).

When there was strife among Muhammad’s wives about his relationship with a Coptic slave girl named Mary, who bore him a son, Allah told him to ignore them and to do what he pleased. “Why, Oh, Messenger, do you forbid yourself that which Allah has made lawful to you. Do you seek to please your wives?” (Surah 66:1).

Allah even warned Hafsa and Aisha (Muhammad’s wives) that if they did not repent of their criticism of Muhammad,

they would become the enemies of God and angels and Allah might give his messenger new wives to replace them. This was a divine “shot across the bow.”

“If you both turn in repentance to Allah, your hearts are already inclined to this, but if you conspire against the Messenger, then know that Allah is his protector, and Gabriel, and every just man among the faithful, and the angels are his helpers besides. Perhaps, if he divorced you all, Allah would give him better wives than you...” (Surah 66:4).

There is even a revelation from Allah instructing people not to spend too much time in Muhammad’s house.

“Believers! Do not enter the Messenger’s house early for a meal unless you are given permission. When you are invited, enter, and when you have finished your meal, leave. Do not remain there hoping to start a conversation, for this would annoy the Messenger, and he would be ashamed to send you home, but Allah is not ashamed to tell you the truth. And if you should speak to his wives, do so behind a curtain” (Surah 33:53).

Allah

In Muhammad's day, there was a temple in Mecca containing 360 idols.

These were the gods and goddesses of the Arabian tribes and cities. "Once a year the tribes and cities of Arabia would meet in the city of Mecca during an event known as the Hajj. In Mecca, the Kaba or Kaaba (cube), a large cube-shaped building, housed 360 idols from all the tribes of Arabia. The Kaba was the center of Arabian religious life. Here all the warring tribes would put aside their differences as they circled the Kaba. From the Kaba they would proceed to the other shrines outside of Mecca during this five-day religious event. The Hajj was a tradition that Arabs of the peninsula remembered going back hundreds of years" ("What Is Islam?" truthnet.org).

One of the idols was Al-ilah or Allah, which was the chief god of Muhammad's tribe for centuries. Muhammad's father was named *Abdullah* ("slave of Allah") for this god. Muhammad's tribe was the priestly tribe of Allah (*A Simple Koran*).

This was the moon god, and Islam's sign of the crescent moon dates back to ancient Babylon and the idolatrous city states that spread across Mesopotamia after the Flood. It was the chief god of Ur of the Chaldees where Abraham grew up (Leonard Woolley, *Ur of the Chaldees*, p. 175). It was associated with sensual goddess worship.

The moon god was the chief god of ancient Sheba in southern Arabia, from whence the queen of Sheba hailed. The moon god was known variously as Almaqah, Ilmaqah, Ilumquh, Wadd, Amm, and Sin. Two moon god temples have been excavated in Marib, the ancient capital of Sheba. The Bar'an Temple dates to the second millennium BC ("Marib Governorate," Yementourism.com), which takes us back to a few hundred years after the Tower of Babel.

The crescent symbol can be traced through the ancient kingdoms, including Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. The crescent is still the sign of the moon god in Hinduism. In Nepal, the name of the moon god is Chandra, and his sign, the crescent, appears on Nepal's flag and coins.

The rituals performed for Allah the moon god were adopted by Muhammad for Islam, and they are performed during the annual Hajj pilgrimage. These include circling the Kaba, throwing stones at a pillar symbolizing the devil, and kissing a black stone. The stone was worshipped in the Kaba before Muhammad's time and might be a piece of a meteorite. Islamic tradition says it fell from heaven in the time of Adam and Eve to show them where to build an altar.

Muhammad claimed to receive revelations that Allah was not merely a chief tribal god but the only true God and that Muhammad was his chosen and exclusive prophet.

Allah's Character

1. Allah is not personally knowable by man.

“Allah is cold, haughty, unpredictable, unknowable, capricious, distant, and so purely transcendent that no ‘relationship’ is possible. He reveals only his will, not himself” (Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, p. 81). Contrast John 17:3.

2. Allah is all-powerful, but he is not a God of love and grace.

The God revealed in Scripture is an Almighty God, a holy God, a God who judges sin. But in Islam, it is as if all of the power and judgment of God is kept while the tender compassion of God is removed.

Allah does not love sinners. Allah has 99 names, but “Love” is not one them. Nowhere does the Quran say that Allah loves sinners. Allah only loves “the doers of good” (Surah 2:195; 5:13; 5:93). The Quran specifically says

that Allah does *not* love “him who is sinful” (Surah 4:107), “does *not* love the unbelievers” (30:45), and “does *not* love the unjust” (Surah 42:40). The Quran says that Allah hates all unbelievers. “They who dispute the signs of Allah without authority having reached them are greatly hated by Allah and the believers. So Allah seals up every arrogant, disdainful heart” (Surah 40:35). Contrast 1 John 4:8; John 3:16.

Allah’s grace and mercy are only for those who obey him. The following Surah is typical of hundreds of similar statements in the Quran: “Surely, your Lord is filled with forgiveness *of those who avoid great sins* and shameful acts and only commit minor sins” (Surah 53:32). As for the God of Scripture, grace is the expression of the very heart and soul of His character. He will be forever glorified by the grace He has shown to sinners (Eph. 2:4-7).

Allah delights in wrath and is quick to wrath. “Then the Lord declared that until Resurrection Day, He would use others to punish the Jews, for the Lord is quick to punish...” (Surah 7:167). “For those who reject Allah’s revelations, Allah will be quick in His judgment of them” (Surah 3:17). Jehovah, though, delights in mercy rather than wrath (Eze. 33:11; Mic. 7:18). Wrath is his “strange work” (Isa. 28:21). Jehovah is patient with sinners, desiring that they repent (2 Pet. 3:9). He waited 120 years in the days of Noah (1 Pet. 3:20) and waited 400 years for the Canaanites (Gen. 15:13-16).

Allah is not a Father. “Far be it from Allah to have a son!” (Surah 4:171). Contrast Matthew 6:9. God’s Fatherhood is one of the most wonderful aspects of His character. It is the focus of the doctrine of the Trinity. God is a Father who has a Son and who loves His creatures with a fatherly love, loving them so much that He gave His Son to be the Saviour of the world (1 Jn. 4:14).

Allah is not a Saviour. (Allah’s 99 names do not include *Saviour*.) “On that day every soul will be rewarded for what

it has earned. ... There will be no ... intercessor who will prevail for the wrongdoers” (Surah 40:16). Contrast Matthew 1:21; 1 John 2:1-2.

Allah is not a Shepherd who seeks after sinners. Contrast John 10:11. The Son of God wept over the rebellious Jews, even knowing that they would not repent (Lk. 19:41).

Allah is not a Friend. “There will be no friend ... who will prevail for the wrongdoers” (Surah 40:16). Contrast John 15:15.

3. Allah predetermines all things, including who believes.

“Nothing misfortunate occurs unless Allah wills it” (Surah 64:11).

“And if your Lord had pleased, surely all those who are in the earth would have believed, all of them. ... it is not for a soul to believe except by Allah’s permission...” (Surah 10:99-100).

“As for the Kafirs, whether you warn them or not, they will not believe. Their hearts and ears are sealed up by Allah, and their eyes are covered as well. There will be a dreadful doom awaiting them” (Surah 2:6).

Contrast 1 Timothy 2:3-6. “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

Allah’s Wrath vs. Jehovah’s

The God revealed in Scripture is an Almighty God, a holy God of judgment, but in Islam, it is as if all of the power and judgment of God is kept while the tender compassion of God is removed.

Allah is a Judge but not a Saviour. He is Fearful but not a Father. He is Almighty but not a Friend. He loves those who obey Him, but He hates sinners.

The difference could be expressed in the children's song:

Oh be careful, little hands, what you do,
Oh be careful, little hands, what you do,
For the **Father** up above is looking down *in love*,
So be careful, little hands, what you do.

The Islamic edition would be along the lines of the following:

Oh be careful, little hands, what you do,
Oh be careful, little hands, what you do,
For **Allah** up above is very *quick to judge*,
So be careful, little hands, what you do.

The Bible emphasizes God's love, grace, and mercy. Love is one of His names (1 Jn. 4:8). He delights in mercy rather than wrath (Ezek. 33:11; Mic. 7:18), wrath being his "strange work" (Isa. 28:21). He is slow to wrath (Psa. 103:8). His grace is the expression of the very heart and soul of God's character. He will be forever glorified by the grace He has shown to undeserving sinners (Eph. 2:4-7).

Islam and Salvation

Following is a study on the doctrine of salvation according to Islam:

No Gospel of Love and Grace

Islam has no gospel of love and grace. As we have seen, Allah does not love sinners and has not provided salvation for sinners.

Allah is merciful but his mercy is for those who obey him. The following Surah is typical of hundreds of similar statements in the Quran:

“Surely, your Lord is filled with forgiveness of *those who avoid great sins* and shameful acts and only commit minor sins” (Surah 53:32).

A Works Gospel

Islam’s gospel is a works gospel of salvation by obedience to Allah.

Salvation is achieved by following the Five Pillars of the Faith, which are as follows:

Faith (*iman*) in Allah and in Muhammad as his prophet. This requires confessing the *Shahada*: “There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger.”

Prayers (*salah*). Saying five daily prayers while bowing in the direction of Mecca. The prayers are spoken at dawn, mid-day, late-afternoon, sunset, and nightfall, and consist of verses from the Quran in the Arabic language even if not understood by the speaker. The prayers must be preceded by washing and are accompanied by the following physical acts: “standing, bowing down, standing up, then going down in

prostration to the ground, sitting and prostrating again.”

Almsgiving (*zakat*). Giving a portion of one’s earnings. This consists of an annual payment of one-fortieth of one’s capital, plus private almsgiving.

Fasting (*sawm*). Fasting 28 consecutive days annually during the month of Ramadan. The fast consists of abstaining from food, drink, tobacco, and sex during the hours of daylight only.

Pilgrimage (*jajj or hajj*). Making a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in one’s lifetime.

No Original Sin

There is no original sin in Islam. Adam sinned, but this did not corrupt his nature and was not passed on to his offspring. Therefore, man is not fallen and in need of redemption. Instead, he is able to obey Allah to work out his own salvation.

“Allah did forbid Adam and Eve to approach or taste of a certain tree, but Satan misled them into disobedience. This was not a catastrophic event; however, it was a mistake without lasting consequences that was forgiven upon repentance” (Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, p. 60).

Judgment

At judgment, the Muslim’s good deeds are weighed against his bad deeds to determine punishment. If the Muslim’s bad deeds outweigh the good deeds, he must spend time in hell, after which he will be received into paradise.

Paradise

Salvation in Islam consists of entering a sensual paradise and has nothing to do with having a personal relationship with Allah as Father, Saviour, and Friend. "Allah's absolute sovereignty means that his 'closeness' to man does not imply a two-way relationship; man's experience of Allah is impossible. ... Allah's 'love' is earned through good deeds--just as man's 'love' for him is rooted in self-interest. This is a contractual relationship, very different from the God who seeks to reconcile man to himself" (Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, pp. 59, 68).

Those who fear Allah (and especially those who die in jihad) receive the gift of 72 "dark eyed," ravishing virgins called *houris*. These are mentioned at least seven times in the Quran, and are sometimes mentioned with the "beautiful young boys" who are the heavenly waiters.

"But those who have feared Allah will live pleasantly amid Gardens ... They will recline on arranged couches, and We will marry them to dark-eyed houris. ... They will be waited on by young boys as beautiful as hidden pearls, and some will gather together and ask one another questions" (Surah 57:17, 21).

"They will be waited on by immortal young boys with goblets and ewers and a cup of pure wine that gives no headache nor muddles the mind, and with fruits that are most pleasing, and with the flesh of birds that they desire. In compensation for their past good deeds, they will have houris with big, dark eyes like pearls peeking from their shells" (Surah 56:10).

"Reclining on couches, none will suffer from extreme heat or cold. Trees will shade them, and fruit will dangle near by. Silver cups and crystal goblets will pass among them: silver cups, transparent as glass, their size reflecting the measure of one's deeds. They will be given ginger-flavored wine from the fountain

called Salsabil. They will be waited on by eternally young boys. When you look at them you would think they were scattered pearls. When you see it, you will see a vast kingdom of delights. They will wear richly brocaded green silk robes with silver bracelets on their arms, and they will quench their thirst with a pure drink given them by their Lord. This will be your reward” (Surah 76:11).

“We have specially made for them houris, companions chaste and pure virgins, lovers and friends of equal age with them for the people of the right hand...” (Surah 56:27).

“There will be bashful virgins who gaze modestly, who have never been touched by either man nor jinn. ... As lovely as rubies and pearls ... And besides these there are two other gardens, dark green with foliage. ... With gushing fountains in each ... In each, fruits and palms and pomegranates. ... In each, fair and beautiful virgins. ... With large dark eyes, they are closely guarded in pavilions. ... They recline on green cushions and beautiful carpets” (Surah 55:56-76).

“The righteous, however, will live in a protected place among gardens and fountains, facing one another and dressed in richly brocaded fine silk. This is how it will be. We will marry them to beautiful virgins with big dark eyes. There they can call for any kind of fruit in comfort and safety” (Surah 44:51).

“But the Allah-fearing will be fulfilled with enclosed Gardens and vineyards and voluptuous women of equal age and a full cup [of wine]...” (Surah 78:31).

“There will be eternal gardens for the righteous. Rivers will flow beneath them. They will be decorated with gold bracelets and will wear fine green silk garments and heavy brocade. They will lie on elevated couches. Wonderful is the reward! Beautiful is the couch!” (Surah 18:30).

The Hadiths has more to say about Paradise:

“Allah’s Messenger (peace be upon him) said, ‘The lowliest of the inhabitants of Paradise will be he who has eighty thousand servants, seventy-two wives, and for whom a round pavilion of pearls, chrysoprase and rubies as large as the distance between al-Jabiyah and San’a will be set up’” (Mishkat Al-Masabih).

In paradise, the victorious Muslim will have “the manliness of a hundred mortals” to better enjoy his 72 dark-eyed beauties (Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, p. 63).

There will also be 300 servants to bring 300 dishes of gold containing 300 varieties of delightful food.

These promises are why suicide bombers are given wedding announcements in the Palestinian press prior to committing their murderous acts. The following is an example: “With great pride, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad marries the member of its military wing ... the martyr and hero Yasser Al-Adhami, to the black-eyes” (*Al-Istiqlal*, Oct. 4, 2001).

Hell

Non-Muslims, including Christians and Jews, go to hell with no hope of escape. There are seven regions of hell: “for faithless Muslims, for the Jews, Christians, various kinds of pagans, and hypocrites.”

It is described as follows:

“And Allah will say, ‘Throw into Hell every ungrateful, rebellious, hinderer of the good, and every transgressor and doubter who worshiped other gods besides Allah. Throw them into the terrible torment’” (Surah 50:20).

“Those who reject the Book and the revelations with which we have sent our messengers will soon know the truth. When the yokes and the chains are on their

necks, they will be dragged into the boiling waters then they will be thrust into the Fire and burned” (Surah 40:70).

“Some faces will be downcast that day, troubled and weary, burnt at the scorching Fire, forced to drink from a fiercely boiling fountain, with only bitter thorns for food, which neither nourishes nor satisfies hunger” (Surah 89:2).

“Is this a better feast than the Zaqqum tree? We have certainly made the tree to torment the wicked. It grows at the bottom of Hell. Its fruit is like the heads of vipers. The damned will certainly eat it until their bellies fill. Then they will drink a mixture of boiling water. Then they will return to the Fire” (Surah 37:62).

“Those who reject Our revelations We will cast into the Fire. As soon as their skins are burnt away, We will give them new skins so that they will truly experience the torment. Truly Allah is mighty and wise” (Surah 4:53).

“... for the Kafirs, clothing of Fire has been made for them. Boiling water will be poured on their heads. It will scald their insides and their skin as well. They will be beaten with iron rods. Every time they, in their torment, attempt to escape from the Fire, they will be dragged back into it, and they will be told, “Taste the torture of the burning”” (Surah 22:19).

Islam and the Jews

According to Islam, Abraham was asked to offer Ishmael rather than Isaac, and it is the Arabs, the descendants of Ishmael, who are the true sons of God, the Jews being usurpers.

When the Jews refused to join his cause in Medina, Muhammad eliminated them by banishment, robbing them of their property and possessions. Later he slaughtered them.

Consider the last Jewish tribe in Medina, Banu Qurayzah.

“Muhammad offered the men conversion to Islam as an alternative to death; upon their refusal, up to 900 were decapitated at the ditch, in front of their women and children. Torches were lit so that the slaughter could be accomplished in one day. ‘Truly the judgment of Allah was pronounced on high’ was Muhammad’s comment. ... The women were subsequently raped; Muhammad chose as his concubine one Rathana bint Amr, whose father and husband were both slaughtered before her eyes only hours earlier; such treatment had already been sanctioned by prophetic revelation” (Serge Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, p. 44).

During the slaughter, Muhammad “sat all day long beside his 12-year-old wife while they watched as the heads of [the] Jews were removed by the sword” (*A Simple Koran*).

Muhammad’s official biography says, “There was one last piece of spoils for Muhammad. The most beautiful Jewess was his slave for pleasure” (Ibn Ishaq, *Sirat Rasul Allah*).

Muhammad said the following as recorded in the *Sahih Al-Bukhari* hadith. (This saying appears in several different variations in the various hadiths.)

“The last hour would not come unless the Muslims will fight against the Jews and the Muslims would kill

them until the Jews would hide themselves behind a stone or a tree and a stone or a tree would say: Muslim, or the servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me; come and kill him..." (Sahih Muslim 41:6985).

This hadith is part of the charter of the anti-Jewish terrorist organization Hamas.

In the hadiths, Jews are "debased, cursed, anathematized forever by God; they are cheats and traitors; defiant and stubborn ... a foul odor emanating from them--such is the image of the Jew in classical Islam, degraded and malevolent" (Schweitzer and Perry, *Anti-Semitism*, 2002, p. 266).

There have been many mass murders of Jews since Muhammad set the stage. "For example, in the eleventh century there were many mass killings of Jews--more than six thousand in Morocco in 1032-33, and at least that many murdered during two outbursts in Grenada" (Rodney Stark, *God's Battalions*, p. 29).

Muslims believe that the Jews have no true claim to the Holy Land.

"There is not an Arab/Muslim map in the entire world that shows Israel. ... Arab leaders have declared repeatedly for more than fifty years, 'The struggle with the Zionist enemy is not a struggle about Israel's borders, but about Israel's existence'" (Dave Hunt, *Judgment Day*, pp. 14, 15).

Since the announcement of the State of Israel in 1948, the Muslim Arab nations have done everything possible to destroy it.

Immediately, the new Jewish state was plunged into **THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE** as the Jews were forced to defend themselves against large, well-supplied Arab armies. The Arab League was composed of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. Britain had done everything it could to arm the Arabs and to disarm the Jews.

Israel's enemies not only attacked from outside the country; they were already entrenched within the country when the fighting started.

“Large forces had entered the country from Syria, Iraq and Egypt months before Britain withdrew her troops. In addition the Arab Legion of Trans-Jordan armed and officered by Britain was in Palestine; and, contrary to an official statement in the House of Parliament, this force *never did leave* Palestine soil” (William Hull, *The Fall and Rise of Israel* p. 333).

They were outnumbered greatly, and short of everything necessary to win a modern war. Only one soldier in three had a rifle of any type. They didn't even have enough food.

“The Arabs had modern planes, heavy guns, tanks and armored cars. Most of such equipment was denied to the Jews. They had to depend on light arms and had to endure the shelling day by day from Arab artillery, without being able to reply” (Hull, p. 334).

William Hull describes the miraculous nature of this military victory:

“The whole war, at least the defense of Jerusalem, was a miracle. Arms, ammunition, food, water and trained soldiers were in desperately short supply. Added to this was the weariness of the soldiers, mostly young men who had been fighting, with little relief, little sleep and little food since the beginning of December 1947. The two or three Bren guns [light machine guns] the Jews possessed had to be rushed from one point to another to give the Arabs the idea that the Jews had a large number of them. The Jews sometimes beat large tin cans as the guns were fired, thus giving the effect of many shots. Musrara, an all-Arab district of Jerusalem, was captured by the Jews with the following equipment: five rifles, two Sten Guns [9mm machine guns] and thirty tin cans. And the Arabs ran.

It was like a repetition of Gideon's victory in Bible days" (*The Fall and Rise of Israel*, p. 338).

Israel won the War of Independence against all odds, but that was only the beginning of her struggle.

Between 1951 and 1955, Fedayeen suicide squads killed 1,000 Israelis.

In 1956 **THE SUEZ WAR** was fought to force Egypt to allow access for Israel's ships through the Suez Canal.

Then there was **THE SIX-DAY WAR** in 1967 against the coalition of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq, with Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria contributing troops and arms.

Israel was forced into the war by the belligerence of the Muslim nations who vowed to destroy her. The war, which began on June 5, was preceded by statements like the following:

Egypt's president Gamal Abdel Nasser: "Our basic objective will be the destruction of Israel. The Arab people want to fight. We will not accept any ... coexistence with Israel" (Isi Leibler, *The Case For Israel*, 1972, p. 60).

Syria's defense minister Hafez Assad: "Our forces are now entirely ready ... to initiate the act of liquidation itself, and to explode the Zionist presence in Israel" (Leibler, p. 60).

Iraq's president Abdur Rahman Aref: "The existence of Israel is an error which must be rectified. ... Our goal is clear--to wipe Israel off the map" (Leibler, p. 18).

The Six-Day War was a great victory against overwhelming odds. Israel faced 250,000 troops, 2,000 tanks, and 700 aircraft. While America and France imposed an arms embargo on Israel, the Soviet Union flooded the Arabs with war materiel. In spite of the odds, Israel broke through the opposing armies and was poised to attack the capitals of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan when the Arabs called for a cease-fire on June 10. Israel captured the Sinai, the Gaza Strip, the

Golan Heights, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, more than tripling the amount of territory she controlled.

Israel's victory in the Golan Heights removed that area as a haven for Arab sniping and shelling of Jewish settlements. One significant engagement was the battle for Tel Fahr. The Syrian soldiers were protected by concrete and steel encased fortifications, and the attacking Israeli forces, the Golani brigade, had to face this formidable defense system on foot because of the steep terrain. Throughout the approach from the valley below the Jewish soldiers were under fire from gun emplacements on the heights. When they reached the outer perimeter, some of the soldiers lay down on the barbed wire coils to allow their colleagues to proceed. Thirty-four Israelis died, many of them in brutal face-to-face, hand-to-hand combat clearing the trenches.

The Six-Day War was followed by Egypt's **WAR OF ATTRITION** against Israel from 1968-70. Some of the battles in this war involved as many as 1,000 artillery guns. Egypt used the war to test military equipment supplied by the Soviet Union, including sophisticated surface-to-air (SAM) missiles that she used to shoot down Israel's planes and surface-to-surface missiles that she used to sink Israel's largest destroyer, the *Eliat*. Israel did many exploits, such as sending helicopters deep within Egypt to remove seven tons of the latest Soviet radar equipment from a site in Ras Ghareb.

Then there was **THE YOM KIPPUR WAR** of 1973, when Israel was attacked on Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, by Egypt in the south and Syria in the north. These two Muslim nations were joined in a support role by Lebanon, Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, Uganda, Cuba, Morocco, and Pakistan. The Soviet Union provided planes, tanks, and armaments of all sorts, including thousands of missiles targeting Israel's air force. Israel was massively outgunned. In the north her 170 tanks and 60 artillery pieces faced a

Syrian army composed of 1,200 tanks and 1,000 artillery pieces plus an Iraqi unit composed of 500 tanks and 30,000 men. In the south Israel faced 1,700 tanks and 100,000 soldiers. The Egyptian attack was preceded by a lightning air attack on Israeli radar units and airfields and an hour-long barrage by 2,000 artillery guns on Israel's outposts at the Suez Canal.

The situation looked so dire after the first two days of the war that Israel's Defense Secretary Moshe Dayan warned that Israel could be destroyed. He called it "the ruin of the Third Temple" (Walter Boyne, *The Yom Kippur War*, p. 58), referring to Israel itself as the Third Temple. Dayan urged Prime Minister Golda Meir to authorize the use of nuclear weapons against Egypt and Syria, and she agreed to use them when all other options were exhausted. It was Dayan who had overseen the creation of Israel's nuclear arsenal and the missiles for their delivery.

When Israel's back was against the wall and she was quickly "red lining" or running out of tanks, planes, artillery, and munitions, the United States mounted a massive airlift called Operation Nickel Grass which provided 22,000 tons of armaments. Because of their fear of an Arab embargo of oil, Britain and the European nations refused to allow the American cargo planes to refuel on their soil, forcing them to fly much farther than otherwise would have been the case.

After being caught by surprise and almost overwhelmed, Israel rallied her forces and counterattacked, coming within 60 miles of Cairo and within shelling distance of Damascus, before a cease-fire was arranged by the United Nations.

These major wars against Israel are only the tip of the iceberg. There has been continual military conflict with Muslim groups such as the Palestine Authority, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Islamic Jihad. There was the **first Intifada** (1987-93), which was an Islamic uprising against Israel in Gaza and the West Bank, and the **second "al-Aqsa" Intifada** (since 2000) by various

Palestinian groups that are still waging guerrilla/terrorist warfare against Israel. Between 2000 and 2004 Israel suffered 60 terrorist bombings *daily*. She has been bombarded with countless rockets and missiles.

Israel's enemies continue to call for her destruction.

In an address to an assembly of tens of thousands of Basij militiamen in November 2013, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared that Israel was doomed to fail and characterized the "Zionist regime" as the "sinister, unclean rabid dog of the region." He said Israelis "cannot be called human beings." Footage of the event showed the crowd shouting "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." On November 8, 2014, Khamenei used his Twitter account to proclaim, "This barbaric, wolflike & infanticidal regime of Israel which spares no crime has no cure but to be annihilated." In September 2015, Khamenei tweeted that Israel will not survive another 25 years ("Iran Deal," Breitbart, Sept. 9, 2015). Irani General Moshen Kazzemeinni boasted, "The Islamic Revolution will continue enhancing its preparedness until it overthrows Israel and liberates Palestine" ("Commander: Iran Continues Military Enhancement until Collapse of Israel," Fars News Agency, Sep. 2, 2015).

This is Islam's attitude toward the Jews, and it has been from its inception.

Islam and Christianity

1. The Islamic religion denies the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith.

Islam denies the doctrine of the Trinity. According to Islam, Christians are polytheists who believe in three gods. Muhammad taught that Christians worship God, Jesus, and Mary.

“Therefore, believe in Allah and His messengers and do not say, ‘Trinity.’ Hold back and it will be better for you” (Surah 4:171).

Islam denies that Jesus is the Son of God. Sixteen times the Quran says Allah is not a father and has no son.

“Allah has never begotten a son, nor is there another god besides Him” (Surah 23:91).

“Allah is only one god. Far be it from Allah to have a son!” (Surah 4:171).

“Warn those who say, ‘Allah has fathered a son.’ They do not have any proof about that and neither did their fathers. It is a terrible thing that comes from their mouths. They say nothing but lies” (Surah 18:4).

Ascribed in Arabic on the wall of The Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem is the following statement: “There is no God but Allah; He has no co-partner. The messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, is but a messenger of Allah and His word which he cast upon Mary and a spirit from Him. So believe only in Allah and of his messenger but do not say three (trinity) and it will be better for you. Allah is only one God; far be it from His glory that He should have a son. Verily the religion in Allah’s sight is Islam.”

Islam denies that Jesus died on the cross for man’s sins or that He rose from the dead.

“They said, ‘We killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, Allah’s messenger.’ But they did not kill him or crucify him, although it appeared so to them. And those who argued about it were in doubt concerning him. They had no clear knowledge about him and only went with opinion. They did not really kill him, but Allah lifted him up to Himself. Allah is mighty and wise!” (Surah 4:156).

Islam denies the fall of man and God’s redemption, as we have already seen.

Islam teaches that the Bible has been corrupted and is not, therefore, trustworthy. This, too, we have already documented.

2. The Muslim religion has attacked Christians and destroyed churches since its inception.

Multitudes of professing Christians have been forced to convert to Islam at the point of a sword.

Multitudes of Christian wives have been made raped, enslaved, and forced to marry Muslims.

Multitudes of children from Christian homes have been stolen and raised as Muslims.

“Several volumes would be required even to begin to recite the brutality of the Islamic conquests that provide an essential background to today’s claims that ‘Islam is peace’” (Dave Hunt, *Judgment Day*, pp. 158, 159).

“Millions of Christians from Spain, Egypt, Syria, Greece and Armenia; Latins and Slavs from southern and central Europe; as well as Jews, henceforth lived under Shari’a, forming what Bat Ye’or calls the civilization of dhimmitude. They endured for centuries the lives of quiet desperation interrupted by the regular pangs of acute agony” (Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, p. 108).

We document some of this horror in the section on Islam's history.

Sharia Law

1. Muslim Sharia (meaning “the right path”) law is based on two major sources: the Quran and the sunnah.

The sunnah, consisting of sayings of and examples from the life of Muhammad, is considered the best pattern for Muslim living.

The sunnah are contained in the *hadith* (collections of sayings and traditions) and in the *sirah* (biographical material), that were collected after Muhammad’s death.

Sunnis and Shiites have different collections of hadith. For example, Shiites do not accept most of the hundreds of hadith attributed to Muhammad’s wife Aisha.

2. There are many different interpretations of Sharia law.

There is a difference between Shiite and Sunni interpretations. Among Sunnis, there are four major plus minor schools of interpretation.

3. Sharia marital laws include the following:

A man can have as many as four wives. “And if you be apprehensive that you will not be able to do justice to the orphans, you may marry two or three or four women whom you choose” (Quran, Surah 4:3).

Slave girls are the sexual property of their male owners. “Also (forbidden are) women already married, except those (captives and slaves) whom your right hands possess” (Surah 4:24).

A woman’s testimony counts half of a man’s testimony. “And let two men from among you bear witness to all such documents [contracts of loans without interest]. But if two men be not available, there should be one man and two women to bear witness so that if one of the women forgets (anything), the other may remind her” (Surah 2:282).

Husbands may beat their wives. “As to those women on whose part you see ill-conduct, admonish them (first), (next), refuse to share their beds, (and last) beat them (lightly, if it is useful)...” (Surah 4:34).

Men may marry prepubescent girls. “And those of your women as have passed the age of monthly courses, for them the *iddah* [prescribed waiting period], if you have doubts, is three months, and for those who have no courses [have not yet menstruated] their *iddah* is three months” (Surah 65:4).

“The main purpose for the waiting period is for making sure who is the father of any child. ... That the phrase ‘and of those too who have not had their courses’ refers to prepubescent girls is not only obvious from many modern translations of the Qur’an, but it has been the traditional understanding and is stated explicitly in many classical source texts of Islam” (“Marriage to Minors,” Answering-Islam.org).

Sayyid Maududi, a famous Muslim legal authority, comments on this as follows: “Therefore, making mention of the waiting period for girls who have not yet menstruated, clearly proves that it is not only permissible to give away the girl at this age but it is permissible for the husband to consummate marriage with her. Now, obviously no Muslim has the right to forbid a thing which the Qur’an has held as permissible” (*The Meaning of the Qur’an*, vol. 5, p. 620, note 13).

Muhammad was betrothed to Aisha when she was six and consummated the union when she was nine.

After the Shiite revolution of Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran in 1979, the age of marriageability was lowered to nine years.

4. Blasphemy is punishable by death.

Blasphemy is not limited to saying something against Allah. It also includes saying anything negative against Muhammad, the Quran, suggesting that the Sharia law is defective, or “refusing the decision of the ijma, which is the

consensus of the Islamic community or umma” (Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, p. 106).

The Sharia blasphemy law has often been used to target someone by a false accusation. This has happened frequently in Pakistan and other places in recent years.

Sharia often becomes mob rule, when Muslim people take “justice” into their own hands and injure or kill those who are accused of blasphemy. No evidence is needed. In November 2014, a Christian husband and wife in Pakistan were burned alive by a mob on allegations of blasphemy. They were thrown into the brick kiln at the factory where they worked. The woman was pregnant with the couple’s fifth child. “As the couple was burning and crying their innocence, the mob was shouting ‘Allah hu Akbar,’ ‘death to blasphemer,’ ‘kill infidel Christians’” (“Christian Couple Burnt Alive,” *Pakistan Christian Post*, Nov. 7, 2014).

5. Some other Sharia laws are as follows:

Theft is punishable by the amputation of the right hand.

A Muslim who leaves Islam is subject to death.

A non-Muslim who leads a Muslim away from Islam is subject to death.

A non-Muslim who marries a Muslim woman is subject to death.

Testimonies of four male witnesses are required to prove rape against a woman.

A woman who has been raped cannot testify in court against her rapist(s).

A woman cannot drive a car, as it leads to *fitnah* (upheaval).

A woman cannot speak alone to a man who is not her husband or relative.

Meat must come from animals that have been sacrificed to Allah (halal).

Jihad and World Conquest

“Muhammad’s practice and constant encouragement of bloodshed are unique in the history of religions. Murder, pillage, rape, and more murder in the Quran and in the Traditions ‘seem to have impressed his followers with a profound belief in the value of bloodshed as opening the gates of Paradise’ and prompted countless Muslim governors, caliphs, and viziers to refer to Muhammad’s example to justify their mass killings, looting, and destruction. ‘Kill, kill the unbelievers wherever you find them’ is an injunction both unambiguous and powerful” (Serge Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, p. 51).

“Do not think that the jihad is over. Soon Islam will bring terror to the Kafirs. After death, they will burn in Hell. The evil that will bring about their destruction is that they do not practice the religion of Islam” (Muhammad, cited by Ibn Ishaq, *Sirat Rasul Allah*, 599).

The objective of Islam is to conquer the world for Allah. Spreading religion by the sword has been an integral part of the Islamic religion from its inception.

There are more than 100 verses in the Quran that command Muslims to spread Islam with the sword.

“When the sacred months are passed, kill the unbelievers wherever you find them. Take them as captives, besiege them, and lie in wait for them with every kind of ambush. If they submit to Islam, observe prayer, and pay the poor tax, then let them go their way (Surah 9:5).

“Make war on those who have received the Scriptures but do not believe in Allah or in the Last Day” (Surah 9:29).

“Believers, fight the Kafirs who are near you, and let them find you to be tough and hard. Know that Allah is with those who guard against evil” (Surah 9:123).

“Kill them wherever you find them, and drive them out of whatever place from which they have driven you out for persecution. ... Fight them until you are no longer persecuted and the religion of Allah reigns absolute, but if they give up, then only fight the evil-doers” (Surah 2:191, 193).

“When you encounter the Kafirs on the battlefield, cut off their heads until you have thoroughly defeated them and then take the prisoners and tie them up firmly...” (Surah 47:4).

Allah has a special love for Muslims who fight and has little patience with those who do not:

“Oh, believers, what possessed you that when it was said, ‘March forth in Allah’s cause,’ you clung heavily to the earth? ... Unless you march forth, He will punish you with a grievous penalty, and He will put another in your place” (Surah 9:38).

“Truly Allah loves those who fight for His cause and stand together in battle array like a solid wall” (Surah 61:4).

“Allah has promised good things to all, but those who fight for Him will receive a far greater reward than those who have not...” (Surah 4:95).

Today’s Islamic fundamentalists who are waging violent *jihad* (holy war) are not “extremists.” They are the true Muslims who are taking their religion seriously. They are walking faithfully in the footsteps of Islam’s founding father.

“Islamic scholars contend it goes against Islamic law to retreat from *jihad* and adopt peace unless the Islamic force is weak and the opponent is strong. After renewed preparation to wage *jihad*, the Muslims can reconvene the hostilities. According to Islamic law, *jihad* will never cease--

it will last to the Day of Judgment” (Michael Evans, *Beyond Iraq*, p. 48).

The Islamic definition of peace is Islamic control over the world.

According to Islam, the world is divided into *Dar al-Harb* (the world of war or the non-Islamic people) and *Dar al-Islam* (the world of peace or the Muslim world).

“The presumption is that the duty of jihad will continue, interrupted only by truces, until all the world either adopts the Muslim faith or subjects to the Muslim rule” (Gene Gerganus, *Peril of Islam: Telling the Truth*, Taylors, SC: Truth Publishers, 2004, pp. 59, 60).

Within 200 years after Muhammad, Muslim armies conquered many kingdoms and created an Islamic caliphate that covered more than five million square miles.

They conquered the Sassanid Empire (Persia, Mesopotamia, Assyria).

They conquered much of the Byzantine Empire.

They conquered the kingdoms of north Africa.

They conquered Spain and Portugal.

This was done by the edge of the sword and was often accompanied by unspeakable cruelty.

We document the brutality of the Islamic crusades in the chapter on the history of Islam.

Every Unbeliever a Kafir

According to Islam, humanity is divided into those who accept Muhammad as the prophet of Allah and those who do not. Those who do not are the Kafirs.

Kafir is the word that is used in the Quran, and it is a strong word. It is the word for Allah’s enemies. It is the word for those who resist the truth. Kafirs are unclean, evil, cursed, ignorant liars, and partners of Satan. “It is usually

translated as unbeliever, but that translation is wrong. The word unbeliever is neutral. But the attitude of the Quran towards unbelievers is very negative. ... Kafir shows the common political treatment of the Christian, Jew, Hindu, Buddhist, animist, atheist and humanist. What is done to a pagan can be done to a Jew or any other Kafir" (*A Simple Koran*).

A Kafir is hated.

"They who dispute the signs of Allah without authority having reached them are greatly hated by Allah and the believers. So Allah seals up every arrogant, disdainful heart" (Surah 40:35).

A Kafir can be enslaved.

"Muhammad then said, 'Saed, give these people [the Jews of Medina] your verdict.' Saed replied, 'Their soldiers should be beheaded and their women and children should become slaves.' Muhammad, pleased with the verdict, said, 'You have made a ruling that Allah or a king would approve of'" (*Sahih Al-Bukhari* hadith 5,58,148).

A Kafir can be mocked.

"On that day the faithful will mock the Kafirs, while they sit on bridal couches and watch them. Should not the Kafirs be paid back for what they did?" (Surah 83:34).

A Kafir can be schemed against.

"They plot and scheme against you [Muhammad], and I [Allah] plot and scheme against them. Therefore, deal calmly with the Kafirs and leave them alone for awhile" (Surah 86:15).

A Kafir can be deceived.

"Muhammad asked, 'Who will kill Ka'b, the enemy of Allah and Muhammad? Bin Maslama rose and responded, 'O Muhammad! Would it please you if I killed him?' Muhammad answered, 'Yes.' Bin Maslama then said, 'Give

me permission to deceive him with lies so that my plan will succeed.’ Muhammad replied, ‘You may speak falsely to him’” (*Sahih Al-Bukhari* hadith 5,59,369).

A Kafir can be terrorized.

“Then your Lord spoke to His angels and said, ‘I will be with you. Give strength to the believers. I will send terror into the Kafirs’ hearts, cut off their heads and even the tips of their fingers” (Surah 8:12).

A Kafir can be beheaded.

“When you encounter the Kafirs on the battlefield, cut off their heads until you have thoroughly defeated them and then take the prisoners and tie them up firmly” (Surah 47:4).

A Kafir can be annihilated.

“So the Kafirs were annihilated. All praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds!” (Surah 6:45).

A Kafir can be killed.

“If they do not keep away from you or offer you peace or withdraw their hostilities, then seize them and kill them wherever they are. We give you complete authority over them” (Surah 4:91).

A Kafir can be crucified and his hands and feet hacked off.

“The only reward for those who war against Allah and His messengers and strive to commit mischief on the earth is that they will be slain or crucified, have their alternate hands and feet cut off, or be banished from the land. This will be their disgrace in this world, and a great torment shall be theirs in the next except those who repent before you overpower them. Know that Allah is forgiving and merciful” (Surah 5:33).

A Kafir can be made war on and humiliated.

“Make war on those who have received the Scriptures but do not believe in Allah or in the Last Day. They do not forbid what Allah and His Messenger have forbidden. The

Christians and Jews do not follow the religion of truth until they submit and pay the poll tax [jizya], and they are humiliated” (Surah 9:29).

A Kafir cannot be befriended.

“Believers should not take Kafirs as friends in preference to other believers. Those who do this will have none of Allah’s protection and will only have themselves as guards. Allah warns you to fear Him for all will return to Him” (Surah 3:28).

A Kafir is not to be treated with kindness.

“Oh, you who believe, do not take My enemy and yours for friends by showing them kindness” (Surah 60:1).

Three Stages of Jihad

Gene Gurganus explains that there are three stages of jihad (*Peril of Islam*, pp. 114-115).

First there is **the weakened stage**, which applies to Muslims living as a minority in a non-Muslim country. “At this stage, Muslims follow the word given to Muhammad in Mecca: ‘There is no compulsion in religion’ (Surah 2:256).”

Second, there is **the preparation stage**, which is reached when Muslims are a reasonably influential minority. At this stage they make preparations in every possible area--financial, physical, military, mental and any other. Surah 8:59-60 says, “Against them [unbelievers] make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into (the hearts) of the enemies of Allah and your enemies, and others besides whom you may not know, but whom Allah knows.”

The third stage is **the jihad stage**, which commences “when Muslims are a minority with strength, influence and power.” At this stage “every Muslim’s duty is to actively fight the enemy, overturning the system of the non-Muslim

country and establishing Islamic authority.” This stage is based on the final revelation Muhammad received concerning jihad, which is Surah 9:5 -- “kill the Kafirs wherever you find them. Take them as captives, besiege them, and lie in wait for them with every kind of ambush.” Thus “Muslims are commanded to kill everyone who chooses not to convert to Islam. The verse says wherever you find them. There are no geographical limits” (*Peril of Islam*, p. 114).

The Doctrine of Abrogation

Gene Gurganus also explains the “doctrine of abrogation” in the Islamic religion. According to this doctrine, Allah causes some parts of the Quran to be abrogated or abolished by later commandments. This is taught in the Quran as follows:

“Whatever a Verse (revelation) do We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, We bring a better one or similar to it. Know you not that Allah is able to do all things?” (Surah 2:106).

Muhammad’s life and ministry was divided into two parts: the tolerant years in Mecca and the aggressive years in Medina, and earlier commandments are superseded by later ones. In Mecca, Muhammad used teaching in an attempt to convert the people. During that period, he wrote prophecies along the lines of being at peace with non-Muslims and not forcing your religion upon others.

For example, consider the following messages that were given in Mecca and soon after his arrival in Medina, when he was still vulnerable:

“We know of best what they say; and you (O Muhammad) ARE NOT A TYRANT OVER THEM. But warn by the Qur’an, him who fears My Threat” (Surah 50:45).

“THERE IS NO COMPULSION IN RELIGION. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in *Taghut* and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower” (Surah 2:256).

When his peace plan failed, Muhammad picked up the sword, and for the rest of his life he used the sword to force adherence to Islam.

Many of the prophecies Muhammad gave during this latter period contradict the earlier prophecies and demand war against unbelievers.

“And FIGHT THEM UNTIL THERE IS NO MORE FITNAH [worshipping others besides Allah] and the religion will all be for Allah Alone” (Surah 8:39).

“When the sacred months are passed, kill the unbelievers wherever you find them. Take them as captives, besiege them, and lie in wait for them with every kind of ambush. If they submit to Islam, observe prayer, and pay the poor tax, then let them go their way (Surah 9:5).

“FIGHT AGAINST THOSE WHO BELIEVE NOT IN ALLAH, nor in the Last Day, nor forbid that which has been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger and those who acknowledge not the religion of truth among the people of the Scripture [Jews and Christians], UNTIL THEY PAY THE JIZYA WITH WILLING SUBMISSION, AND FEEL THEMSELVES SUBDUED” (Surah 9:29).

Those who quote from Surah 2:256 and similar ones from Muhammad’s early life ignore the fact that these were written before he changed his policy.

“The practice of this principle is that when there is a contradiction between two verses in the Quran, the newer revelation overrides the previous revelation.

Then the new cancels the old. You can still read the words, ‘There is no compulsion in religion’ in the Quran, but they no longer have authority because Surah 2:193 says, ‘And fight with them until there is no persecution, and religion should be only for Allah, but if they desist, then there should be no hostility except against oppressors.’ So the ‘no compulsion in religion’ verse has been *mansookh* (canceled) by revelations that came later.

“Professor Gabriel helps us understand how Muslims interpret the Quran in this way: ‘This principle of abrogation is known in Arabic as *nasikh*. It means that Allah led Muhammad in a progressive revelation. **Many copies of the Quran have a table that shows whether a surah is from Mecca or Medina in order to help readers know which is a newer revelation**’” (Gerganus, *Peril of Islam*, p. 69).

“The Quran’s commandments to Muslims to wage war in the name of Allah against non-Muslims are unmistakable. They are, furthermore, absolutely authoritative as they were revealed late in the Prophet’s career and so cancel **and replace earlier instructions to act peaceably. Without knowledge of the principle of abrogation, Westerners will continue to misread the Quran and misdiagnose Islam as a ‘religion of peace’**” (“Islam 101,” JihadWatch.org).

Justifying Lying

“Philosopher Ibn Taymiyah (1263-1328) wrote a book titled *The Sword on the Neck of the Accuser of Muhammad*. In it he described how Muslims should live when they are in the minority. ‘Believers when in a weakened stage in a non-Muslim country should forgive and be patient with People of the Book [Jews and Christians] when they insult Allah

and his prophet by any means. Believers should lie to People of the Book to protect their lives and religion.’ ...

“There’s an Islamic proverb that says, ‘If you can’t cut your enemies’ hand, kiss it.’ When Muhammad was weak in Mecca, he was a lamb. When he was strong in Medina, he was a lion. Muslims living in predominantly Muslim countries do not hesitate to oppress and persecute Christians and Jews. On the other hand, Muslims living in Christian nations or nations where the majority profess to be Christians are very good at presenting themselves as loving, caring, and forgiving people” (Gene Gurganus, *Peril of Islam*, p. 107).

The Law of Dhimmi

Under Muslim rule, non-Muslims are called *dhimmis* and are treated differently than Muslims. Dhimmi means “protected person,” but the protection is dubious, to say the least.

According to the Quran, dhimmi especially applies to “People of the Book,” referring to Jews and Christians, who were treated somewhat differently than idolaters.

A dhimmi is allowed to live in Muslim territory in exchange for submission and payment of a heavy *jizya* tax. The Quran says: “Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the *jizya* with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued” (Quran 9:29).

Exercise of the dhimmi law has varied from place to place and time to time, both in history and at the present. For example, in the late ninth century, Tariqu al-Hakim, the sixth Fatimid caliph in Egypt, required all Christians to wear a four-pound cross around their necks and Jews to wear a

four-pound carving of a calf (for having worshiped the golden calf) (Rodney Stark, *God's Battalions*, p. 90).

Sometimes Christian dhimmis have been allowed to keep their churches (but not build new ones or repair old ones), but they have always been forbidden to evangelize. For a Muslim to declare faith in Christ is apostasy, which is an unforgivable sin and punishable by death under sharia law.

After the Muslims conquered Syria in the seventh century, the dhimmis had to wear special identifying clothing and clip the fronts of their hair. They were not allowed to own weapons, ride on saddles, display crosses or Bibles, or hold public religious ceremonies. They had to take in any Muslim traveler and give him three days' food and lodging (Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, p. 105).

Even the most minor infraction of the dhimmi rules "left the door open for the resumption of jihad."

In practice, dhimmis have been treated in whatever way the ruling Muslims see fit, and they have had no judicial recourse. They are at the "mercy" of their masters, but history tells us that more often than not, the Muslim masters were like the Babylonians, of whom Jeremiah said, "they are cruel, and have no mercy" (Jer. 6:23).

The dhimmi law is enforced today by the Islamic State. The following is a description of what is happening under Islamic State rule in Syria, as told by Christian refugees who fled to Jordan.

"Their village was occupied by rebel forces, who proceeded to announce that they were now under an Islamic emirate and were subject to sharia law. The Christian residents were offered four choices: (1) renounce the 'idolatry' of Christianity and convert to Islam; (2) pay a heavy tribute (*jizya*) to the Muslims for the privilege of keeping their heads and their Christian faith; (3) be killed; (4) flee for their lives, leaving all their belongings behind. Some Christians were killed, some fled, some tried to pay the

jizya and found it too heavy a burden to bear after the rebels kept increasing the amount they had to pay, and some were unable to flee or pay, so they converted to Islam to save themselves. The scenario reported by Syrian refugees is a re-enactment of the historic fate of Christians across the Middle East” (“A Conversation with Christian Syrian Refugees,” *Religious Freedom Coalition*, June 1, 2013).

Islam's History

By the time of his death in 632, Muhammad had united most of the Arabian Peninsula under his religion and control, and his followers went much farther in achieving his objective of the subjugation of the world to Islam.

The history of Islam is a history of brutal struggle for power, and it is filled with Muslim upon Muslim violence.

The First Four Caliphs (632-661)

After Muhammad's death in 632, **Abu Bakr**, Muhammad's father-in-law by his wife Aisha, became the first caliph (or kaliph). This is from "khalifat rasul-Allah" ("successor of the Messenger of God"). He died two years later, possibly by poisoning.

In 633, Khalid al-Walid, a Muslim commander under Abu Bakr, destroyed the city of the Ullays on the Euphrates River and beheaded so many captives that the nearby canal was called Blood Canal (Tabari, *The Challenge to the Empires*, 1993, vol. 11, p. 24, Arabic pages 2034-35). Khalid was called "the Sword of Islam" by Muhammad. Khalid told one governor that if he did not surrender, "I will bring against you tribes of people who are more eager for death than you are for life" (Tabari). This was one of Osama Bin Ladin's favorite sayings.

Umar (Omar) ibn al-Khattab, another of Muhammad's fathers-in-law, became the second caliph in 634. He was assassinated in 644 by his fellow Muslims.

Uthman ibn Affan, one of Muhammad's sons-in-law, was the third caliph. (Uthman was married to two of Muhammad's daughters at separate times.) He was assassinated in 656 by Muslims. "His body was turned away from the Muslim cemetery. His wife, with some of his friends, buried him by night in a Jewish cemetery without

the ritual washings, while listening to the curses of the rebels who threw stones at them.”

Ali Ibn Abi Talib was then appointed to head the caliphate. He was the husband of Muhammad’s favorite daughter, Fatimah, by his first wife Khadijah.

Ali was opposed by Muhammad’s third wife, Aisha, who held deep resentment toward him because he had believed that she was unfaithful to Muhammad at age 13 and had advised Muhammad to divorce her.

In 656, the 45-year-old Aisha led an army of thousands against Ali’s army at the Battle of the Camel, in Basra, Iraq, but she lost. It is estimated that from ten to eighteen thousand Muslims died. Aisha’s life was spared, and she retired to Medina, where she lived until 678. This is called the Battle of the Camel because Aisha was riding a rare, exceptionally large camel named *al-Askar* that had cost a fabulous 200 gold coins. The battle ended when the camel was killed.

This was the initial fracture of Islam into Shiite and Sunni.

The Shiites (Shia) follow Ali, the husband of Muhammad’s favorite daughter. The name “Shiite” is from “Shiat-u-Ali” or the party of Ali.

The Sunnis follow Abu Bakr, the father of Muhammad’s favorite wife Aisha.

The Umayyad Caliphate (661-750)

In 661, Ali was assassinated by his fellow Muslims, and the caliphate was taken by Mu-awiyh ibn Abu Sufyan of Syria, the first caliph who was not related by blood or marriage to Muhammad.

Mu-awiyh established a 100-year caliphate based on heredity. He was of the Umayya, a prominent family of Mecca, so his reign was known as the Umayyad caliphate.

His family controlled the empire until 750. There were 14 caliphs during this dynasty.

The capital of this Muslim empire was Damascus.

When Mu-awiyh died in 680, he appointed his son Yazid as caliph.

Ali's son Husayn ibn Ali challenged this succession, but he was killed and beheaded by his fellow Muslims at the Battle of Karbala.

This is marked as the event that permanently separated Shiites and Sunnis.

The Abbasid Caliphate (750-1258)

In Persia, the descendants of al-Abbas, an uncle of Muhammad, challenged the Umayyads and defeated them in 750 with the capture of Damascus.

The male members of the Umayyads family were murdered.

The capital of the new Muslim empire was established at Baghdad on the Tigris River.

The Abbasid caliphate extended from the border of India in the east to Syria and Egypt and northern Africa in the west.

The caliphs lived sensual, immoral lives, surrounded by harems of wives and slave women.

This is known as **the Islamic Golden Age**.

Beautiful mosques and palaces were constructed that incorporated complex architectural designs and complex mosaics.

Muslim craftsmen excelled in making beautiful objects of glass, ceramics, metal, and wood.

The art of calligraphy achieved a very high degree of perfection and beauty. It was used to create illuminated manuscripts and to decorate architecture.

An educational institution called the House of Wisdom (Bayt al-Hikma) was established in Baghdad beginning in the early ninth century, and well-known scholars were supported by the government to teach, research, and debate. The influence for this came from the Persians.

The House of Wisdom was a major center of science, including astronomy, mathematics, medicine, chemistry, alchemy, physics, zoology, and geography. Scholars associated with the school did such things as excavate pyramids in Egypt and endeavor to map the world and to deduce the size of the earth.

An astronomical observatory was built in 828.

In 850, the Banu Musa brothers (Mohammad, Ahmad, Hasan) authored the *Book of Ingenious Devices* (in Arabic *Kitab al-Hiyal* or *The Book of Tricks*), which describes about 100 mechanical instruments that they collected from ancient Greek, Persian, Chinese, and Indian sources. These included a self-trimming lamp, a self-feeding lamp, a conical valve, a float valve, a water-powered organ, a programmable automatic flute powered by hot steam, and a gas mask. Three centuries later, Al Jazari (1136-1206) wrote a similar book called *Book of Knowledge of Ingenious Mechanical Devices*. His model of a water-powered robot that poured water for washing one's hands and then offered a towel for drying was recreated by the Smithsonian Museum.

In medicine, some important discoveries were made, including the existence of pulmonary circulation, cranial and spinal cord nerves, and the difference between smallpox and measles.

A huge library was created in Baghdad, and important books were translated into Arabic from many languages, particularly Greek, Aramaic, Chinese, and Sanskrit. These included the Greek works of Apollonius, Plato, Hippocrates, Galen, Aristotle, Archimedes, Euclid, and Ptolemy. Indian works included those of Sushruta, Brahmagupta, Aryabhata, and Charaka, one of the founders of Ayurveda. By this

means, many titles were preserved after they had disappeared in the original languages because of the destruction of libraries during the fall of the Roman Empire. “It was through 12th-century Arabic translations that medieval Europe rediscovered Hellenic medicine, including the works of Galen and Hippocrates and Avicenna’s *The Canon of Medicine*.” These were translated from Arabic into Latin and disseminated throughout Europe.

- The popular idea that Islam is fundamentally a peaceful and tolerant religion that created a “golden age” of learning and science beginning in the eighth century was invented by prominent rationalists and theological modernists more than a hundred years ago. Men such as Voltaire and Gibbon claimed that Europe fell into a dark age because of “Christianity” (Catholicism) and was rescued by an enlightened Islam. “In time, some scholars began to see almost all European science and learning as an Arab creation, or at least something that appeared only under the influence of the Arabs. This opinion took root in the nineteenth century, and by the early years of the twentieth century had become, in some quarters at least, part of received wisdom” (Emmet Scott, *Muhammad and Charlemagne Revisited*). A prominent historian in 1919 said that “Spain, not Italy, was the cradle of the rebirth of Europe” (Robert Briffault, *The Making of Humanity*, p. 189).

- This has always been nonsense. First of all, a “Golden Age of Islam” in Baghdad was not *because of Islam*, but *in spite of it*. Tolerant, educational-minded Muslim caliphs are not the rule in history, but the extreme exception, and they were tolerant and educational-minded by *not being strict followers of the Quran*. Further, most of the inventions that have been promoted as Muslim inventions were actually inventions of China, Persia, and India. In fact, the heyday of the House of Wisdom was the 10th century, after which it declined as the caliphs “endorsed a more literal interpretation of the Quran and Hadith.” Note that a literal

interpretation of Islam discouraged scientific advancement. It was only when the Muslim leaders *did not take the Quran so "literally"* that they promoted education, and many of the non-literalists have been murdered by strict Muslims as the reward for their tolerance. Second, Muslim science was inherited from the people they subjugated. "[T]he sophisticated culture so often attributed to Muslims (more often referred to as 'Arabic' culture) was actually the culture of the conquered people--the Judeo-Christian-Greek culture of Byzantium, the remarkable learning of heretical Christian groups such as the Copts and the Nestorians, extensive knowledge from Zoroastrian (Mazdean) Persia, and the great mathematical achievements of the Hindus (keep in mind the early and extensive Muslim conquests in India). This legacy of learning, including much that had originated with the ancient Greeks, was translated into Arabic, and portions of it were somewhat assimilated into Arab culture, but even after having been translated, its 'learning' continued to be sustained primarily by the *dhimmi* populations living under Arab regimes. ... as Marshall Hodgson noted, 'those who pursued natural science tended to retain their older religious allegiance as *dhimmis*, even when doing their work in Arabic.' That being the case, as the *dhimmis* slowly assimilated, much of what was claimed to be the sophisticated Arab culture disappeared. ... What may have misled so many historians is that most contributors to 'Arabic science' were given Arabic names and their works were published in Arabic--that being the 'official' language of the land. Consider mathematics. The so-called Arabic numerals were entirely of Hindu origin. ... 'Muslim' or 'Arab' medicine was in fact Nestorian Christian medicine; even the leading Muslim and Arab physicians were trained at the enormous Nestorian medical center at Nisbus in Syria. ... what has largely been ignored is that the decline of that culture and the inability of Muslims to keep up with the West occurred because Muslim or Arab culture was largely

an illusion resting on a complex mix of *dhimmi* cultures, and as such, it was easily lost and always vulnerable to being repressed as heretical. Hence, when in the fourteenth century Muslims in the East stamped out nearly all religious nonconformity, Muslim backwardness came to the fore" (*God's Battalions*, pp. 56-61).

Baghdad was conquered in 1258 by the Mongols under Hulagu (Hulegu) Khan.

The Mongol army was estimated at 150,000. Some 1,000 Chinese artillery experts accompanied the army. They massacred hundreds of thousands and looted and destroyed the city, including the House of Wisdom and its libraries. The Muslim ruler was rolled up in a carpet and trampled under horses' hooves. "Survivors said that the waters of the Tigris ran black with ink from the enormous quantities of books flung into the river and red from the blood of the scientists and philosophers killed."

Hulagu was a grandson of Genghis Khan, founder of the Mongol Empire. He was the son of Genghis' son Tolui.

Hulagu's wife, Doquz Khatun, was a Nestorian Christian, and it is said that she arranged for the Christians living in Baghdad to be spared from the slaughter (Steven Runciman, *A History of the Crusades*, p. 303).

Hulagu's mother, Sorghaghtani (Sorkaktani), also a Nestorian Christian, is considered in the studies on the Mongol Empire.

The Ayyubid Dynasty (1174-1250)

The short-lived Ayyubid dynasty was founded by Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub (1137-1193), popularly known as **Saladin**.

Saladin's rule was centered in Egypt, but at its height in Saladin's lifetime it spread to Syria, the western part of

Mesopotamia, the west coast and southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, and a small part of North Africa.

Saladin was aligned with the Abbasid Caliphate based in Baghdad.

Saladin is famous for leading the opposition to the European Crusaders.

In the First Crusade (1096-1099), the Crusaders had captured Antioch and Jerusalem from and had established a Jerusalem kingdom that covered most of ancient Israel and Syria.

In July 1187, Saladin's armies defeated the Crusaders at the Battle of Hattin, which took place near Tiberias at a pass that led from the Sea of Galilee to the Mediterranean coast. Three months later, Jerusalem surrendered to Saladin, and he banned all non-Muslim access to the Temple Mount.

In 1192, at the end of the Third Crusade, Saladin signed a treaty with Richard I (the Lionhearted) of England to form the Kingdom of Acre, a much reduced Christian kingdom in the Holy Land.

At Saladin's death, his empire fell into civil war, with his sons, a brother, and a nephew claiming various parts of the kingdom. The territory was subsequently divided into smaller kingdoms.

Wars against Persians and Byzantines

When Muhammad died, the territory to the north and west of Arabia was ruled by two empires: the Sasanians controlled the region of Mesopotamia, Iran, and farther east. This is called the neo-Persian Empire (224-651). The Byzantines controlled Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Anatolia, and Armenia.

These empires had been at war off and on for 400 years, and during the last part of Muhammad's life (602-628) they were warring over Syria and Palestine.

Now they faced a common foe. The Persians were quickly conquered by the Muslims, while the Byzantines soon lost a great portion of their territory and were eventually destroyed.

In November 636, the Muslims defeated Yazdegerd III, Emperor of Persia. The Sasanian Empire ended a few years later, and its territory was absorbed into the Islamic caliphate.

In 636, Syria was conquered. The Byzantine Emperor Heraclis fielded a massive army of 100,000 or more against the Muslims' smaller army, but the Byzantines were defeated at the six-day Battle of Yarmouk (near the Yarmouk River east of the Sea of Galilee). When Heraclis, at Antioch, heard of the defeat, he blamed the loss on his own sin of an incestuous marriage to his niece Martina. His advisors "accepted that the defeat was God's decision and a result of the sins of the people of the land, including him" (Geoffery Regan, *First Crusader: Byzantium's Holy Wars*, p. 167). Before Heraclis sailed to Constantinople that night he said, "Farewell, a long farewell to Syria, my fair province. Thou art an infidel's now. Peace be with you, O Syria; what a beautiful land you will be for the enemy." He carried with him the supposed "holy relic of the true cross," which had been kept at Jerusalem. The Battle of Yarmouk was one of the turning points in history.

In 637, Jerusalem surrendered to the Muslims.

In 641, the Muslims conquered Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia. "The entire population of Euchaita was wiped out" (Srdja Trifkovic, "A New Century of Christian Martyrdom," Jun. 5, 2002).

In 642, Muslims captured Egypt from the Byzantines. "The towns of Behnesa, Fayum, Nikiu and Aboit were put to the sword."

In 643, Tripoli was pillaged and “Jews and Christians were forced to hand over their women and children as slaves to the Arab army.”

In 649, Muslims captured Cyprus and “then established their rule by a great massacre” (Srdja Trifkovic).

In 698, the Muslims conquered Carthage and drove the Byzantines out of Africa. “Carthage was razed to the ground and most of its inhabitants killed. ... Amr forced the Jews and Christians to hand over their women and children as slaves to the Arab army. They were told that they could deduct the value of their enslaved family from the poll-tax, the jizya” (Srdja Trifkovic).

Between 698-709, the Muslims defeated the nomadic Berber tribes of northwestern Africa. Muslim leader Musa bin Nasayr completed the conquest. Three hundred thousand were taken captive; 60,000 were sold as slaves; 30,000 were forced into the Muslim army to be used in the invasion of Spain. Most of the Berbers converted to Islam.

In 678 and 718, the Byzantines won **the battles for Constantinople**. The Muslim plan was to “cut off the head” of the empire, after which it would have been easy to conquer the rest of its territory and sweep into Europe from the east.

Between 674-678, **the first battle of Constantinople** was fought against Mu’awiyah’s forces.

Each spring Muslim navies and armies attacked the city.

In 678, Constantine IV (son of Constans) destroyed their ships with Greek fire, killing the Muslim admiral Yazid ibn Shagara. The exact formula is not known, as it was a closely guarded state secret, but it was an incendiary liquid that was sprayed through a pressurized nozzle, and thus was some type of flamethrower. The fire probably consisted of petroleum mixed with other ingredients, a type of napalm. The fire could not be put out with water. A model of a Greek fire machine built in 2002 achieved a flame temperature of

over 1,000 centigrade (1,830 F) and a range of 50 feet (15 meters) (John Haldon, “Greek fire revisited,” in Elizabeth Jeffreys, *Byzantine Style, Religion and Civilization*, 2006, pp. 290-325). A handheld edition of the Greek fire machine was invented in the 10th century. It was called *cheirosiphon* (“hand siphon”) and was used with good effect against wooden siege towers.

In 678, Mu’awiyah signed a treaty agreeing to pay a tribute to the Byzantines and died two years later at age 78.

In 718, the Byzantines won **the second battle for Constantinople** and stopped Muslim progress for centuries.

Caliph Sulieman (Sulayman, meaning “Solomon”) sent an army of 120,000 men and 1,800 fighting ships against Constantinople.

For many years, the Byzantines had been led by weak emperors, but at the approach of Sulieman’s forces, they wisely chose a soldier named Leo to lead them. As Leo III, he diligently prepared the city for the siege and used Greek fire to destroy hundreds of the attacking ships.

A harsh winter brought an end to the fighting for months, during which Suleiman died. By spring, Leo had made a treaty with the Bulgarians, and the Bulgarian army killed 22,000 of the Arabs who were besieging the city. They “pulled out in great disgrace” on August 15, 718.

This victory weakened the Umayyad caliphate, caused the Muslims to abandon their plan to conquer the Byzantine Empire and enabled it to continue for another 700 years. The victory thus enabled the Byzantines to “provide a bulwark against Islamic expansion into Europe until the 15th century.” Fourteen years later, in 732, Charles Martel defeated the Muslims at the Battle of Tours in Gaul (France) and stopped their advance into Europe from the west.

These were history-changing battles that stopped the Muslims from conquering all of Europe. Had this happened, there would have been no bastions of religious liberty like

the Netherlands and America and eventually England, no great Bible translation enterprise, no great missionary movements, no great spiritual revivals, no industrial revolution. But God is in control of history (Dan. 2:20-21), and His prophets have told us that Islam will not conquer the world

Islam and Western Europe

1. Between 711-725, Muslims conquered Hispania (Spain, Portugal).

Armies of Arabs and Berbers crossed into Europe from Africa at the strait of Gibraltar and fought their way north. “Upon disembarking, the leader of the Muslims, Tariq bin Ziyad, ordered their fleet burned, explaining, ‘We have not come here to return. Either we conquer and establish ourselves here, or we perish’” (“The Battle of Tours,” *National Review*, Oct. 12, 2013).

At the time of the invasion, these lands were controlled by the Visigoths who were part of the Goth people that had overthrown the western Roman Empire. They were Christians of Arian belief, but in 589 they converted to Trinitarianism and Roman Catholicism.

In 712, Musa ibn Nusayr led another army of 18,000 into Spain. He had been governor of northern Africa and had brutally subjugated the Berbers. His father was studying to be a Catholic priest when he was captured in Iraq by Khalid, known as “the Sword of Islam,” and chose to convert to Islam rather than die (“Islam and Europe Timeline 355-1291 AD,” *TheLatinLibrary.com*).

The Muslims established an Islamic kingdom known as Al-Andalus. It was also called the Caliphate of Cordoba, Muslim Spain, and Islamic Iberia. Al-Andalus lasted until 1492 when it was conquered by Queen Isabella I of Castile.

Throughout the history of Al-Andalus, the Muslims in Spain fought amongst themselves as much as they fought against the Christian kingdoms to the north. For example, in 714, Musa fell out of favor with Caliph Suleiman (Sulayman) bin Abd al-Malik and was exiled to his native Yemen village “an old and broken man” who “lived out his days as a beggar.” Before he left Spain, Musa appointed his son, Abd el-Aziz ibn Musa, the first ruler of the new Muslim kingdom, but two years later Abd Musa was assassinated on order of Suleiman. He was beheaded in a mosque and his head was carried to Damascus and displayed “publicly to an audience where the caliph knew that his father was in attendance.” Soon thereafter Suleiman himself was dead. A week earlier he had “donned an impressive green robe and turban and seeing himself in the mirror commented on how he looked to be in the prime of life.”

The Christians and Jews of the realm were put under dhimmi status. They were forced to pay heavy jizya taxes and had no real civil rights. “In practice, however, the position of the Christian and Jewish population was anything but protected. This was because under the provisions of Islamic law (sharia), the rights of Jews and Christians were subordinate to those of Muslims. The legal testimony of a Muslim always trumped that of a Christian or Jew, no matter how many Christians or Jews testified. In practical terms, this meant that a dhimmi Jew or Christian might be insulted, robbed, or even murdered in the street, without any hope of legal redress. If such a complaint were taken to the authorities, the Muslim culprit would claim that the infidel had insulted the Prophet or the Koran. Two male Muslim witnesses were needed to substantiate this claim, but these were invariably forthcoming, and the suit ended in the execution of the Jewish or Christian complainant. ... [Christians and Jews] lived in permanent fear of the predatory attentions of Muslim neighbors. ... A further exacerbating factor was that under Islamic law Muslims

have a right to subsist off the labors and property of the infidel. This is enshrined in the concept of jizya, the tax which all infidels living in the Dar al-Islam must pay to their Muslim masters. But it was not just the Caliph and his emirs who were entitled to live off the infidels. All Muslims, irrespective of position, had this right; and Islamic law thus sanctified the plundering by individual Muslims of the local Christian and Jewish populations” (Emmet Scott, *Muhammad and Charlemagne Revisited*).

The Muslim leaders perpetually wanted to conquer the rest of Europe, particularly Italy and the “Christian capital” in Rome. In 846, a Muslim naval fleet sailed up the Tiber River and attacked Rome, damaging St. Peter’s Cathedral and forcing Pope Leo IV to pledge an annual tribute of 25,000 silver coins. The Leonine Wall was built to fend off future attacks (“Islam and Europe Timeline 355-1291 AD,” TheLatinLibrary.com).

In 850-851, many Christians in Cordova were put to death for “insulting Muhammad.”

From 929 to 976, Cordova became a center of Islamic learning under Abd al-Rahman III and his son Al-Hakam II. This is called the “golden age of Cordova.” There was a splendid palace with rooms filled with riches. The grand mosque, which was built in the 780s, was expanded. It was constructed with rare marbles and exotic wood. High ceilings rested on marble columns supporting red- and white-striped double arches. It was decorated with ivory, gold, silver, copper, brass, porphyry, and jasper. “Panels of scented woods were fastened with nails of pure gold.” Cordoba’s 400,000-volume library was one of the largest in the world.

In spite of his great wealth and a lifetime of power and pleasure, Abd al-Rahman III wrote before he died that he had experienced only 14 days of “genuine happiness.”

Though many have described the heyday of Islamic rule in Cordova as a “golden age,” it was an actually intolerant,

violent, unjust society. “Moorish Spain was not a tolerant and enlightened society even in its most cultivated epoch. There was beauty, but little tolerance. The Jews of Granada were butchered in 1066; the Christians were deported to Morocco in 1126. Learning did exist, but it was restricted to a small elite that was constantly at risk from persecution. In Moorish Spain, oppression or anarchy were the rule, good order and civilized behavior a fondly remembered exception” (Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, p. 109, citing R. Fletcher, *Moorish Spain*, 1992).

2. Between 732-801, Charles Martel and his descendants stopped the Muslim advance in western Europe.

Charles Martel (680-741) ruled the kingdom of the Franks (Francia, Frankia) that was established in 496 by Clovis I, a convert to Catholicism. Francia consisted of subkingdoms over which Martel had gained nominal control. The historian Isidore said he was “a mighty warrior from his youth and trained in all the occasions of arms.”

The Franks fought mostly on foot and were heavily armored. They used swords, daggers, javelins, and two type of axes, one for striking and one for throwing (the *francisca*).

In 724, Odo, ruler of the Frankish kingdom of Aquitaine, defeated the Muslims at the Battle of Toulouse, temporarily halting their advance into France.

In 732, the Muslim armies again entered Francia, this time under the leadership of Caliph Abdul Rahman, who intended to “unite Italy, Germany, and the empire of the Greeks to the already vast domains of the champions of the Koran.” They “promised to stable their horses in St. Peter’s at Rome” (Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, p. 96). As they made their way north, the Muslims “burned churches and slaughtered the population” (Susan Bauer, *The History of the Medieval World*).

Martel joined forces with Odo, and with 30,000 men they defeated an invading army of 80,000 or more Muslims at the Battle of Tours.

The Muslims seriously underestimated their enemy. Sixteen years earlier, Musa, the first caliph, said the Franks are “brave and impetuous in the attack, but cowardly and craven in the event of defeat; never has a company from my army been beaten” (Raymond Ibrahim, “The Battle of Tours,” *National Review*, Oct. 12, 2013).

- Martel picked the field of battle wisely, choosing wooded high ground where the Muslim cavalry would be less effective and waiting patiently over a period of days to force the Muslims to attack. An Arab historian said they were “filled with wrath and pride,” which is a recipe for disaster. When the Muslims assaulted them in “wild headlong charges,” the Franks did not panic but held their phalanx position “[S]taying as motionless as a wall, they were like a belt of ice frozen together, and not to be dissolved, as they slew the Arab with the sword.” The Franks used their shields and heavy armor to form a wall of protection. This discipline in battle is why the Roman legions had been successful on the same terrain centuries earlier. After Caliph Rahman was killed, his army retreated back over the Pyrenees Mountains, destroying and looting as they went.

This was a major turning point in history, halting the advance of Islam into western Europe. As we have seen, in 718, fourteen years earlier, the Muslims had been defeated in their attempt to destroy Constantinople, thus being stopped from conquering Europe from the east.

It was the Battle of Tours that earned Charles his nickname *Martel* or *Hammer*. In 736, he defeated a large Muslim invasion force that came by sea and landed in Narbonne. This was probably the first time that heavy armored cavalry with stirrups were used in Europe. It was the dawn of the age of the knights.

In 759, Pepin III (Pippin III or Pepin the Short), son of Charles Martel, captured Narbonne and drove the Muslims out of France.

In 801, Carolus Magnus (Charlemagne), son of Pippin III and grandson of Martel, captured Barcelona and established a buffer zone against further Muslim encroachment. This zone was the southwestern border of Frankish Kingdom. A year earlier, Charlemagne had been anointed emperor of the Holy Roman Empire by the pope. He has been called “the father of Europe.”

3. The reconquest of Spain (*Reconquista*) happened over a period of 400 years.

In 1085, Alfonso VI of León captured Toledo. This was eleven years before the First Crusade to the Holy Land.

In 1236, Cordoba fell to King Ferdinand III of Castile.

In 1249, Portugal was reconquered by Alfonso III, who became the first head of a Catholic kingdom. Within 200 years, Portugal was at the heart of world exploration. In the first half of the fifteenth century, Prince Infante Henrique (later called “Henry the Navigator”) encouraged this. He employed navigators and map-makers and oversaw the development of a light, highly maneuverable ship called the *caravel*, which could sail farther and faster than, and navigate shallow waters better than, former vessels. It used the triangular lateen sail that allowed it to sail against the wind. The caravel was used to explore the west coast of Africa, beginning in the 1430s. Henry’s explorers learned how to catch North Atlantic trade winds to return them to Europe. In 1488, Bartholomew Dias sailed around the southern tip of Africa, proving that there was an ocean route around the continent (“Spain and America,” learnnc.org). In 1497, Vasco da Gama followed this route to India, establishing direct trade between Europe and South Asia.

In 1492, Granada, the last remaining Muslim state in Spain, surrendered to Queen Isabella I of Castile. This was

the same year that Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas for Isabella and Ferdinand of Portugal.

4. From the previous history we can see that the Catholic Crusades to the Holy Land, which began in 1096, were a response to 450 years of war and aggression, forced conversion and enslavement of Christians by Muslims.

Today it is popular to believe that the Crusaders were the instigators of war and aggression, but this is not true. Though we do not justify the Crusades, as they were misguided ventures from top to bottom, the Crusaders were *not* the foremost aggressors in the matter. They were trying to regain that which had been stolen from them.

Islam in India

1. Between 712 and 1193, Muslim armies raided India from the west in subsequent waves of attacks.

They demolished temples, robbed, murdered, raped, and enslaved the people.

Following are some examples;

In 712, Muhammad Qasim raided India on order of the governor of Iraq. “[T]hey demolished temples, shattered sculptures, plundered palaces, killed vast numbers of men.” It “took three days to slaughter the inhabitants of the port city of Debal; they carried off their women and children to slavery” (Serge Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, p. 109). Qasim’s army massacred between 6,000 and 16,000 people at the town of Brahminabad.

Between 997 and 1030, Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni crossed the Thar Desert and plundered Hindu and Buddhist kingdoms in Pakistan and northern India 17 times and extended Islamic rule into western Punjab. He “passed through India like a whirlwind, destroying, pillaging, and massacring.” It is said that Hindus “became like atoms of

dust scattered in all directions” (*Alberuni’s India*, c. 1030 AD, translated by Edward Sachau, p. 22).

In 1001, he defeated the Hindu king Jayapala, killed 15,000, and took 500,000 as slaves, including thousands of children. Jayapala immolated himself on his own funeral pyre.

In 1025, Ghazni destroyed the Shiva temple at Somnath. The temple was served by 1,000 Brahmin priests and 600 musicians. Mehmud’s Muslim army killed the 50,000 Hindu defenders and razed the complex.

He destroyed Gandhar (Peshwar valley). “Gandhar which was styled the Garden of the North was left at his death a weird and desolate waste. Its rich fields and fruitful gardens, together with the canal which watered them (the course of which is still partially traceable in the western part of the plain), all disappeared. Its numerous stone built cities, monasteries, and topes with their valuable and revered monuments and sculptures, were sacked, fired, razed to the ground, and utterly destroyed as habitations” (*Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*, edited by James Hastings, etc., Vol. 13).

2. The Delhi Sultanate in India lasted from 1206-1526.

During this time, many Hindu kingdoms were overthrown and placed under Muslim rule. By 1330, the Delhi Sultanate controlled nearly all of India.

The Delhi Sultanate was violent and unstable throughout its history. Many of the Sultans were murdered by their relatives, friends, and soldiers.

A huge amount of wealth was confiscated, including Koh-i-Noor (“Mountain of Light”), one of the world’s largest known diamonds. Its uncut weight was 793 carats (6.5 ounces or .4 pound). Its cut weight today is 105.6 carats. It was mined at the Kollur Mine in Andhra Pradesh and was installed as the eye of a Hindu goddess in a temple in Warangal. After it was looted by the Delhi Sultanates, it was

possessed by them and by the Moghul rulers. It became part of the Shah Jahan's Peacock Throne. In 1739, it was looted by Nadir Shah and carried to Persia. Later it was brought back to the Punjab, and in 1849 it was surrendered to the British by the Sikhs. Today it is one of the British Crown Jewels. It is said that one of Nadir Shah's wives described the value of the diamond as follows: "If a strong man should take five stones, and throw one north, one south, one east, and one west, and the last straight up into the air, and the space between filled with gold and gems, that would equal the value of the Koh-i-Noor." A wiser person said, "The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver" (Psalm 119:72).

During the Delhi Sultanate, large numbers of Hindu and Buddhist temples were destroyed, though some Sultans were more severe than others.

"In the whole of north India there is scarcely a statue that was not defaced by the Islamic invaders, scarcely a temple that was not ravaged. In Delhi the desecration and destruction were total. And the same was true of Mathura ... One image, of solid gold, carried away by Mahmud of Ghazni in 1017, weighed half a ton and bore a single sapphire of three and a half pounds; Mahmud's loot also included five more solid gold figures with rubies for eyes and a hundred silver images each of which was heavy enough to constitute a single load for a camel" (John Keay, *India Discovered*, p. 102).

Here we have a glimpse into the fabulous wealth that was accumulated by Hindu temple complexes from the impoverished people who were seeking salvation and blessing. False religion is good business.

In 1192, Qutbu I-Din Aibak had 27 Hindu and Jain temples destroyed to furnish building materials for the construction of Delhi's first mosque, the Quwwat-ul-Islam ("glory of Islam").

In 1295, Alauddin Khailji's army destroyed the Shiva temple at Somnath in Gujarat. This was the third time the temple was destroyed by Muslim invaders. Previous destructions were in 725 and 1025. The Sultan boasted that "fifty thousand infidels were dispatched to hell by the sword" and "more than twenty thousand slaves and cattle beyond all calculation fell into the hands of the victors" ("Somnath," *Wikipedia*). The Somnath temple was destroyed again in 1375 by Muzaffar Shah I and in 1451 by Mahmud Begada.

Muslim historians mention the destruction of hundreds of other temples, the burning and razing of large numbers of entire villages and towns, the slaughter and enslavement of multitudes of non-Muslims. (See *The Hand of God in World History* for documentation and examples.)

Under the Delhi Sultanate, non-Muslims were required to pay the *jizya* tax.

Delhi Sultanate rulers encouraged conversion to Islam "by lavishing new converts with presents and honours." Large numbers of captives were forced to convert. Women were "married" to Muslim men and forced into the Islamic faith, and children were raised in Muslim families.

Many of the Delhi Sultanate rulers were harsh and cruel. Under Ala al-din Khilji (1296-1316), agriculture taxes were 50%, which is what Muhammad required of the Jews of his day. Anyone suspected of being a threat to his power "was killed *along with the women and children of that family*."

Torture and punishments were severe, including amputations, gouging out eyes, crushing bones, pouring molten lead into throats, burning people alive, and crucifixion (Vincent Smith, *The Oxford History of India*).

3. The Mongol ruler Timur (1370-1405) ravished parts of India.

Timur was a Muslim Turk whose empire stretched from Pakistan to the Black Sea. His capital was Sumarkand in the Ferghana Valley (modern Uzbekistan).

His fearsome armies put to death an estimated 17 MILLION people, “amounting to about 5% of the world’s population.” “He swept over the vast stretches of country, killing and burning for the mere love of destruction. He spared neither Mussulman nor Christian” (George Horton, *The Blight of Asia*, p. 36).

In India, Timur executed 100,000 captives and destroyed many cities, including Delhi, which he left in ruins. Here he also built towers of human heads. He carried away huge amounts of wealth and large numbers of slaves, particularly skilled artisans and women, back to his capital at Samarkand.

The battle for Delhi took place in December 1398 with Timur opposed by the army of Mahmud ibn Tughluq, head of the Delhi Sultanate. It was Muslim against Muslim. Tughluq’s army had war elephants armored with chain mail and poisoned tusks (Justin Marozzi, *Tamerlane: Sword of Islam*). Timur showed his wisdom in military tactics. “With his Tatar forces afraid of the elephants, Timur ordered his men to dig a trench in front of their positions. Timur then loaded his camels with as much wood and hay as they could carry. When the war elephants charged, Timur set the hay on fire and prodded the camels with iron sticks, causing them to charge toward the elephants howling in pain. Timur had understood that elephants were easily panicked. Faced with the strange spectacle of camels flying straight at them with flames leaping from their backs, the elephants turned around and stampeded back toward their own lines” (“Timur,” *Wikipedia*).

4. The Islamic Mughal (Mogal, Moghul) Empire controlled what is now Afghanistan, Pakistan, and much of India from 1526-1827.

It conquered the Delhi Sultanate and enlarged the territory of Muslim rule in India.

In the 1600s, the Mughal Empire was one of the largest and wealthiest in the world. Its population was 150 million.

Mughal painting and architecture reached its zenith at that time, the Taj Mahal being the preeminent example.

The Mughal Empire is known as the gunpowder empire because they brought the use of gunpowder to India at the First Battle of Panipat (1526) and perfected its use in military conflicts.

The Mughal Empire began in 1526 when the Mongol leader **Babur** (Babar) (1526-1531) defeated Ibrahim Lodi, final ruler of the Delhi Sultanate that had begun in 1206.

Babur was succeeded by his son Humayun (r. 1531-1556), after a period of internecine warfare.

Humayun conquered Rohtas in the Punjab. Its four-kilometer walls were 12.5 meters (41 feet) thick and 18 meters (59 feet) high and had 68 semi-circular bastions and massive, ornate sandstone gates.

Jalal-ud-Din Akbar (the Great) (r. 1556-1605) was the third ruler of the Mughal dynasty and the one who expanded it across the Indian subcontinent, from Kabul in the northwest to Bengal in the east and as far south as the Godavari River

The empire tripled not only in size, but also in wealth. Its revenue in 1600 was 17.5 million pounds, much more than that of Great Britain.

He had 13 wives and a harem of 300.

He built a powerful military that used the first matchlock rifles and cannons in India.

During Akbar's reign, the Mughals began using the Marwari horse. It was bred for desert war by the Rathores, the rulers of Marwar in Rajasthan, which lies partly in the Thar Desert. A cross between Indian ponies and Arabian horses, with some Mongol influence, it is light and hardy with a natural ambling gait called the *revaal*, which is faster than a walk. It is noted for loyalty and bravery in battle. A

breed characteristic is its inward-curving ears. Under Akbar's reign, the Rajputs of Marwar formed a cavalry of 50,000 of these horses. (The Rathores worshiped the sun, and when they began building the Mehrangarh Fort at Jodhpur (Jaipur) in 1459, they practiced human sacrifice by burying a man alive in the foundation to appease the gods. The palace-fort was completed during the reign of the Mughals.)

At the Battle of Talikota in 1565, 100,000 Hindus were killed. The city of Vijayanagara was burned and the pillage and looting continued for six months.

After defeating the Rajputs in Chithor in 1568, Akbar ordered the massacre of 30,000 captured Hindus.

He moved around the empire with a large army, "holding court in a splendid camp laid out like a capital city but composed entirely of tents." On these journeys he engaged in hunting, using cheetahs to pursue deer and other prey.

He built palaces at Delhi, Agra, and Fatehpur Sikri, which became centers "of the arts, letters, and learning." The palace at Fatehpur Sikri ("the city of victory"), which he built in 1569 to commemorate his defeat of the Rajputs in Rajputana (modern Rajasthan in northwest India), featured a private audience hall called the *diwan-i-khas*. At the center of the tall room was an ornate pillar that supported the emperor's couch. Those having an audience with him stood on a balcony that ran around the top of the high room, and there were four narrow bridges leading to the audience platform. "If required, someone can cross one of the bridges--in a respectfully crouched position--to join Akbar in the center. Meanwhile, on the floor below, courtiers not involved in the discussion could listen unseen" ("History of the Moghul Empire," historyworld.net).

He was a patron of art and culture. He took a keen interest in painting. He created a library of over 24,000 books in Sanskrit, Hindi, Persian, Greek, Latin, and Arabic. He hired scholars, translators, artists, calligraphers, scribes,

bookbinders. Though illiterate, Akbar loved to have books read to him. The most famous work he commissioned was the *Hamzanama*, an enormous illustrated manuscript depicting the mythical exploits of Amir Hamza, an uncle of Muhammad, who, with a band of heroes, fought against the enemies of Islam. The 700 paintings bound in 14 volumes took 14 years to complete. Akbar's grandfather Babur described the *Hamzanama* as "one long far-fetched lie, opposed to sense and nature." This reminds us that a large percentage of this world's talent is devoted to nonsense and lies.

He loved to hear religious debates between Muslims, Hindus, Jains, Zoroastrians, Jews, and Roman Catholic Jesuits, which were held in his palace.

Rejecting a literal interpretation of Islam, he promoted religious harmony and multiculturalism. He abolished the *jizya* tax on non-Muslims and appointed some of them to high civil and military posts.

Akbar's tolerance of other religious faiths, his non-persecuting spirit, his abolition of the tax on non-Muslims, etc., was the result of his rejection of a literal interpretation of the Quran. "[These things] indicated his propensity for free-thinking experimentation in the realm of religion that finally led him to complete apostasy. Its high points were the formal declaration of his own infallibility in all matters of religious doctrine, his promulgation of a new creed, and his adoption of Hindu and Zoroastrian festivals and practices" (Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, p. 112).

Akbar's eldest son **Jahangir** (r. 1605-1727) took the throne and consolidated the territorial gains and strengthened the empire.

He built beautiful gardens and encouraged Mughal painting, which probably reached its zenith in his reign. Influenced by Persian art, it featured bright colors and realistic and finely detailed portrayals of people, wildlife, and events, such as the births of princes, the laying out of

gardens, royal hunts, and military battles. “The resulting images are a treasure trove of historical detail, but as paintings they are slightly busy.”

He also encouraged the creation of Mughal miniatures. These are small paintings such as illuminated manuscripts or paintings intended to be kept in an album. Mughal miniatures were influenced by Persian miniatures, with other influences from Hindu and Buddhist art.

It was in Jahangir’s day that the British gained a foothold in India. In a treaty with the Mughals in 1616, the British built factories and engaged in trade.

At Jahangir’s death in 1627, the Mughal Empire was one of the greatest empires in the world.

Jahangir was succeeded by his son **Shah Jahan** (r. 1627-1658).

He is known as the greatest builder of the Moghul Empire. Some of the best architects and craftsmen in the world resided in his empire.

The preeminent example of this is the Taj Mahal, which he built as a tomb for his second and favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631 while giving birth to their fourteenth child. Mumtaz Mahal means “elect of the palace.” Her real name was Arjumand Banu.

It is located in Agra, which was the capital of Shah Jahan’s empire until he built Shahjahanabad.

Taj Mahal means “crown of palaces.” It has been called “the jewel of Muslim art in India.”

Thousands of artisans labored for about 17 years on the project under the direction of Ustad Ahmad Lahauri.

It consists of the tomb itself framed by four minarets and fronted by gardens and a long reflecting pool.

A huge marble dome stands atop the tomb at a height of nearly 115 feet (35m). At the summit of the dome is a golden “finial” (an element marking the top of something) with a crescent moon at the peak. This is the symbol of Islam

and points back to its origin in the worship of the ancient moon god.

The coffins, which are in a room below ground, are surrounded by an octagonal screen of marble latticework.

The cost of construction was 32 million Indian rupees, which in 2015 money would be about 52 billion Indian rupees or US \$825 million.

The Taj Mahal is acclaimed as a great act of love, but in reality it was an act of highhanded extravagance and was a symbol of gross inequality. Shah Jahan built no great monument for his less favorite wives, Akbarabadi and Fatehpuri, or his harem of several hundred concubines (five of which are known by name as “his chosen beloved ones”). How beloved did they feel when they observed the Taj Mahal? Further, the incredible amount of wealth splurged on this monument was an affront to the deep poverty and abject servitude of the majority of his subjects. The abuse continued even after its construction, as the annual revenue of 30 villages was assigned for the tomb’s upkeep.

On Mumtaz’s tomb the 99 names of Allah are inscribed. Unlike Jehovah God, Allah has no name of Holy, Love, Father, Saviour, or Shepherd.

Shah Jahan is also buried here. His tomb is inscribed with these words as translated from Persian: “He traveled from this world to the banquet-hall of Eternity on the night of the twenty-sixth of the month of Rajab, in the year 1076 Hijri.”

From 1638 to 1649, Shah Jahan built the city of Shahjahanabad in his own honor. It is known as Old Delhi today. The walled city of about six square kilometers (3.7 miles) had 14 gates. The sandstone walls were 12 feet (3.7m) wide and 26 feet (7.9m) tall. The grand street, which was designed by Shah Jahan’s daughter Jahanara, had a canal that ran down the center with shade trees on both sides.

At the heart of Shahjahanabad was the Red Fort containing the Moghal palaces. It was completed in 1648

and was said to have been “the most magnificent in the East--perhaps in the world.”

It got its name from the red sandstone walls which stood 60 feet high.

A protective moat outside the walls was fed by the Yamuna River.

One of the palaces was called Rang (“color”) Palace for its rich coloring. It was an apartment for the Shah’s harem. The ceilings were covered with tiny pieces of mirrors. A canal called the Stream of Paradise, which flowed through the entire palace area, ran through the center of the Rang Palace and flowed into a marble basin carved into the floor.

The Shah’s palaces were made of marble and gold “bedecked in jewels and silk.” The ceilings was made of gold or silver. There were perfumed water fountains and canals and beautiful, fragrant gardens. There were harem apartments. The Mughal emperors were attended by hundreds of servants to satisfy their every desire.

Shah Jahan’s famous **Peacock Throne** took seven years to construct and cost twice as much as the Taj Mahal. The throne’s name came from its images of peacocks.

It was inaugurated with an elaborate ceremony on March 12, 1635, a date chosen by astrologers as super auspicious.

During the celebration, the goldsmith was given his weight in gold coins and the Shah was praised for his wisdom and power.

The throne was made of solid gold adorned with pearls and precious stones, including the world’s largest diamond, the Koh-i-Noor, and the 361-carat Timur ruby (later discovered not to be a true ruby).

The Mughal kings called themselves *Zill-i-Allahi* (*Shadow of Allah*) and were supposed to be the executors of God’s will on earth. Sitting on his throne, “the ruler floated above ground and closer to heaven.”

A glimpse into life in ancient India during the Mughal Empire is found in the travelogue of Albrecht von Mandelslo who visited India in 1638. The Indian rulers lived in nearly unimaginable splendor, while most of the people lived in poverty. The Mughal rulers had the power of life and death over their subjects, even for the slightest whim. Consider Von Mandelslo's visit to the governor of Ahmadabad, who, like other governors under the Mughals, was "master of incredible wealth." It was said that "there is no king in Europe that hath so noble a court or appears in public with greater magnificence." Von Mandelslo wrote that when some dancing girls refused to perform at the governor's bidding, he had their heads cut off in the presence of his guests.

5. In the 18th century, the Mughals became puppets to the British, and in the 19th century their empire was replaced with the British Raj.

The Ottoman Empire

The Ottoman Empire lasted from 1299 to 1918.

1. The founder was OSMAN GAZI (1258-1326). Also known as Othman or Ottoman, the empire got its name from him.

Osman was a Turkish tribal chieftain who spoke the Turkish language. Anciently, the Turks were nomads of western Mongolia and of Transoxiana west of Mongolia. They began converting to Islam in the eighth century, and by the ninth century many of these warrior people were leading Muslim armies.

They spread across Mesopotamia and Anatolia, and by the eleventh century Europeans were referring to Anatolia as "Turchia" ("land of the Turks"). It was composed of many Turkish Muslim provinces. In the late eleventh and early

twelfth century, the Seljuk Turks controlled Persia but were driven westward by the Mongols between 1243 and 1256.

At the beginning of his career, Osman was merely a leader of one the Turkish provinces of Anatolia, but he showed great initiative and zeal in warfare and captured a large territory in western Anatolia from the Byzantines.

Osman's sword was used to coronate the sultans of the Ottoman Empire. The ceremony, called "girding the sword of Osman," demonstrated that the empire was founded on violent Islamic jihad.

In the century after Osman, his descendants conquered all of Anatolia and the Balkans.

2. In 1453, Osman's descendant MEHMED II conquered Constantinople, ending the Byzantine Empire.

The 21-year-old Sultan wanted to be the fulfillment of a prophecy by Muhammad that said, "One day, Constantinople will be conquered. How wonderful and blessed are the commander of its conquest and his soldiers."

By this time, most of the territory of the Byzantine Empire had been conquered by the Muslims, and all that was left was the capital city and some small territory in Greece.

The city had about 50,000 inhabitants and was defended by seven to eight thousand soldiers. Seven hundred of these were professional soldiers of the city state of Genoa (northwestern Italy) led by Giovanni Giustaniani. He personally financed and organized this expedition to come to the aid of Constantinople and was placed in command of the city's defense forces.

Constantinople was protected on the land side by a massive triple wall fronted by a deep moat. The Greeks closed off the Golden Horn, the city's main harbor, with a huge chain floated on logs.

The 150,000-man attacking army was led by the Janissaries, who were "abducted Christian children, forcibly converted to Islam, and subsequently trained as professional

soldiers.” The Muslims also had a 200-ship navy, including 16 huge fighting galleys, that controlled the Sea of Marmara.

The Muslim army was accompanied by crowds of Sufi dervishes. This Islamic sect, which was formed in the 13th century, attempts to achieve communion with Allah by entering a trance state while whirling round, among other things. Their spinning is supposed to be an ecstatic response to the truth of the “dhikr” (“there is no God but Allah”). In a controlled setting, the Sama ritual consists of four Salams who whirl around a Sheikh. The Salams represent the moon and the Sheikh represents the sun. The right palm of the Salam is turned toward heaven, while the left palm points at the ground, signifying the channeling of spiritual power.

The seven-week siege began on April 6, 1453. The Muslims had a massive canon built by Orban, a “Christian” from Hungary. He originally offered his services to the Byzantines, but they couldn’t afford his salary and didn’t have the resources necessary to build the canons. Orban then offered his services to Mehmed, boasting that he could build a canon that would smash “the very walls of Babylon.” Mehmed provided him with the funds and material to construct one giant canon (called “basilica”) and about 68 smaller ones at Edirne. The monster gun was 27 feet long and had a 30-inch diameter barrel walled with eight inches of solid bronze. On its first trial shot, it hurled a 600 pound (262 kg) stone “across the countryside for a mile before burying itself six feet into the soft earth.” The canons were transported 230 kilometers (140 miles) southeast to Constantinople, a journey that took six weeks. The large canon required the services of 200-400 men and sixty oxen. The canons fired on the walls continually throughout the siege, forming the first artillery barrage in history. The massive walls, the strongest in the world, which had withstood sieges for 1,000 years, crumbled before this frightful onslaught. Eyewitnesses said the ground shook for two miles around. “It must have seemed to the defenders

that the whole history of siege warfare was unraveling in front of their eyes. The Walls of Theodosius, the product of two millennia of defensive evolution, crumbled wherever it was hit” (“The Guns of Constantinople,” Historynet.com).

The soon-exhausted defenders repaired the walls as best they could, but they grew ever weaker as the days passed. “Night after night men and women came from the city to repair the damaged sections.” During the 47-day siege, Mehmed’s guns expended 55,000 pounds of gunpowder to deliver an estimated 5,000 shots. It is thought that Orban and his team were killed when one of the guns exploded.

At one point, four big ships with supplies were able to fight their way through the Ottoman navy to the aid of the besieged city via the Golden Horn. Mehmed was so angry that he had his admiral, Baltoghlu, beheaded.

Mehmed had ordered a road to be constructed along the shore to the Golden Horn so that his ships could be pulled overland on slipways and re-floated in the bay, thus bypassing the Greek’s defensive chain barrier. “On April 22 to the horror of the besieged a long procession of ships, sitting on wooden platforms were pulled by teams of oxen and men, over the road, into the port area. About seventy boats entered the Golden Horn.”

The Greeks hoped for help from the west, and on May 7, a fast ship was sent out to find out if a western fleet was coming to their aid. It was able to slip through the Muslim defenses, but on May 23 it returned with the news that no help was in sight. The men of the crew could have remained in safety, but they bravely returned and urged Emperor Constantine XI to flee. He refused, determining to stay and lead his people in the battle.

On May 28, the Byzantines knew that the final assault by the besieging army was near. They brought all of the “holy relics” from their churches and marched them in procession through the city in the vain hope that the “saints” would

help them. The bells of the churches tolled, and the people sang hymns.

The final attack began after midnight on May 29. “Wave after wave the attackers charged. Battle cries, accompanied by the sound of drums, trumpets and fifes, filled the air. The bells of the city churches began ringing frantically. Orders, screams and the sound of trumpets shattered the night” (“The Fall of Constantinople,” greece.org). By daybreak the end was near. When the brave Genoese commander Giustiniani was struck by a bullet or a crossbow bolt, the defenses began to collapse. Masses of skilled Janissaries led the final assault. Emperor Constantine was last seen charging into the midst of them with his sword striking left and right.

An eyewitness account of the destruction described it as follows:

“The enraged Turkish soldiers ... gave no quarter. When they had massacred and there was no longer any resistance, they were intent on pillage and roamed through the town stealing, disrobing, pillaging, killing, raping, taking captive men, women, children, old men, young men, monks, priests, people of all sorts and conditions. ... There were virgins who awoke from troubled sleep to find those brigands standing over them with bloody hands and faces full of abject fury. This medley of all nations, these frantic brutes, stormed into their houses, dragged them, tore them, forced them, dishonored them, raped them at the crossroads and made them submit to the most terrible outrages. It is even said that at the mere sight of them many girls were so stupefied that they almost gave up the ghost. Old men of venerable appearance were dragged by their white hair and piteously beaten. Priests were led into captivity in batches, as well as reverend virgins, hermits and recluses who were dedicated to God ... in spite of their weeping and sobs and their emaciated cheeks, to be made objects of

scorn before being struck down. Tender children were brutally snatched from their mothers' breasts and girls were pitilessly given up to strange and horrible unions, and a thousand other terrible things happened. ... Temples were desecrated, ransacked and pillaged ... Immense numbers of sacred and profane books were flung on the fire or torn up and trampled under foot" (C.R.N. Routh, *They Saw It Happen in Europe 1450-1600*).

In the afternoon of May 29, the Ottoman ruler, Mehmed, entered the city. It is said that when he saw the destruction he wept and said, "What a city we have given over to plunder and destruction." As a sign of triumph of Islam over "Christianity," he entered the Hagia Sophia. The church was turned into a Muslim mosque with the addition of minarets for the proclamation of Muslim prayers. Today it is a museum.

For this victory, Mehmed called himself "the Conquerer." At the door of his tomb in Constantinople (now Istanbul) stands a stone cannonball from the battle.

Mehmed II moved the capital of the Ottoman Empire to Constantinople and turned the churches into mosques.

He took the title *Kayswer-i Rum* (*Caesar Romanus*) and intended to conquer Rome. In 1480, his army invaded Italy, but after his death in May 1481, the army returned to Constantinople.

3. The zenith of the Ottoman Empire was the reign of Suleiman I (r. 1520-1566).

One of his wives, Roxelana, had been a Greek Orthodox Christian but was converted to Islam when she became a slave in his harem.

Like Mehmed II before him, Suleiman took the title of Caesar of the Romans and had the intention of conquering Europe.

In 1526, he defeated Louis II of Hungary at the Battle of Mohacs. Part of the Kingdom of Hungary was reduced to an Ottoman tributary.

In 1529, Suleiman's advance into Europe was stopped at Vienna. Suleiman besieged the city in September. He assaulted it with 300 canons and had sappers dig holes under the walls to set explosive charges. Several times the walls were breached, but the Viennese soldiers filled the gaps and repelled the invaders. In October, Suleiman ordered a final assault with the Janissaries in the lead. Two mines exploded under the northern gate to open a way, but the assailants were repelled with the death of 1,200. Suleiman ordered a retreat back to Constantinople after he murdered thousands of captives he had taken along the way. "If Vienna had fallen to Suleiman, his army would have continued their offensive the following spring into the German provinces. There is a strong possibility that Suleiman's Empire might have eventually reached all the way to the North Sea, the alliance with France notwithstanding" (*Battle 100: The Story behind History's Most Influential Battles*, p. 36).

In 1544, Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire and Ferdinand of Austria signed a five-year treaty with Suleiman. The Muslim sultan refused to call Charles "emperor of the Romans," because he claimed that title for himself.

Between 1532-1554, Suleiman fought his fellow Muslims of the Shiite Safavid dynasty of Persia. He captured Baghdad and lower Mesopotamia for the Ottoman Empire.

Suleiman had a powerful navy. In the Indian Ocean, it fought with the Portuguese to establish a trading monopoly with India, and in the Mediterranean, it fought Charles V's navy for control of that region.

4. The Ottomans continued to attack eastern Europe until the Battle of Vienna in 1683.

In this battle, the armies of the Holy Roman Empire and Poland defeated a much larger Turkish army. The Polish-German armies arrived just before the Ottomans made their final assault on Vienna after a two-month siege. The defenders were “on their last legs.” They had refused to surrender, having learned that the Muslims had slaughtered the citizens of the nearby city of Perchtoldsdorf after they surrendered. The historic battle halted the advance of the Ottoman Empire into Europe and marked the point when “the Ottoman Turks ceased to be a menace to the Christian world” (Walter Leitsch, “1683: The Siege of Vienna,” *History Today*, July 1983). This was the last major attempt of the Muslims to invade Europe.

In 1699, after several more military defeats, the Ottomans signed the treaty of Karlowitz which gave Hungary to the Europeans.

5. The Ottoman rulers were murderous, even toward their own families.

For example, two of Suleiman’s sons (Mustafa and Bayezid) and four of his grandsons (Bayezid’s sons) were murdered with his support.

In 1595, when Muhammad Murad IV came to the throne, he “had his 19 brothers murdered and seven of his father’s pregnant concubines sewn into sacks and thrown into the Marmara.”

Murad IV’s son, Ibrahim, threw his infant son into a cistern in a fit of rage and had his entire harem of 300 women “put into sacks and thrown into the Bosphorus.” One of them survived and was picked up by a trading ship.

6. The Ottomans were brutal throughout their history.

The British statesman William Gladstone (1809-1898) said of the Ottomans, “No government ever has so sinned, none has proved itself so incorrigible in sin, or which is the same, so impotent in reformation.”

The last century of their rule “witnessed a more thorough and tragic destruction of the Christian communities in the Middle East, Asia Minor, the Caucasus, and the Balkans, than at any prior period” (Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, p. 120).

In 1822, almost the entire Greek population of the island of Chios, tens of thousands of people, were massacred or enslaved.

In 1823, 8,750 were slaughtered at Missolongi.

In 1850, thousands of Assyrians were murdered in the province of Mossul.

In 1860, 12,000 Christians were put to the sword in Lebanon.

In 1876, 14,700 Bulgarians were slaughtered. “At the town of Batal, 5,000 out of 7,000 inhabitants were murdered.”

In 1877, Armenians were slaughtered in Bayazid.

In 1879, Armenians were slaughtered in Alashgurd.

Between 1894-1896, hundreds of thousands of Armenians were slaughtered.

In 1909, Armenians were slaughtered in Adana.

In 1915-16 an artificial famine induced by the Turks killed more than 100,000 Maronite Christians in Lebanon and Syria (Trifkovic, p. 123).

Between 1915-1922 the Ottoman Empire massacred an estimated 1.5 MILLION Armenians and hundreds of thousands became homeless and stateless refugees. First the leaders and most prominent men were taken away one by one and killed. Then the men were disarmed. The Turks formed killing squads of murderers and violent convicts who filled the Turkish countryside with bodies. The helpless people were shot, beaten, thrown off cliffs, drowned, crucified, burned alive, hacked to pieces, and starved to death. They were forced to walk naked across harsh landscapes without food or water until they dropped dead. Children were taken from their parents and placed into

Muslim families. Women were raped and used as sex slaves. The property of the Armenians was confiscated by their Muslim neighbors. "Through methodically organized deportation, systematic massacre, deliberate starvation and dehydration, and continuous brutalization, the Ottoman government reduced its Armenian population to a frightened mass of famished individuals whose families and communities had been destroyed in a single stroke" (armenian-genocide.org).

The Ottomans have denied the massacre of the Armenians, but many irrefutable eyewitness accounts were published. One was by Jesse B. Jackson, American Consul at Aleppo. Consider an excerpt from his report: "One of the most terrible sights ever witnessed in Aleppo was the arrival, early in August 1915, of some five thousand terribly emaciated, dirty, ragged and sick women and children, three thousand on one day and two thousand the following day. These people were the only survivors of the thrifty and prosperous Armenians of the province of Sivas, carefully estimated to have been originally over three hundred thousand souls. And what became of the balance? From the most intelligent of those that reached Aleppo, it was learned that in early spring of 1915 the men and boys over fourteen years old had been called to the police stations in that province on different mornings stretching over a period of several weeks and had been sent off in groups of from one to two thousand each, tied together with ropes, and that nothing had ever been heard of them thereafter. [It was later learned that they were all killed, chopped into pieces with axes to save ammunition.] These survivors related the most harrowing experiences that they endured en route, parting from their homes as they did before Easter, traveling perhaps a thousand miles and reaching Aleppo in August, about four months afterward, afoot, without sufficient food, and even denied drink by the brutal gendarmes [police] when they came to the wells by the way side. Hundreds of

the prettiest women and girls had been stolen by the Turkish tribes who came among them every day” (George Horton, *The Blight of Asia*, 1926, p. 35).

In 1922, the Armenian Christians of the city of Smyrna were slaughtered. The Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Chrysotomos was blinded, beaten, and hacked to pieces. He had been offered refuge by the French, but he refused, wanting to stay with his people. Armenians fleeing the massacre congregated at the harbor. “The remaining inhabitants were trapped at the seafront, from which there was no escaping the flames on one side, or Turkish bayonets on the other. ... English, American, Italian, and French ships were indeed anchored in Smyrna’s harbor. Ordered to maintain neutrality, they would or could do nothing for the 200,000 desperate Christians on the quay. ... ‘The English poured boiling water down on the unfortunates who reached their vessel. The harbor was so clogged with corpses that the officers of the foreign battleships were often late to their dinner appointments because bodies would get tangled in the propellers of their launches.’ ... That was the end of Christianity in Asia Minor” (Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, p. 125).

7. The Ottoman Empire ended at the conclusion of World War One.

In 1923, it was replaced with the Republic of Turkey.

It is still illegal to talk about the Armenian genocide in Turkey today.

Christian missionaries have no legal status in Turkey.

There is not a single non-Muslim in the Turkish security forces and civil service.

In 2007, three Christians, a German missionary and two Turkish converts, were murdered for operating a bookstore that sold Bibles. They were tied up and their throats were slashed. This happened in Malatya, which is the hometown of Mehmet Ali Agca who attempted to murder Pope John

Paul II in 1981. In 2010, Bishop Luigi Padovese, the head of Turkey's Catholic Church, was beheaded by his Muslim driver and bodyguard, who shouted, "I killed the Great Satan, Allahu Akhbar!" ("Turkey's Christians under Siege," *The Middle East Quarterly*, Spring 2011). Padovese was in charge of Rome's dialogue with Muslims in Turkey.

Between 1936 and 2015, Turkey seized 7,500 properties from the Greek Orthodox ("Turkey's Quiet Christian Genocide," *Red State*, Jun. 3, 2015).

In the last 100 years, the Christian population of Turkey has been reduced from 20% to 0.2% ("Endangered Species: Christianity at the Brink of Extinction in Turkey," *Breitbart*, Apr. 21, 2015)

Islam and the Slave Trade

Muslims have been involved in the slave trade throughout their history. It is estimated that over 28 MILLION Africans have been enslaved in the Muslim world in the past 14 centuries” (“A Focus on the African Slaves in the Arab World,” *African Echo*, Sep. 18, 2015).

Another four MILLION white Europeans were enslaved.

The pain and heartbreak of the enslaved people and their loved ones back home can be known only to God.

History of Muslim Slave Trade

The Muslim slave trade began when Muslims conquered parts of coastal Africa.

They took over the ancient slave trade that had existed since the Egyptian pharaohs. Africans have enslaved their fellow man since the continent was populated after the Flood.

“The African continent was bled of its human resources via all possible routes. Across the Sahara, through the Red Sea, from the Indian Ocean ports and across the Atlantic. At least ten centuries of slavery for the benefit of the Muslim countries (from the ninth to the nineteenth). ... Four million slaves were exported via the Red Sea, another four million through the Swahili ports of the Indian Ocean, perhaps as many as nine million along the trans-Saharan caravan route, and eleven to twenty million (depending on the author) across the Atlantic Ocean” (Elikia M’bokolo, “A Hundred and Fifty Years after France Abolished Slavery,” *Le Monde diplomatique*, April 1998).

Beginning in the eighth century, Arab traders on the Swahili Coast in east Africa bought Zanj (Bantu) captives from the interior of Africa (present-day Kenya, Tanzania,

Mozambique) and sold them to Muslims in Egypt, Arabia, Persia, India, and elsewhere. Eventually tens of thousands of slaves were captured and sold every year. "A 10th-century caliph of Baghdad had 11,000 slaves at his palace" ("Human Cargo," *New York Times*, Mar. 4, 2001).

The Umayyad and Abbasid caliphs "recruited many Zanj slaves as soldiers as early as 696."

The Muslim Ottoman Empire continued the slave trade from the early 14th century.

Most towns and cities had a slave marketplace called an "Esir." The slaves were of all ages and both sexes, and "they were displayed naked to be thoroughly checked by possible buyers" (Fischer Alan, "The Sale of Slaves in the Ottoman Empire," *Bogazici Universitesi Dergisi, Beseri Bilimler - Humanities*, Vol. 6, pp. 150-151).

An estimated one-fifth of the population consisted of slaves.

In Ottoman-aligned northern Africa, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli became the bases for the Muslim Barbary pirates who operated throughout the Mediterranean and into the Atlantic. Called "Christian stealing," it was "a kind of Islamic gold rush aimed at the poorly defended shores and shipping of the Christian world" (Robert Davis, *Christian Slaves, Muslim Masters*, p. 30).

They captured thousands of ships and raided coastal towns in Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, England, Ireland, Scotland, and as far as the Netherlands and Iceland. From the 16th to the 19th century, they captured an estimated 1 to 1.25 MILLION white Europeans (Robert Davis). This doesn't include those captured by Morocco and other raiders. In 1640, the minutes of the British Parliament said, "The fishermen are afraid to put to sea, and we are forced to keep continual watches on all our coasts." The British lost 466 ships between 1606 and 1609. Between 1672-82, they

lost another 353 British ships (Robert Davis, *Christian Slaves*, p. 6).

Raids against settlers along the shores were relentless and sometimes netted hundreds and even thousands of captives. In 1544, 7,000 were captured in the Bay of Naples and 6,000 in Calabria in southern Italy. Four thousand were captured in Granada in 1556, 1,200 in Madeira in 1617. Calabria in southern Italy was a favorite target. Six thousand were taken in 1544, 700 in 1636, 1000 in 1639, and 4,000 in 1644 (Davis). Sicily was attacked at least 136 times between 1570 and 160, “sometimes in sorties that penetrated 10 or even 20 miles inland.” In 1631, the entire population of the coastal village of Baltimore, Ireland, was captured. Only two or three ever returned. In 1741, the entire 700 residents of Tabarca were enslaved. In 1798, 900 were taken from the island of San Pietro.

Many coastal areas were depopulated. Along the Adriatic and Tyrrhenian coasts of Italy, for example, miles of once populous shoreline was abandoned. The people moved into walled, hilltop villages or larger towns.

Even when the relatives could raise the money to ransom their loved one, it often bankrupted them. “Some slaves and their families did manage to raise enough money for ransom on their own, cashing in such possessions as the ‘oxen and some shacks’ that might well have been their only possessions. ... entrepreneurs with ready cash moved in to buy animals and property at discount rates, reducing some families from their own-time status as petty landholders ... to that of impoverished rural laborers. Yet even this option was not open for the many captives whose personal resources, even after selling all they had, still fell short of the 200 or 300 *scudi*, *zecchini*, or pieces-of-eight demanded. ... probably not more than 3 or 4 percent of the white slaves in Barbary could hope to be ransomed” (Davis, pp. 148, 169).

Between 1801-1815, the newly formed United States of America fought **the Barbary Wars** against pirates based in

Tripoli, Tunis, and Algeria. Muslim pirates had seized American merchant ships and enslaved the crews for ransom. Most of the men were pressed into hard labor and kept “in extremely poor conditions that exposed them to vermin and disease.” The Muslim Barbary states demanded tribute from the American government in exchange for not attacking its ships. This piracy began immediately after America gained its independence from Britain in 1784. Two years later, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, two of America’s founding fathers, were sent to London to negotiate with Tripoli’s ambassador, Sidi Haji Abdul Rahman Adja. When asked why the Muslims attacked nations that “had done them no injury,” Adja replied, “It was written in their Koran, that all nations which had not acknowledged the Prophet were sinners, whom it was the right and duty of the faithful to plunder and enslave; and that every mussulman who was slain in this warfare was sure to go to paradise. He said, also, that the man who was the first to board a vessel had one slave over and above his share, and that when they sprang to the deck of an enemy’s ship, every sailor held a dagger in each hand and a third in his mouth; which usually struck such terror into the foe that they cried out for quarter at once” (*Thomas Jefferson Papers*, Series 1 1651-1827, Library of Congress). Note that the Barbary pirates cited the Koran as their authority for attacking and enslaving anyone who is not submitted to Allah. In 1795, America paid \$1 million for the release of 115 sailors, an amount that was one-sixth of the U.S. budget. The pirates demanded an annual payment of the same amount.

When Thomas Jefferson was elected America’s second president in 1801, he and his fellow citizens were of no mind to accept bullying and blackmail. The U.S. Navy was built to protect America against Muslim pirates. One of the most memorable acts of the Barbary War is in 1805 when a force of eight U.S. Marines and 400 Greek and Arab mercenaries,

led by U.S. Navy Lieutenant William Eaton, force marched across 600 miles of desert from Alexandria, Egypt, to capture the city of Derne (or Derna) on the shores of Tripoli. This is memorialized in the U.S. Marine Hymn. By 1816, the Barbary states were forced to cease attacking American and British ships, and this was accomplished by superior force of arms.

Meanwhile slaving continued on the east coast of Africa. Under Omani Arabs in the 19th century as many as 50,000 slaves were passing through Zanzibar each year ("Swahili Coast," *National Geographic*, Oct. 17, 2002). Missionary David Livingstone estimated that 80,000 Africans died each year before ever reaching Zanzibar (*The Last Journals of David Livingstone*).

The Ottomans also traded in slaves in the region of the Black Sea. These slaves were taken in raids by Tatars in Russia and Poland. An estimated three MILLION white Europeans were enslaved between the 14th to the 17th centuries (Alan Fisher, "Muscovy and the Black Sea Slave Trade," *Canadian American Slavic Studies*, 1972, Vol. 6, pp. 575–594). "A Tatar horseman was armed with a saber, bow and quiver with 18–20 arrows. On his belt was a knife, an awl and a flint for making fires. He also carried 10 or 12 yards of rope to tie up prisoners. They were skilled horsemen and each man usually had two spare horses. When crossing a river, they loaded their clothing and equipment on a light raft, tied it to a horse and crossed the river swimming, holding on to the horse's mane. Both large and small groups raided in summer. Winter raids were rare, but always involved large numbers of warriors. When they reached a populated area, groups of several hundred split off from the main body. These spread out through the countryside and surrounded villages. So that no one would escape at night they lit large fires. They then robbed, burned and slaughtered and carried away not only men, women and

children, but bulls, cows, goats and sheep” (“Crimean Tatars Sold Slaves to the Ottoman Empire,” Slavorum.org).

The Ottomans had a practice called *devshirme*, whereby the sultan’s agents would periodically take one-fifth of all boys from Christian families. It was also called *Blood Levy*. It was introduced by Sultan Orkhan (1326-1359). “On a fixed date, all the fathers were ordered to appear with their children in the public square. The recruiting agents chose the most sturdy and handsome children in the presence of a Muslim judge. Any father who shirked his duty to provide children was severely punished. This system was open to all kinds of abuse. The recruiting agents often took more than the prescribed number of children and sold the ‘surplus’ children back to their parents. Those unable to buy back their children had to accept their being sold into slavery” (Ibn Warraq, *Why I Am Not a Muslim*, 1995, p. 231). Parents who resisted were killed. Some parents deliberately mutilated their children to make them unattractive to the recruiting agents. Devshirme continued to be practiced until 1638, but the taking of children for Janissaries continued until 1826.

Some of the strongest and fittest of the children enslaved through devshirme were raised to join an elite military corps called Janissaries (“new soldier”) that formed the Sultan’s guard. It lasted from about 1350 to 1826. They were forced into Islam, trained in strict discipline, and (at first) forbidden to marry. They were trained to be experts in warfare, including the use of explosives, rifles, and canons, beginning in the fifteenth century. In 1591, the Janissaries numbered 49,000. The early Janissaries were personally blessed by Hajji Bektash, founder of the Bektaski dervishes. In 1826, Sultan Abdul Hamid II slaughtered all 26,000 of the Janissaries.

The Condition of the Slaves

Some of the captives were ransomed by their families, but most ended their days as slaves, “dying of starvation, disease, or maltreatment.”

First there was the shock of being captured, oftentimes taken from one’s very home. The Sicilians called it *pigliato dai turchi* (“taken by the Turks”), which meant caught by surprise “perhaps while muddled by sleep.” A Sicilian villager said, “They grabbed women and children; they snatched goods and money, and in a flash, back aboard their galleys, they set their course and vanished.”

The slavers would subject the newly captured people to harsh treatment to intimidate and humiliate them toward pacification.

“To further this mood of fatalistic passivity the corsairs [slave raiders] set about freely abusing and humiliating their new slaves in ways that undermined their sense of self-worth. Claiming that they wanted to make sure no one was concealing cash or jewels inside his clothing or insisting that some passengers were ([circumcised] Jews in disguise, the corsairs might force male slaves to strip naked, encouraging them along with a volley of punches and lashings with a knotted rope. ... White captives of stature ... could be quickly reduced ‘to a piteous state’ even by this simple abuse and thereafter offered no further psychological resistance to their corsair captors. ... Others might have it much worse, however. One of the passengers, possibly because he was thought to know something of his shipmates, might be singled out and tortured systematically in front of the others, to force him to reveal both his true identity and, whenever possible, that of his fellow passengers. The preferred method was to give him 100 or more blows with a stick ... canings were also inflicted on the victims’ stomach, the soles of their feet, or on their lower back ‘almost

enough to break the kidneys” (Robert Davis, *Christian Slaves*, p. 53).

They had to endure nightmare journeys. Those captured by ships had to spend weeks, even months, onboard in a living hell before they arrived on the Barbary Coast.

“... he might decide to put some of his new prisoners straight to work at the oars. Some unfortunates were thus thrown from their accustomed lives of ease to excruciatingly hard labor and short rations in the space of just a few hours. ... More typically, however, captives would be chained together and hustled down to a storage room or hold below deck ... they were ‘chained together in heaps, and thrust up like herrings in the bottom of the ship...’ often to the point where it was difficult for everyone to sit or lie down at once. ... having to ‘creep in, upon our hands and knees,’ into a lockup, where they found it impossible to sleep for ‘such quantities [of] ... vermin, such as lice, bugs and fleas.’ Elliot recalled how ‘we lay in this miserable condition about forty days, oppressed as with many inconveniences, so especially I remember with the stench and nastiness of our lodging” (Davis, pp. 53, 54).

Others captives had to travel long distances overland.

“It will not be difficult to guess how terribly the captives suffered when they had to travel thousands of miles over months to reach foreign capitals ... The terrible sufferings that European captives, caught in the sea by Barbary pirates, endured will give a general idea of their horrifying treatments and sufferings. When Sultan Moulay Ismail captured the fortified town of Taroudant, a French outpost, in 1687 and put the inhabitants to the sword, 120 French citizens found there were enslaved, a treasured gift for the sultan. Upon their capture, they were poked and prodded and declared overfed and denied food for a week. When they started crying for food, the sultan

ordered them on a long march to his capital at Meknes. One of the slaves, Jean Ladire, later recounted the dreadful 300 mile journey to French padre, Dominique Bosnot. Chained and shackled as they were herded along, they suffered from debilitating sickness and fatigue; several of them dropped dead. The heads of the dead were cut off and the survivors had to carry those heads, because their guards feared that the dreaded sultan will accuse them of having sold the missing captives or let them escape” (M.A. Khan, *Islamic Jihad*, p. 224).

They were housed in horrible prison conditions.

“Upon their capture, slaves were accommodated in miserable conditions in infamous underground dungeons, called *matamores* in Africa. Each *matamore* accommodated fifteen to twenty slaves; into these, the only light and ventilation came through a small iron-grate in the roof. In winter, rain poured through the grate flooding the floor. ... Captive Germain Mouette wrote of the horrifying living conditions in *matamores* that ‘the water and sewage frequently bubbled up from the mud floor...’ During humid summer days, the *matamores*, with so many people crammed inside, became ‘filthy, stinking and full of vermin.’ ... The captives received very little food, often ‘nothing but bread and water.’ On the auction day, they were driven like wild beasts, whipped and put through their paces, to the market. [It was called *badestan* in Algier and Tripoli and *Souq el-Berka* in Tunis.] At the auction bazaar, they were jostled through the crowd from one dealer to another. They were made to jump and skip to demonstrate their strength and agility, and fingers were poked into their ears and mouths causing a humiliating spectacle to the wretched captives, who were honorable free men a few days earlier” (M.A. Khan, *Islamic Jihad*, p. 224). The price of the slave was determined by many things,

such as physical condition, health, age, strength, social standing, and skills.

Many slaves worked on state projects such as quarrying stone, felling trees, mining, repairing harbors, digging canals, and constructing buildings.

“Each day they would be given perhaps two or three loaves of black bread--‘that the dogs themselves wouldn’t eat’--and limited water.”

If they collapsed on the job, they were beaten by their cruel masters until they got up or died.

“More terrifying was the unbearable load of hard work and torture which the slaves endured at the hands of the black guards appointed to oversee them. These slave drivers drove them at daybreak to respective works, where they continued toiling until it got dark in the evening. They played the master over their charge of captives and used to take sadistic delight at torturing and beating the poor slaves and making their lives as miserable as possible. They would often torture or torment the white slaves to amuse themselves by making the exhausted souls walk at night or do filthy works. They would punish them for the most negligible lapses in work or other mistakes, by denying them food or beating them with a heavy cudgel that they always carried while on duty. In beating, they chose those parts of the body there it would hurt most. ... Sickness of the slaves was no excuse for missing work. ... If the slaves complained of any pains in their body ... they have iron rods, with buttons of the same metal at the end, as big as walnuts, which they made red hot and burn the wretched patient in several parts. ... [British diplomat] John Harrison observed the torture and suffering of slaves. ‘He [the sultan] would cause men to be drubbed, or beaten almost to death in his presence ... cause some to be beaten on the soles of their feet, and after, make them run up and down among the stones and thorns.’

Harrison added that the sultan ordered some of his slaves be dragged by horses until they were torn to shreds, while a few had been dismembered while alive, with 'their fingers and toes cut off by every joint; arms and legs and so head and all.' ...

"In order to keep his slaves busy, Sultan Moulay Ismail would order them to demolish twelve miles of palace walls for their reconstruction at the same place. When inquired about this, the sultan replied, 'I have a bag full of rats [slaves]; unless I keep that bag stirring, they would eat their way through.' His successor, Moulay Abdallah, was as cruel as his father. In order to subject his slaves to hard labor and keep them busy, he ordered the stunning palace buildings built by his father ... be razed down and reconstructed by his European slaves. And he took sadistic joy at the suffering and even death of his slaves while they worked. 'While the slaves were working,' wrote Frenchman Adrian de Manault, 'one of his pleasures was to put a great number of them at the foot of the wall which was about to collapse, and watch them be buried alive under the rubble.' He treated his slaves in 'a most grievous and cruel manner'" (M.A. Khan, *Islamic Jihad*, pp. 227, 228, 229, 230, 231).

Female slaves had to endure unspeakable horrors. A large percentage of the slaves captured by Muslims were females destined as sex slaves. Many were taken into the harems of Muslim leaders. Female slaves were also sold as household servants.

"Sexual slavery was a central part of the Ottoman slave system throughout the history of the institution."

Females were treated with great cruelty. "In 1814, Swiss explorer Johann Burckhardt wrote of his travels in Egypt and Nubia, where he saw the practice of slave trading: 'I frequently witnessed scenes of the most shameless indecency, which the traders, who were the principal actors,

only laughed at. I may venture to state, that very few female slaves who have passed their tenth year, reach Egypt or Arabia in a state of virginity” (Burckhardt, *Travels in Nubia*).

“The Barbary corsairs once plundered a British ship headed for Barbados ... Among the captives were four women, one of them virgin. This delighted the sultan, who tempted her to give up her Christian faith ‘with promises of great rewards if she would turn Moor and lie with him,’ noted British captive, Francis Brooks. Her refusal enraged the sultan, who ‘caused her to be stript and whipt by his eunuchs with small cords, so long till she lay for dead.’ He then instructed to take her away and feed her nothing but rotten bread. Eventually, the poor girl had no option but to ‘resign her body to him, through her heart was otherwise inclined” (M.A. Khan, *Islamic Jihad*, pp. 225, 226).

Many slaves were forced to row war galleys, “work so strenuous that thousands died or went mad while chained to the oar.”

These were called *galeotti*, and there was a great demand for them until sailing ships replaced galleys in the late seventeenth century. At the peak of the Barbary pirating, 10,000-15,000 slave rowers were required for their fleets. Some in the Turkish sultan’s galleys rowed for years without setting foot on shore. They even had to sleep on their rowing benches.

They “were chained by their wrists to the oar itself and also by their ankles, which were attached to a chain that ran the length of each bench and was bolted to the ship’s ribbing. ... slaves who needed to relieve themselves could make their way to the opening at the hull side of their bench, known as the *borda*, dragging their part of the chain and presumably climbing over their sleeping companions” (Davis, *Christian Slaves*, pp. 76, 77).

They were under the control of cruel masters who could beat them at will.

“Mascarenhas told of how at the beginning of one voyage his galley captain loaded the vessel with fifty ‘big sticks’ for disciplining the *galeotti*, but after just fifteen days, ‘there remained only one of the sticks: all the rest had been broken on the backs of the captives. Thereafter, they whipped with a tarred rope’” (Daviss, p. 129).

The physical labor was excruciating, and even more so when high speed was necessary.

“Situations in hot pursuit or flight ... could require the *galeotti* to row flat out ‘for whole days and nights successively.’ ... the bosun and his mates, along with sundry soldiers, ran back and forth on the ship’s central catwalk, lashing out ... at the oarsmen’s naked backs with a tar-dipped rope’s end” (Davis, p. 77).

Muslim Slavery in Modern Times

In the 1950s, Saudi Arabia’s slave population was estimated at 450,000, or 20% of the population (Peter Newell, “Odds and Ends,” *Socialist Standard*, Apr. 1957).

Slavery is still practiced widely in Sudan and Mauritania. In the latter, slavery has existed since the Arabs conquered it in the 12th century. Though abolished in 1981, the law is not enforced. Estimates of slaves in Mauritania today “range from 100,000 to more than a half-million.” Slaves “are used for labor, sex and breeding. The property of their masters, they are passed down through generations, given as wedding gifts or exchanged for camels, trucks, guns or money. ... According to a Human Rights Watch/Africa report, routine punishments for slaves in Mauritania--for the slightest fault--include beatings, denial of food and prolonged exposure to the sun, with hands and feet tied together. More serious infringement of the master’s rule (in American

slave-owning parlance, ‘getting uppity’) can lead to prolonged tortures known as ‘the camel treatment,’ in which the slave’s body is slowly torn apart; the ‘insect treatment,’ in which tiny desert insects are inserted and sealed into the ear canal until the slave is driven mad; and ‘burning coals,’ a torture not fit to describe in a family newspaper” (“Arabs Have Black Slaves Today,” *Israel National News*, Mar. 29, 2013).

Judgment on Apostate Christianity

As God raised up pagan nations to judge apostate Israel of old, so it would appear that God raised up Islam to judge apostate Christianity.

As the centuries passed after the days of the apostles, large numbers of churches turned from the simple New Testament faith to the heresies of sacramentalism (i.e., infant baptism and the mass), sacerdotalism (priestcraft), and the papacy. Christianity became the state religion of the Roman Empire under Constantine in the fourth century.

After the fall of the western portion of the empire, with its headquarters in Rome, the center of “Christendom” shifted east to Constantinople. The Byzantine Empire was “Christian,” but it was apostate.

Byzantine heresies include salvation through baptism and the sacraments, infant baptism, priestcraft, a form of transubstantiation (*metousiosis*) in which the wafer of the mass becomes the actual body of Christ, Mary as the Mother of God, prayers for the dead, prayers to Mary, intercession of the “saints,” the canonicity of the Apocrypha, miracle-working icons, and holy relics, among others.

Islam conquered the Christian Byzantine Empire and part of Christian Europe, which was largely Roman Catholic.

The entire region which was first evangelized and where the apostolic churches existed became apostate and was conquered by the Muslims.

They destroyed countless church buildings and turned others into mosques.

An example is the Hagia Sophia (“Holy Wisdom”) in Constantinople. From its original construction in AD 360 by Emperor Constantius, son of Constantine, it was the *cathedra* or bishop’s seat of the eastern branch of the Roman Catholic Church. Originally called Megale Ekklesia (“Great

Church”), its name was changed in about AD 430. The current building was constructed in 537 by Emperor Justinian I. After the separation of the Greek Orthodox Church from Rome in 1054, Hagia Sophia was the chief cathedra of Greek Orthodoxy. When the Muslims conquered Constantinople in 1453, it was desecrated and made into a mosque.

Islamic terrorism is a further judgment upon apostate Christianity in our day.

Many of the nations that are targeted by Islam are nations that are historically and nominally “Christian”: America, England, and Europe. The more advanced the apostasy in a particular region, the more success Islam has had. The countries in Europe where Islam has made its greatest inroads are the countries where “Christianity” is most polluted.

Of the 24 million Muslims in Europe, there are two million in Roman Catholic France and more than a million in Germany, with its apostate Lutheran Church. German Lutheranism was the mother of damnable theological modernism in the 19th century.

“Serge Trifvovic gives startling statistics as to present developments and future Islamic goals: ‘In 30 years, the Muslim population of Great Britain rose from 82,000 to two million. In Germany, there are four million Muslims, mostly Turks, and over five million in France, mostly North Africans. ... Almost a tenth of all babies born in EU countries are Muslims, and in the moribund Brussels, the figure was over 50 percent. With the expanding numbers and the creation of distinctly Muslim neighborhoods in Western, primarily European cities, the initial detachment of culture from territory has been reversed, and **the bold notion of conquest by demographic rather than military means entered the activist’s minds. The blueprint was developed over two decades ago, in 1981, when the Third Islamic Summit Conference of**

Kaaba adopted the *Mecca Declaration*. It stated as follows: ‘We have resolved to conduct jihad with all the means at our disposal so as to free our territory from occupation. [The whole world is their territory.] We declare that the oppression suffered by Muslim minorities and communities in many countries is a flagrant offense against the rights and dignity of man. We appeal to all states in which there are Islamic minorities to allow them full liberty. We are convinced of the need to propagate the precepts of Islam and its cultural influence in Muslim societies and throughout the world’” (Gene Gurganus, *Peril of Islam*, pp. 53, 54).

There are “no go” zones in France, Germany, Britain, and other parts of Europe, where Muslims are in such complete control that the police don’t typically intervene and Sharia law is in force rather than national and local law.

In France they are called *zones urbaines sensibles* (sensitive urban zones), or ZUS.

The following is excerpted from a report published by the Gatestone Institute in 2011:

“Many of the ‘no-go’ zones function as microstates governed by Islamic Sharia law. Host-country authorities effectively have lost control in these areas and in many instances are unable to provide even basic public aid such as police, fire fighting and ambulance services.

“The ‘no-go’ areas are the by-product of decades of multicultural policies that have encouraged Muslim immigrants to create parallel societies and remain segregated rather than become integrated into their European host nations. ...

“In the Tower Hamlets area of East London (also known as the Islamic Republic of Tower Hamlets), for example, extremist Muslim preachers, called the Tower Hamlets Taliban, regularly issue death threats

to women who refuse to wear Islamic veils. Neighborhood streets have been plastered with posters declaring 'You are entering a Sharia controlled zone: Islamic rules enforced.' And street advertising deemed offensive to Muslims is regularly vandalized or blacked out with spray paint.

"In the Bury Park area of Luton, Muslims have been accused of 'ethnic cleansing' by harassing non-Muslims to the point that many of them move out of Muslim neighborhoods. In the West Midlands, two Christian preachers have been accused of 'hate crimes' for handing out gospel leaflets in a predominantly Muslim area of Birmingham. In Leytonstone in east London, the Muslim extremist Abu Izzadeen heckled the former Home Secretary John Reid by saying: 'How dare you come to a Muslim area.'

"In France, large swaths of Muslim neighborhoods are now considered 'no-go' zones by French police. At last count, there are 751 Sensitive Urban Zones (Zones Urbaines Sensibles, ZUS), as they are euphemistically called. A complete list of the ZUS can be found on a French government website, complete with satellite maps and precise street demarcations. An estimated 5 million Muslims live in the ZUS, parts of France over which the French state has lost control. ...

"In the Belgian capital of Brussels (which is 20% Muslim), several immigrant neighborhoods have become 'no-go' zones for police officers, who frequently are pelted with rocks by Muslim youth. In the Kuregem district of Brussels, which often resembles an urban war zone, police are forced to patrol the area with two police cars: one car to carry out the patrols and another car to prevent the first car from being attacked. ...

"In Germany, Chief Police Commissioner Bernhard Witthaut, in an August 1 interview with the newspaper *Der Westen*, revealed that Muslim

immigrants are imposing ‘no-go’ zones in cities across Germany at an alarming rate. ...

“In the Netherlands, a Dutch court ordered the government to release to the public a politically incorrect list of 40 ‘no-go’ zones in Holland. ...

“In Sweden, which has some of the most liberal immigration laws in Europe, large swaths of the southern city of Malmö – which is more than 25% Muslim--are ‘no-go’ zones for non-Muslims. Fire and emergency workers, for example, refuse to enter Malmö’s mostly Muslim Rosengård district without police escorts. ...

“In the Swedish city of Gothenburg, Muslim youth have been hurling petrol bombs at police cars. In the city’s Angered district more than 15 police cars have been destroyed ...

“In Gothenburg’s Backa district, youth have been throwing stones at patrolling officers. Gothenburg police have also been struggling to deal with the problem of Muslim teenagers burning cars and attacking emergency services in several areas of the city” (“European ‘No-Go’ Zones for Non-Muslims Proliferating,” Gatestone Institute, Aug. 22, 2011).

In 2015, a Jewish journalist video recorded anti-Semitic hate on Paris streets. The following is excerpted from “Ten Hours of Fear and Loathing in Paris,” NRG.co.il, Feb. 17, 2015:

“Welcome to Paris 2015, where soldiers are walking every street that houses a Jewish institution, and where keffiyeh-wearing men and veiled women speak Arabic on every street corner. ... In modern-day Paris, you see, Jews are barred from entering certain areas. ...

“For 10 hours I quietly walked down the streets and suburbs of Paris, with photographer Dov Belhassen documenting the day using a GoPro camera hidden in his backpack. Given the tensions in Paris, which is still

reeling from a wave of terrorist attacks (including the murder of *Charlie Hebdo* magazine journalists), I was assigned a bodyguard. ...

“Areas known as tourist attractions were relatively calm, but the further from them we walked, the more anxious I became over the hateful stares, the belligerent remarks, and the hostile body language. At times it was like walking in downtown Ramallah. Most women were wearing a veil or a hijab, most men appeared to be Muslim, and Arabic was prevalent everywhere.

“We decided ahead of time that I was to walk through these areas quietly, without stopping anywhere, without speaking to anyone, without so much as looking sideways. My heart was pounding and negative thoughts were running through my head. I would be lying if I said I was not afraid.

“Walking into a public housing neighborhood, we came across a little boy and his hijab-clad mother, who were clearly shocked to see us. ‘What is he doing here Mommy? Doesn’t he know he will be killed?’ the boy asked. ... Over at a nearby street I was lambasted with expletives ... At a nearby cafe, fingers were pointed at us, and moments later two thugs were waiting for us on the street corner. They swore at me, yelled ‘Jew,’ and spat at me. ... Two youths were waiting for us on the next street corner, as they had apparently heard that a Jew was walking around their neighborhood. They made it clear to us that we had better get out of there, and we took their advice. ‘A few more minutes and this would have been a lynching,’ the bodyguard told me as we were getting into the car. ‘Leave this area right now.’”

There are 80 million Muslims in Russia where the apostate Russian Orthodox Church reigns.

Consider England, with its apostate Anglican Church. In 1953, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the highest office in the

Church of England, said that “there is no such thing as revealed truth” (William Temple, *Nature and God*). In 1961, Archbishop Michael Ramsey said that “heaven is not a place for Christians only” (*London Daily Mail*, Oct. 2, 1961). In 1982, Archbishop Robert Runcie said he was an agnostic as to why Jesus suffered on the cross (*Sunday Times Weekly Review*, London, April 11, 1982). In 1984, David Jenkins, Anglican Bishop of Durham, described Christ’s bodily resurrection as “a conjuring trick with bones” (*St. Louis Post Dispatch*, Oct. 28, 1984). That same year, the Associated Press reported that only 20 of 31 Church of England bishops polled insisted that Christians must accept Jesus as God. In July 31, 1994, the *Sunday Times* reported that at least 100 Anglican priests were atheists.

Is it any surprise that England is being overrun with Muslims? Between 2001 and 2011, the Muslim population doubled from 1.5 million to 2.7 million, or almost five percent of the population. Three million people live in households where no adult speaks English as their primary language. In London, “white British” are now a minority.

And a large percentage of these are not so-called “moderate” Muslims.

“In 2013, Ruud Koopmans published the results of a pan-European study, based on interviews with 9,000 European Muslims, which showed large numbers of European Muslims believe in many of the ideas championed by the Islamic State: a return to the roots of Islam, the conviction that religious (Quranic) law stands above all secular laws; a hatred of Jews and homosexuals; and a view of the West as the enemy of Islam. ...

“More recently, in the aftermath of the *Charlie Hebdo* massacre, the BBC surveyed 1,000 British Muslims, and found that 24 percent consider ‘violence against those who publish images of the Prophet’ is justified. Asked whether ‘Muslim clerics preaching that

violence against the West can be justified are out of touch with mainstream Muslim opinion,' 45 percent disagreed. Put another way, **nearly half of British Muslims stand comfortably by those clerics who justify violence against the West. ...**

"And that's just in the U.K. Sadly, one can no longer pass these views off as those of a 'small minority' of Europe's Muslims. Across Western Europe, Koopmans' study determined, 'Two thirds of the Muslims interviewed say that religious rules are more important to them than the laws of the country in which they live. Three quarters of the respondents hold the opinion that there is only one legitimate interpretation of the Quran.' ...

"Moreover, 56 percent of Belgian and 64 percent of Austrian Muslims responding to Koopmans' survey in 2008 agreed that 'Jews cannot be trusted,' and indications are strong that Muslim attitudes towards Jews have only worsened. Indeed, with the targeted killings of Jews in Brussels, Paris, and Copenhagen over the past year, Muslim hate towards Jews in Europe has now reached a crisis.

"Clearly, we are watching trends that stretch across all of Europe. **The issue here is one of trends, and these trends, which involve hundreds of thousands of radical, fundamentalist Muslims, paint a deeply disturbing picture**" ("Radicalization of Europe's Muslims Hits a Crisis Point," Breitbart.com, Mar. 23, 2015).

We are convinced that these Islamic inroads into "Christian" countries is a judgment on apostasy.

A Judgment on Apostate Israel

Though Israel is back in her own land after 2,000 years and has achieved statehood, she is still under God's judgment.

The prophet Ezekiel foresaw the return of Israel in two stages.

“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, and caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

“So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

“Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD” (Ezekiel 37:1-14).

In this prophecy, Israel is described as a valley of dry bones. Verse 11 gives the interpretation: “these bones are the whole house of Israel.”

This was Israel’s condition for the past 2,000 years. She was scattered to the ends of the earth, and it appeared that she was dead and finished.

Ezekiel is told that Israel will be restored in two stages.

First, she will be brought back to the land but in a spiritually dead condition. Verse 8 says that when the dead bones were first raised “there was no breath in them.”

Then, she will be given spiritual life. Verse 10 says “the breath came into them, and they lived.”

We are observing the first stage today.

At midnight on May 14, 1948, the new state of Israel was announced. The official declaration said:

“We hereby proclaim the establishment of the Jewish State in Palestine, to be called *Medinath Yisrael* (The State of Israel). ... The State of Israel will be open to the immigration of Jews from all countries of their dispersion ... Our call goes out to the Jewish people all over the world to rally to our side in the task of immigration and development and to stand by us in the great struggle for the fulfillment of the dream of

generations for the redemption of Israel. With trust in Almighty God, we set our hand to this Declaration, at this Session of the Provisional State Council, on the soil of the Homeland, in the city of Tel Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the fifth of Iyar, 5708, the fourteenth of May, 1948.”

Eleven minutes later U.S. President Harry Truman, a Baptist who believed Bible prophecy, announced his recognition of Israel.

Truman’s decision was hard fought. He was strongly opposed by the U.S. State Department, which favored a United Nations trusteeship over Palestine. The State Department took a pragmatic view, seeing the need for the free flow of oil from Muslim nations in the face of the very real possibility of war with Russia. They did not want to offend the Muslims for the sake of a “few Jews.”

James Forrestal, Truman’s secretary of defense, warned that recognition of Israel would be in vain because the Arabs would “push the Jews into the sea” (David McCullough, *Truman*, p. 602).

Truman withstood this pressure because of his biblical convictions. We don’t know how much he read the Bible in his adult years, but it is said that he read it through three times before age fourteen.

Clark Clifford, who was special counsel to Truman, said that the president “was a student and believer in the Bible since his youth” and that “from his reading of the Old Testament he felt the Jews derived a legitimate historical right to Palestine, and he sometimes cited such biblical lines as Deuteronomy 1:8: ‘Behold, I have given up the land before you; go in and take possession of the land which the Lord hath sworn unto your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob’” (“President Truman’s Decision to Recognize Israel,” Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, May 1, 2008).

Time magazine said there was immense approval for Israel’s recognition among Americans. Popular radio

commentator Lowell Thomas commented in his evening broadcast that “Americans in every part of the country will be turning to the Bible for some historical background on this day in history” (*Truman*, p. 619).

The Jews celebrated throughout the world. Thanksgiving services were held in synagogues everywhere.

It was a most dramatic fulfillment of Ezekiel 37.

Israel has been able to hold on to her statehood in the face of the unrelenting animosity of her Muslim neighbors and world opinion, and there is no doubt that it is God who has brought this to pass.

Yet it must not be forgotten that Israel is still under the judgment of God for her unbelief and disobedience to His law.

Israel is still spiritually dead, just as Ezekiel prophesied.

The signs are all too evident.

Israel’s spiritual blindness is evident in her stubborn rejection of her own Messiah in spite of the fact that Jesus fulfilled every sign of Messianic prophecy.

Israel’s spiritual death is evident in that a large percentage of Jews today are “secular,” meaning they care little or nothing about the Old Testament Scripture. Many of Israel’s most revered modern heroes were agnostics, including Theodor Herzl, David ben Gurion, Golda Meir, and Moshe Dayan.

Israel’s spiritual death is evident in that she has exalted rabbinic tradition to an authority above God’s Word.

Finally, Israel’s spiritual blindness is evident in her confusion about Bible prophecy. Though she has a vague idea that prophecy is being fulfilled, the true meaning of the prophecies remains a closed book.

Israel is still under God’s judgment and still under the judgment of Deuteronomy 28.

“But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee” (Deut. 28:15).

“And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee” (Deut. 28:37).

“And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God” (Deut. 28:62).

“And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind” (Deut. 28:64-65).

The fact that Israel is still in constant danger even in her own land, and the fact that Jews are unwelcome in major parts of the Middle East, and the fact that Jews have been attacked and slaughtered in places as far-flung as India and Africa, and the fact that Jews live in fear in many parts of Europe, is a continual fulfillment of this ancient prophecy.

And since it is Islam more than any other entity that is behind Israel's trouble today, it is obvious that Islam is God's instrument toward this end.

Islam is definitely a fulfillment of Bible prophecy!

Until Israel repents of her unbelief and disobedience, she will remain under the heel of the Gentile nations and in constant danger from her enemies.

Islam's Fundamental Weakness

Islam has a fundamental weakness, which is its internecine hatred and division.

“And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand” (Matthew 12:25).

From its inception, Islam has been a house divided, and the divisions are countless. Muslim history reminds us of a Middle East rendition of the Hatfields and the McCoys on steroids.

“Perhaps the single most remarkable feature of the Islamic territories was almost ceaseless internal conflict: the intricate plots, assassinations, and betrayals form a lethal soap opera” (*God's Battalians*, p. 47).

It cannot be denied that Muslims are world-class haters.

Multitudes of Muslim leaders have been murdered by their fellow Muslims, beginning with many of the first caliphs.

There are tribal divisions, such as among Muslim Tajiks, Muslim Pushtans, Muslim Hazaras, and Muslim Uzbeks of Afghanistan.

There are divisions between Arabs and Arabs, Arabs and Persians, and Arabs and Turks that go back for centuries.

There are ethnic divisions, such as the ancient divisions along Persian and Assyrian lines and the hatred of the Kurds by other groups of Muslims. Kurds have been murdered and relocated *by the millions* by their fellow Muslims in Turkey, Armenia, Iraq, and Syria. Most Kurds are Sunni Muslim, though they have their own language and culture.

There are strong national divisions, especially since the 19th century, such as the divisions of the Arabs into the nation states of Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, etc.

A Prophecy of Ishmael's Character

In fact, the violent character of the Arab nations was described in the ancient prophecy to Ishmael's mother:

“And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou *art* with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. And he will be a wild man; his hand *will be* against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren” (Gen. 16:10-12).

Every aspect of this amazing prophecy has been fulfilled physically in Ishmael's Arab descendants and spiritually in the Muslims, his spiritual descendants.

First, he would be a wild, fierce, bold, violent, untamable man, like a wild ass.

Second, he would be quarrelsome, hateful, plundering, always at war.

Third, he would dwell in the presence of all his brethren. This might mean that his descendants will remain in that same region. It might refer to the social, communal spirit of the Arabians. It might mean that Ishmael's descendants will continue to dwell in the presence of, and be thorns in the side of, their brethren the sons of Isaac. It might mean that Ishmael's descendants will hold their ground in the face of many enemies and continue to dwell in their midst. They have neither been tamed nor destroyed.

Fourth, his offspring would be a great multitude.

“History has proven this prophecy to be true, the Arabs are the independent, fierce, unbroken survivors that the Angel said they would be. They have also multiplied into a great nation, there are hundreds of millions of Arabs, there are 22 Arab nations in the Middle East and North Africa, and through Islam, Arab culture is predominant in 57 nations of the world.

“But also true is the Muslim/Arab inability to live in peace. Contrary to contemporary ‘wisdom’ **there is no place on earth where Islam has ever wrought any kind of peace, other than the peace of the dead!** When the Arabs are not at war with the rest of the world, they are fighting among themselves. Arab against Arab, and Muslim against Muslim is the rule and not the exception.

“And the Muslim/Arabs have a fierce, unyielding hatred for their younger brother Jacob (i.e., Israel). Not all Arabs are the physical descendants of Ishmael, but through Islam they are in spiritual affinity with Ishmael’s disenfranchisement from Abraham in favor of the second son of Abraham, Isaac, the child of God’s promise. Islam nurtures the original grievance of Ishmael and Hagar, his equally disenfranchised mother. The Scripture calls this hatred, ‘the perpetual hatred’ (Ezek. 35:5) and predicts that this hatred of Ishmael for Isaac, Esau for Jacob, will be the catalyst for the final judgments to come down upon the whole world (Ezekiel 35:2-15)” (Bill Randles, *A Sword on the Land: The Muslim World in Biblical Prophecy*).

Pre-Muslim Violence

As this prophecy predicts, violence and rampage is not something that began with the Muslims in the seventh century AD. It has always been a part of the Arabian and Iranian culture.

In response to Arabian incursions into Iran, the Sasanian emperor Shapur II (AD 309-79) spread destruction across northeastern Arabia:

“He marched through the land of Bahrain, killing its people ... He reached Hajar, where there were nomads from the tribes of Tamim, Bakr ibn Wa’il and ‘Abd al-Qays. He spread general slaughter among them and shed so much of their blood that it flowed like a torrent swollen by a rainstorm. ... After this he turned aside to the lands of ‘Abd al-Qays and destroyed all the people except for those who fled into the desert sands. He passed on to Yamama where he made general slaughter like that of the previous occasion. He did not pass by any of the local Arabs’ springs of water without blocking them up, nor any of their cisterns without filling them in” (Robert Hoyland, *Arabia and the Arabs*, 2001, p. 28).

Azdhfiruz son of Gushnas, governor of Bahrain, was called “the mutilator” because he cut off hands and feet as a method of punishment (Hoyland, p. 29). This was the century before Mohammad.

Sasanian Emperor Khosro I (AD 531-79) destroyed some of his enemies by lying to them. His envoy promised them provisions, but instead “he massacred their menfolk and spared only the boys” (Hoyland, p. 29).

Sunnis vs. Shiites

The major division within Islam is that between the Sunnis and the Shiites, though this major divide is broken into many smaller schisms.

The Sunni-Shiite division resulted from the struggle over the successor to Muhammad as the caliph of all Muslims, and it has bloody consequences to our day. The early Muslim civil wars were exacerbated by Muhammad’s polygamy and the multiplicity of children by various wives.

The Shiites (Shia) trace their lineage to Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law Ali Ibn Abi Talib, who was married to Muhammad's favorite daughter Fatimah by his wife Khadijah. (The name "Shiite" is from "Shiat-u-Ali" or the party of Ali.)

The Sunnis trace their lineage to Abu Bakr, the father of Muhammad's favorite wife Aisha.

After Muhammad's death in 632, Bakr became the first caliph. He died two years later, possibly by poisoning.

Umar (Omar) ibn al-Khattab, another of Muhammad's fathers-in-law, became the second Islamic caliph. He was assassinated in 644 by Muslims.

Uthman ibn Affan, one of Muhammad's sons-in-law, was the third caliph. (Uthman was married to two of Muhammad's daughters at separate times.) He was assassinated in 656 by Muslims.

Ali Ibn Abi Talib was then appointed to head the caliphate.

Ali was opposed by Muhammad's third wife Aisha, who held deep resentment toward him because he believed that she had been unfaithful to Muhammad at age 13 and had advised Muhammad to divorce her.

In 656, the 45-year-old Aisha led an army of thousands against the forces allied with Ali at the Battle of the Camel, in Basra, Iraq, but she lost the battle. It is estimated that from ten to eighteen thousand Muslims died. Her life was spared, and she retired to Medina, where she lived until 678. This is called the Battle of the Camel because Aisha was riding a rare, exceptionally large camel named al-Askar that had cost 200 gold coins, and the battle ended when the camel was killed.

This was the initial fracture of Islam into Shiite and Sunni.

Shiites consider the caliphates of Bakr, Umar, and Uthman illegitimate, whereas Sunnis revere all of them,

calling them the *Companions of the Prophet*. Shiites do not respect Aisha, whereas Sunnis revere her.

Shiites revere their Imams, building grand monuments to their memories, and this has been considered blasphemous to Sunnis.

In 661, Ali was assassinated by Muslims, and the caliphate was taken by Muawiyah ibn Abu Sufyan, the first caliph who was not related to Muhammad.

When Muawiyah died in 680, he appointed his son Yazid as caliph. Ali's son Husayn ibn Ali challenged this succession with a desire to return the caliphate to what he considered the rightful heirs, but he was killed and beheaded by his fellow Muslims at the Battle of Karbala.

This is marked as the event that permanently separated Shiites and Sunnis. Shiites consider Husayn a martyr and remember his death with an annual commemoration called *Ashurah*

“Perhaps even more importantly, the Shia and Sunni traditions disagree strongly on two related matters: the question of divinity in the succession from Muhammad and the role of the clergy in the practice of Islam. While the Sunni believe that all humans, past and present, have had the same relationship to God, the Shia hold that Ali and the eleven leaders of the Shia faith who followed him--the twelve Imams--were divinely inspired and infallible in their judgements. The Twelfth Imam is believed not to have died, but to have passed into ‘occultation,’ to return someday as the ‘Mahdi’ or guided one, to lead a perfected Islamic society.

“Most Shia--including the large Iranian Shia population--recognize the twelve Imams, and are thus referred to as ‘Twelvers’ (minority branches of the Shia traditions only recognize the line up to the Fifth or Seventh Imams). The Imams are treated as saints, and their tombs have become pilgrimage sites. Given

the messianic belief in the return of the Twelfth Imam, a hierarchical organization of clerics ... grew up to manage Islam until his return; these clerics are themselves understood to hold an elevated spiritual status.

“This is in distinct opposition to the Sunni tradition, in which the ‘ulema’ (clerics) function simply as prayer leaders and legal interpreters, recognized only for their learning and expertise in jurisprudence. Furthermore, the Sunni strictly oppose the “saintly” role the Imams play in Shia faith, since in Sunni interpretation this is equivalent to the elevation of humans to godly status, and thus forbidden” (“Redlines and Deadlines,” PBS.org, Sept. 23, 2004.

Both Sunnis and Shiites accept the Quran as God’s Word and hold to the Five Pillars of Islam, but one way to distinguish between them is in their prayer rituals. Sunnis put their hands on their stomachs, while Shiites put their hands at their sides.

Sunnis consider themselves the traditional Muslims. The name “Sunni” comes from “Ahl al-Sunna” which means “the people of the tradition.” Typically they have practiced the strictest form of Islamic or Sharia law.

Shiites and Sunnis have been killing one another for more than 1,300 years.

“Within a very few years after Muhammad’s murder, more than one hundred thousand Muslims had been killed in battle or were likewise murdered by fellow Muslims. Muhammad’s closest companions and staunchest disciples (some of whom he had praised as perfect Muslims and to whom he had promised Paradise without martyrdom) fought each other for his wealth and power” (Dave Hunt, *Judgment Day*, p. 154).

“Tension and violence characterize the relationship between the two sects in countries where both communities reside” (“Sunni and Shiite Terrorist Networks,” Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, Dec. 18, 2002).

In the thirteenth century, Ibn Taymiyyah, founder of Salafism, excommunicated the Shiites and called for their destruction as apostates.

“Ibn Taymiyyah--the godfather of Salafism--was invoked for his commandment, ‘Beware of the Shiites, fight them, they lie.’ ... [By Taymiyyah’s rule] a Muslim has to abide by three criteria of *tawhid*, or monotheism: to worship God, to worship only God, and to have the right creed. In the medieval period, Ibn Taymiyyah used the foregoing criteria of *tawhid* to excommunicate the Shia and Sufis after he established that their practices and beliefs--including the veneration of imams--compromised their worship of God alone” (Michael Weiss and Hassan Hassan, *ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror*).

Sunnis make up 85-90% of Muslims today, including the majority in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Pakistan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, India, China, Tunisia, Gaza, Turkey, and Lebanon.

Shiites form a majority in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Bahrain, Azerbaijan, and possibly Yemen. While Pakistan has a Sunni majority, it also has the second largest number of Shiites, after Iran. India also has a massive number of Shiite Muslims, though they form the minority overall.

Even though Shiites make up only 10-15 percent of the total Muslim population, they still number somewhere between 165 and 190 million people.

Sunnis push the harshest form of Sharia law and have birthed the most infamous of the modern terrorist groups, including Al Qaeda, the Taliban, the Islamic State (ISIS or ISIL), the Muslim Brotherhood, Salafists, Boko Haram in

Nigeria, Hamas, the Moro National Liberation Front and Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines, Jemaah Islamiyah and Laskar Jihad (responsible for the Bali bombings in 2002) in Indonesia, the BRN-Coordinate in Thailand, Al Shabaab in Somalia (responsible for the murder of 147 students, mostly targeted Christians, at a university in Garissa, Kenya, April 2, 2015), Kampulan Mujahidin in Malaysia, and the Chechnyan terrorists.

In 2011, Sunnis committed 70% of terrorist murders (“Report on Terrorism,” National Counterterrorism Center, March 12, 2012).

This is not to say that no Shiite Muslims are terrorists. Hezbollah is Shiite, and Shiite Iran is a terrorist state that threatens Israel’s existence, is near to possessing the nuclear bomb, and aspires to creating a Shiite caliphate.

Sunni-Shiite infighting explains many aspects of what is happening in the world today.

The greatest focus of violent, revolutionary, jihadist Muslims today is toward fellow Muslims.

“The betrayal and murder of Muslims at the hands of their fellows continues to this day. Scarcely a Muslim regime is not ruled by a dictator who seized power from other Muslims, as in Syria and Iraq” (Hunt, *Judgment Day*, p. 156).

This explains the situation in **IRAN AND IRAQ**.

The Iranian revolution of 1979 created a Shiite theocracy in a large, oil-rich nation with the agenda of establishing a Shiite caliphate across the Middle East, and Iran still has this agenda.

The Iran-Iraq war of 1980-88 had a major Sunni-Shiite element, though there were other factors (such as ancient Persian-Arab animosity and longstanding conflicts over territorial and water rights). The Sunni Saddam Hussein, leader of Iraq, ruling over a Shiite majority, attacked Iran soon after the Shiite religious revolution. With good cause,

he feared that the revolution would be joined by his own Shiite citizens. Iran had long supported organizations opposed to Hussein's Baath party, and Iran's new leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, was trying to foment revolution in Iraq and other Arab states. Shiite terrorism was believed to be responsible for the deaths of 20 Iraqi government officials in 1980 alone ("Sunni-Shia Tensions in the Iran-Iraq War," E-International Relations Students, Apr. 21, 2012).

When Shiites and Kurds rose against Hussein, he slaughtered them by the tens of thousands.

Nouri Al-Maliki, who has been Iraq's Prime Minister since 2006, is a Shiite ruling a Sunni minority. When America pulled out its troops in 2011, Maliki began rooting Sunnis out of top positions in the government and overlooking the torture and murder of Sunnis by Shiite militia.

"Iraq has a Shia-majority population, a Shia-led government under Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, and an embattled Sunni minority, which dominated the country for centuries, from the Ottoman Empire until the U.S. invasion deposed Saddam Hussein in 2003. ... 'The prime minister, a Shiite, has failed abysmally in creating a formula to share power with the Sunnis, the traditional political masters in Iraq'" (Joe Mintz, "How the Sunni-Shiite Conflict Frames the Current Crisis in Iraq," *International Business Times*, June 17, 2014).

"[Former Deputy Prime Minister Rafi al-Issawi] listed the Sunni grievances that had simmered until they had finally boiled over. Maliki had detained thousands of Sunnis without trial, pushed leading Sunnis out of the political process by accusing them of terrorism, and reneged on payments and pledges to the Awakening members who had bravely fought al-Qaida in Iraq--its leaders were dead, fled, or in jail. The request by provincial councils in Salah al-Din, Diyala, and Mosul to hold a vote on the formation of regions--in

accordance with the Constitution--was prevented by force. Peaceful, yearlong Sunni protests demanding an end to discrimination were met by violence, with dozens of unarmed protesters killed by Iraqi security forces. Maliki had completely subverted the judiciary to his will, so that Sunnis felt unable to achieve any form of justice" ("How Obama Abandoned Iraq," *Business Insider*, Apr. 17, 2015).

The Islamic State (ISIL), which has conquered a large part of Iraqi territory, has the objective of establishing a Sunni Muslim caliphate and has declared that Shiite Muslims deserve death. ISIL appeals to Iraqi Sunnis who resent the way they have been treated by the Shiites and desire to regain their power base ("ISIL terrorists raises flag at Turkish border," AhlulBayt News Agency, Jul. 1, 2014).

"Maliki's new lease on life led him to steer Baghdad 'toward a very pro-Iranian and sectarian agenda, which inevitably disillusioned and disenfranchised Sunni Arabs for a second time.' The rise and resilience of the Islamic State, which rampaged across northern Iraq from neighboring Syria last summer, is partly a manifestation of this Sunni discontent" ("A former top adviser destroyed Obama's Iraq policy in one sentence," *Business Insider*, Apr. 14, 2015).

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, founder of al-Qaeda in Iraq, the predecessor to ISIL, has been hailed as the descendant of Ibn Taymiyyah, founder of Salafism. Al-Zarqawi called the Shiites "the lurking snake, the crafty and malicious scorpion, the spying enemy, and the penetrating venom" (Michael Weiss and Hassan Hassan, *ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror*, p. 28). Al-Zarqawi's brutalism, especially his love for "head lopping," earned him the title "Sheikh of the Slaughterers" from his admiring fellow terrorists.

The Islamic State (ISIL) is simply the latest incarnation of Sunni anti-Shiite terrorism in Iraq.

“The United States has been at war with ISIS for the better part of a decade under its various incarnations, first as al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), then, then Mujahidin Advisory Council, and then the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI). ... If ever there was a familiar foe, ISIS was it” (*ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror*).

Iran is fighting against the Islamic State in Iraq by assisting Shiite militia groups, but it has its own agenda of conquering Iraq for a Shiite caliphate.

“In the contest for regional dominance with the Sunni kingdom of Saudi Arabia, **Iran’s Shiites have extended their reach and created what has been called an ‘arc of power’ or a Shia crescent.** The Iranian sphere of power now stretches across **Iraq**, where Iran has joined in the fighting to beat back ISIS, to **Syria**, where the government in Tehran has worked to keep President Bashar al-Assad in power throughout the country’s four-year civil war. It stretches to **Lebanon**, where the Iranian-backed Hezbollah is the unquestioned power and is pushing to enter the political mainstream. And it has spread to **Yemen**, where Houthi rebels, a Zaidi Shia group, recently took control of the government. ... While Syria was a former ally of Iran, today, it is more or less its proxy. Hezbollah has similarly shifted from a Shiite force supported by Tehran into Iran’s surrogate” (“Iran is creating an ‘arc of power,’” *Business Insider*, Mar. 18, 2015).

In Iraq, the Islamic State is killing Shiites (*and* Sunnis), while Shiite militias are killing Sunnis (*and* Shiites):

“According to Human Rights Watch, Iraqi security forces and volunteer fighters ransacked and burned down homes of civilian Sunni Muslims after they liberated the town of Amerli from the Islamic State. The report states that the militias destroyed at least two entire villages. ... ‘Iraq clearly faces serious threats in conflict with ISIS, but the abuses committed by

forces fighting ISIS are so rampant and egregious that they are threatening Iraq long term,' Joe Stork, HRW's deputy Middle East and North Africa director told *The Independent* ("ISIS blows up 10 Christian Families' Homes," *The Christian Post*, Mar. 26, 2015).

In **SAUDI ARABIA**, Sunnis are in power in the form of the Saudi royal family.

"Most Shia holy places in the kingdom have been destroyed. A particularly rabid brand of local Sunni fundamentalism entwined with the state, known as Wahhabism, places severe restrictions on Shia practices, with some leaders being jailed" ("How the Sunni-Shiite Conflict Frames the Current Crisis in Iraq," *International Business Times*, June 17, 2014).

Saudi Arabia has exported its Wahhabism by building mosques and schools and providing support for terrorists in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Most of the hijackers who attacked the World Trade Center were from Saudi Arabia, though the royal family denounced the act publicly.

Currently, Saudi Arabia is bombing the Shiite Houthi forces in Yemen ("US Worried about Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard training Houthi rebels," *Business Insider*, Mar. 28, 2015).

In **AFGHANISTAN**, the Sunni Taliban received the greatest support from Sunnis in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, and from Sunni Al Qaeda. The Taliban have often attacked Shiite places of worship.

In **NIGERIA**, Boko Haram, a Sunni organization that has vowed allegiance to the Islamic State, has targeted Shiite Muslims as well as Christians ("Suicide bomber kills 20 Shia Muslims in Nigeria," *The Telegraph*, Nov. 3, 2014). Boko Haram (meaning "Western education is a sin") killed 10,000 people in 2014. It has destroyed hundreds of churches "in a sweeping religious cleansing campaign" ("A New Arc of Evil: The Boko Haram/ISIS Merger," *Breitbart.com*, Mar. 27,

2015). It has displaced over 2 million people and expanded operations into neighboring Chad, Cameroon, and Niger.

In **SYRIA**, Sunni forces are trying to overthrow the Shiite majority government of Bashar al-Assad. He is supported by Shiite Iran. *But as in Iraq and elsewhere, the diverse Sunni jihadist groups are as much at one another's throats as at the Shiite throats.*

In **EGYPT**, the vast majority of people are Sunni, and the Shiite 10% minority has been persecuted to various degrees under various governments. Egypt was ruled by a Shiite caliphate (the Fatimid) from 909 to 1171, but this was overturned by the Sunni Abbasid caliphate. The Salafist sect views Shiite Islam as heresy and wants to destroy it. The Salafists were supported by Mohamed Morsi, who was in power from June 2012 to July 2013, and represented the Muslim Brotherhood. At a rally in Cairo in June 2013 at which Morsi was present, Salafi clerics described Shiites as "filthy" and called them "nonbelievers who must be killed" ("Egypt's Shiite Muslims Saw the Sunni Hatred Grow under Morsi," *Los Angeles Times*, Aug. 10, 2013). Morsi reportedly said that "the Shia are more dangerous to Islam than the Jews" ("Egypt's Shiite Minority: Between the Egyptian Hammer and the Iranian Anvil," Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, No. 591, Sept.-Oct. 2012).

We also see the Sunni-Shiite struggle in **YEMEN**. In early 2015, the Houthi tribe, which is Shiite, took over the government. The Houthi are receiving training and equipment from Shiite Iran's Revolutionary Guards as well as from Egypt. This threatens the dominance of the Sunnis in Yemen (called Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula or AQAP) and probably spells out-and-out civil war between the rampaging Muslims.

In March 2015, the Sunni Islamic State claimed credit for a coordinated suicide bomb attack on two Shiite mosques in Yemen's capital city of Sanaa that killed and injured hundreds. An online statement described the massacre as a

“blessed operation” against the “dens of the Shiites” (“ISIS Claims Responsibility,” Breitbart.com, Mar. 20, 2015).

Sunnis and Shiites will doubtless continue to slaughter each other until Jesus comes.

And as we have noted, this is not to say that Muslim on Muslim violence is limited to the Shiite vs. Sunni divide. Shiites kills Shiites, and Sunnis kill Sunnis on a regular basis!

Islam’s fundamental weakness, which is its chronic divisiveness and internecine hatred, is why every attempt to build a “fundamentalist” caliphate has failed.

It is why Ayatollah Khomeini failed. It is why the Islamic State will fail.

Preparing for the Antichrist

Islam is a sign of the end times. It is helping to prepare the way for the Antichrist in multiple ways.

Islam a Major Force behind Anti-semitism

Many voices have described the resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe, and Islamization is a major force behind this phenomenon. This is a preparation for the Antichrist, because he will prove to be the Jewish hater of all times.

“Europe is being haunted by radical Islam; and 70 years after the Holocaust, Jews once again do not feel safe. While European leaders denounce anti-Semitism, **they have adopted an anti-Israel, pro-Muslim agenda.** In a symbolic vote, the European Union Parliament voted overwhelmingly to endorse a Palestinian state. ... Law professor Halm Schein warns that hypocrisy is flourishing again in Europe, turning Jews into a familiar scapegoat. ‘Before the Holocaust, Jews were held responsible for the bad economic situation, and today, for the situation with the Palestinians,’ he says. ‘This is happening because the Europeans are afraid of Islam, which is about to conquer the continent.’ ... **‘The Muslim population of European cities keeps growing, and with it, anti-Semitism.** Marseille has a population of 40 percent Muslims, Barcelona 30 percent, Brussels 30 and Amsterdam 25. And the big cities are deciding Europe’s policies. In Brussels, the capital of the European Union, Islam has more influence than the Catholic Church” (“Resurgent Anti-Semitism in Europe,” *Israel Today*, Feb. 2015).

“A French Jew wrote to me Monday: ‘No one in France can protect the French Jews, who will be

massacred one by one. And even with 50,000 officers in front of synagogues, there are over 12 million Muslims in France. If 10% of them go extremist (which is low), there will be a bloodbath in Paris, and that blood will be Jewish.'

"He said this about the massive march in Paris Sunday that was attended by political leaders from all over the world (except Barack Obama): 'As you saw on TV, three million people marched for *Charlie Hebdo*, **but believe me, no one marched for the Jews who were massacred in the Hyper Cacher supermarket! No one cares. People are getting used to it.** France let its Jews die in World War II and it will do it again.'

"So will the rest of Europe. **The Holocaust, while it was a German initiative, was carried out by every nation in Europe, save for the Danes.** There were Dutch Nazis, Polish Nazis, French Nazis, etc. Europe as a continent decided it was a good idea to get rid of the Jews. Researchers at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum have catalogued 42,500 Nazi ghettos and camps. That number includes death camps, forced labor camps, POW camps, brothels, and 'care' centers in which the Nazis forced pregnant women to have abortions. ... **'That wasn't just the Germans'**" (Pamela Geller, "The Death of the Jews of France," Breitbart.com, Jan. 12, 2015).

Desire for a Strong World Leader

The turmoil caused by rampaging Muslims and the seemingly insurmountable problems presented by Islamic jihad, plus the "Palestinian issue," are creating a desire for a world leader who can work miracles.

As we will see, the Antichrist will be that man. When he comes on the scene, he will come as the problem solver of problem solvers, the diplomat of diplomats, the peace maker of peace makers.

Motivating Jews to Return to Israel

Islamic terrorism and anti-Semitism are pushing Jews back to Israel, and the return to Israel sets the stage for the return of Christ.

“Soon we may see mass Jewish immigration to Israel. Islamic terrorism could be the giant spatula of God to scrape up the Jews and bring them home to Zion” (Victor Mordecai, “Ben Gurion’s Prophetic Letters,” *Israel Today*, Feb. 2015).

“After the attack on the kosher grocery in Paris, many French Jews are considering *aliya* (immigration) to Israel” (“Resurgent Anti-Semitism in Europe,” *Israel Today*, Feb. 2015).

Antichrist and the Middle East Problem

According to the Bible, the next event on God's calendar is the Rapture (catching away) of church age saints.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness" (1 Thessalonians 5:1-5).

The Rapture will be followed by the appearance of the Antichrist. The "church" has no part in the events described in Revelation 6-18. The churches are seen on earth in Revelation 1-3 and then are not seen on earth again until the

return of Christ in Revelation 19. The events of Revelation 6-18 pertain to the nations and to Israel. These events occur during the last week of Daniel's 70 Week prophecy.

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate” (Daniel 9:24-27).

This prophecy pertains to Israel and the fulfillment of God's promises in the Old Testament covenants and prophecies. This is made plain in the first verse.

The 70 Weeks are 70 weeks of years or 490 years. The first 69 weeks have been fulfilled. Jerusalem, which had been destroyed by the Babylonian army, was rebuilt. Messiah came and was cut off but not for himself, meaning that He died on the cross as an atonement for man's sin. One week of years remains. At the beginning of this seven years, the Antichrist will make a false peace covenant with Israel which he will break “in the midst of the week,” meaning after 3.5 years. He will then desecrate the Third Temple and there will

be abominations and desolations until the end of the seven years, when Christ shall return and establish His kingdom.

The church age is a parenthesis between the 69th and the 70th weeks of Daniel's prophecy. Paul taught that the church age is a mystery that was not revealed in Old Testament prophecy. (For more about these things see *The Future According to the Bible*, available in print and eBook editions from www.wayoflife.org.)

Note that the Antichrist will come as a man of peace.

Revelation depicts the Antichrist coming on the scene on a white horse, signifying peace, and carrying an empty bow.

“And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer” (Rev. 6:2).

The horse and empty bow signifies that the Antichrist will have the capability to make war but initially he will come as a man of peace.

The Antichrist will make a false peace pact with Israel, as we have seen in Daniel 9:27.

Five times in Daniel the Antichrist is called a liar and a flatterer (Dan. 11:21, 23, 27, 32, 34). Daniel says by peace he will destroy many (Dan. 8:25).

When he comes on the scene, the Antichrist will be the greatest diplomat the world has ever seen, and he will solve the “Israel-Palestinian problem.”

A false prophet will be associated with the Antichrist. He is called “another beast” in Revelation 13:11-17 and a “false prophet” in Revelation 20:10. He is described as having horns like a lamb but speaking as a dragon, which means that he will appear to be a man of peace and religion, but he will speak blasphemies against God. He will promote the worship of the Antichrist through miracles, such as making fire to come down from heaven and giving life to the image of the Antichrist in Jerusalem so that it will speak.

The Jews demanded a sign from Jesus (Mat. 12:39), and though He performed mighty miracles by the power of God, they rejected Him.

The Antichrist and his false prophet will perform *lying wonders* by the power of Satan, and the Jews will receive him.

As a co-ruler with the Antichrist, the prophet will force the world to worship the Antichrist's image, and those who refuse will be put to death (Rev. 13:15-17).

It is probable that either the Antichrist or his prophet or both will be accepted by the Jews as their Messiah and by apostate Christians as theirs and by the Muslims as theirs.

The Islamic Mahdi

Members of both Sunnis and Shiites believe in an Islamic messiah, the Mahdi, who will appear at the end of the world to establish Allah's kingdom on earth.

Both Sunnis and Shiites accept hadiths (writings of Muhammad collected after his death) which predict the coming of a Mahdi who will establish a global caliphate in Allah's name and rule for a period of time (seven, nine, or nineteen years, according to varying interpretations), ridding the world of evil before the day of judgment.

The coming of the Mahdi is believed to coincide with the second coming of Jesus, whom they call Isa, who will join hands with the Mahdi against a false messiah or antichrist.

The Shiites have developed this theology more extensively and emphasize it more forcefully.

As we have seen, **"Twelver" Shiites** (and Sufis) believe that the 12 Imams who succeeded Muhammad inherited Muhammad's spiritual perfection and wisdom and are therefore interpreters or trustees of the light of Islam.

They believe that the 12th Imam, Muhammad ibn Hasan al-Mahdi, was the prophesied Mahdi. He is believed to have

died or otherwise disappeared in AD 941 and to be hidden by God until he will reappear at the end of time. The hiding is called the *Occultation*. (This is “an event that occurs when one object is hidden by another object that passes between it and the observer,” such as a sun eclipse.)

Other groups of Muslims, such as the Druze, the Mustaali, the Zaidi, and the Nizari, believe in a different Mahdi and are not “Twelvers.”

The Sunnis believe that the Mahdi has not yet been born but will be named Muhammad and will be a descendant of Muhammad.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, former president of Iran, has zealous faith in the coming of the Imam Madhi, and Iranian radio has broadcast prophecies of his coming.

“In short, when he reappears, peace, justice and security will overcome oppression and deceit and one global government, the most perfect ever, will be established. ... Another beautiful moment of the Savior’s appearance is the coming down of Prophet Jesus (PBUH) from heaven. Hazrat Mahdi receives him courteously and asks him to lead the prayers. But Jesus says you are more qualified for this than me. We read in the book *Tazkarat ol-Olia*, ‘the Mahdi will come with Jesus, son of Mary, accompanying him.’ This indicates that these two great men complement each other. Imam Mahdi will be the leader while Prophet Jesus will act as his lieutenant in the struggle against oppression and establishment of justice in the world. Jesus had himself given the tidings of the coming of God’s last messenger and will see Muhammad’s ideals materialize in the time of the Mahdi” (“Police Storm Home,” *WorldNetDaily*, June 23, 2007).

We see that Islam’s “Jesus” is given a subordinate position in these prophecies.

The following is from the *London Telegraph*, Jan. 14, 2006:

“As Iran rushes towards confrontation with the world over its nuclear programme, the question uppermost in the mind of western leaders is ‘What is moving its President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to such recklessness?’ ... **The most remarkable aspect of Mr. Ahmadinejad’s piety is his devotion to the Hidden Imam, the Messiah-like figure of Shia Islam,** and the president’s belief that his government must prepare the country for his return. One of the first acts of Mr. Ahmadinejad’s government was to donate about £10 million to the Jamkaran mosque, a popular pilgrimage site where the pious come to drop messages to the Hidden Imam into a holy well. ... A common rumour--denied by the government but widely believed--is that Mr. Ahmadinejad and his cabinet have signed a ‘contract’ pledging themselves to work for the return of the Mahdi and sent it to Jamkaran.”

From time to time, various individuals have claimed to be the Mahdi and have gotten large, enthusiastic followings. One of these was Siyyid Ali Muhammad Shirazi, who was called the Bab (“gate”) and is one of the central figures of the Baha’i. They consider the Bab to have been the Mahdi, Elijah, and John the Baptist. Others who have claimed to be the Mahdi are Muhammad Jaunpuri, founder of the Mahdavia sect, Muhammad Ahmad, founder of the Mahdist state in Sudan in the late 19th century, and Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, founder of the Ahmadiyya sect.

In this way, we probably see what will happen in the time of the Antichrist, in that either he or his prophet or both will be accepted as the fulfillment of prophecy by Muslims, and they will obey him.

The Jewish Messiah

The Jews are also looking for the Messiah, and the Messiah they are looking for is actually the Antichrist.

The Jews are not looking for a Messiah who will save them from sin. They have no sacrifices, and they are content with that, thinking that they don't need a blood atonement. They celebrate the Passover and the Day of Atonement without a lamb and without the shedding of blood.

We asked a Reformed Jewish rabbi in Jerusalem, "How do you purge your sins?" and he replied, "We ask God for forgiveness through prayer and through actions." When queried about Leviticus 17:11--"it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul"--the rabbi said that to interpret that to mean that man needs a literal blood sacrifice is a false interpretation.

A representative of the Temple Institute told us the same thing:

"God knows that we don't have the sacrifices. That is why He has given us a different way of atonement, and that's by prayers. We have prayers that great rabbis wrote just after the destructions, and we say these prayers and that's as if we are sacrificing."

The Jews stumbled at the Suffering Messiah 2,000 years ago. They were looking for a Messiah to save them from Rome, not a Messiah who would die for their sins. They wanted a king, not a Saviour.

Since the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD, the Jews have been looking for a Messiah that will rebuild the temple. In Jewish tradition that has developed since then, the rebuilding of the temple is associated with the coming of the Messiah. According to Maimonides (also called Rambam), the highest rabbinical authority, any Jew that starts rebuilding the Temple is a potential Messiah.

Shimon ben Kosiba was considered a Messiah in the second century when he led a revolt to recapture Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. He was named Bar Kokhba ("Son of the Star") based on the Messianic prophecy of Numbers 24:17, and a coin was struck by the Jews that depicted the

temple with the ark of the covenant inside and the Messianic star on the roof.

A representative of the Temple Institute told us in 2010 that they are looking for a temple builder:

“We are waiting for a Messiah. In Jewish tradition, we believe that in every generation there is someone who can be the Messiah. The question is who will he be. The answer is only someone who does specific things can be called the Messiah. The one who brings Israel back to Israel. The one who builds the temple again.”

By this tradition, it is simple to see how the Antichrist will be looked upon as the Messiah. He will come as a peacemaker, and by his satanic power he will make a way for the Jewish temple to be rebuilt in spite of Muslim animosity.

The Jews are looking for a Messiah that will solve their problems and bring peace when things look dark. In a video interview in Jerusalem in 2010 a Reformed Jewish rabbi told us that the Messiah will come when things look really dark and will establish peace. He said:

“Jerusalem is to be whole, and when the Messiah comes the temple will be returned to us. But that can’t happen until there is eternal peace. Ultimately we have to go deeper into destruction before we come out into the light and until God redeems not only the Jewish people but also the rest of the world. Peace has to come, but peace can only come when things get really dark.”

But the Jewish prophets said there is no peace to the wicked (Isa. 57:21). There can be no peace for Israel until she is in right relationship with God, until she repents of her sin and is forgiven and converted. Until then, any so-called peace will turn out to be a false peace, which is exactly what the Antichrist will bring.

“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail

upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

Thus, the Jews are not looking for a Saviour from sin; they are looking for a Messiah that will bring peace, that will solve their problems, that will help them to rebuild the Temple, that will not rebuke them as sinners but will help them follow their "positive inclinations."

Though they don't know it, they are actually looking for the Antichrist, and the Bible says they will accept him when he comes.

The world is crying out for peace today, and the nations will believe the Antichrist's lies and lying wonders. The nations will rejoice, thinking that the world's greatest problems have been solved and the long-awaited "Age of Aquarius" has arrived, but the global peace party will be short-lived and the Antichrist will soon show his true colors, setting himself up as God in Israel's temple and requiring worship at the point of death.

The Antichrist will make a way for the Jewish Third Temple to be built on the Temple Mount, something that seems impossible today.

Bible prophecy associates the Antichrist with the building of the Third Temple.

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

(The First Temple was built by Solomon, and the Second Temple was built after the Jews returned from the Babylonian captivity and was extended and glorified by King Herod, so that it was called Herod's Temple.)

Great preparations are being made in Israel for the building of the Third Temple. The Temple Institute, founded in 1986, has prepared all of the articles, including a menorah (candlestick) fashioned from 95 pounds of gold (valued at \$2 million) and the high priest's golden crown costing \$30,000. When I visited Jerusalem in 2010 and 2013, the menorah was on display on the Western Wall Plaza across from the Temple Mount. In December 2014, the Temple Institute also completed an altar of sacrifice intended for the Third Temple.

Muslim Nations in Prophecy

Bible prophecy describes Israel's relationship with the modern Muslim nations following her restoration to the place of God's blessing in Christ's kingdom. It will be a dramatic turnaround compared to the conditions that exist today.

Israel is surrounded by Muslim nations.

To the north are Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey.

To the east are Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the former satellites of the Soviet Union (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan).

To the south are Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Yemen, Oman, and the Muslim nations that occupy northern Africa (Sudan, Libya, Algeria, etc.).

Since the birth of the modern state of Israel on May 14, 1948, Israel has fought frequent wars with her Muslim neighbors.

There was the War for Independence in 1948 against the Arab League composed of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq.

There was the Suez War in 1956 to force Egypt to allow free access for Israel's ships through the Canal.

There was the Six-Day War in 1967 against the coalition of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, with Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria contributing troops and arms.

There was Egypt's War of Attrition against Israel from 1968-70.

There was the Yom Kippur War of 1973 when Israel was attacked by Egypt and Syria.

In addition to these major conflicts, Israel has been under constant attack by Muslim organizations such as Hamas, the PLO, and Hezbollah.

This is the present situation. Now let's look to the future through the sure word of Bible prophecy.

If it were not for Bible prophecy, it would appear that the Muslims would eventually take over the world. As we have seen, they are well on the way to taking over England and Europe by immigration and population increase, and a majority of Americans are clueless about Islam's objective of world dominion and therefore don't take the issue seriously. America's current president, Barak Obama, doesn't even believe that violent jihad is Islamic, claiming that ISIS is not Muslim!

But Bible prophecy does not see an Islamic takeover of the world.

The situation is described in general in Ezekiel 36:6-7.

“Prophecy therefore concerning the land of Israel, and say unto the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I have spoken in my jealousy and in my fury, because ye have borne the shame of the heathen: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I have lifted up mine hand, Surely **the heathen that are about you, they shall bear their shame.**”

Whereas Israel has borne shame for 2,000 years under God's judgment, in that day she will be exalted and empowered and her enemies will bear the shame. The “heathen that are about you” refer most directly to the Muslim nations that surround Israel.

The Palestinians (Philistines)

“The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and

the children of Ammon shall obey them” (Isaiah 11:13-14).

“And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead” (Obadiah 1:19).

The ancient name “Philistine,” from the Hebrew “Peleshet,” is the source of the modern name “Palestinian.” The original Philistines were not Arabs or Middle Eastern in origin; they migrated from Asia Minor and were of Greek stock.

The only thing that the modern Philistines, the Palestinian Arabs, have in common with the ancient Philistines is that they hate Israel and want to own the land.

Today the Palestinians control the Gaza Strip which was one of the strongholds of the old Philistines. Bible prophecy describes the Philistines as being west of Israel in the day of Christ’s return, and Gaza is in the western part of Israel.

The Palestinians envision a Palestinian state composed of Gaza and the West Bank, with East Jerusalem as the capital. If this ever happens, it will be short-lived, because when Christ returns, a converted Israel will conquer the modern Philistines.

Jordan (Edom, Moab, Ammon)

“The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them” (Isaiah 11:13-14).

“But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it. And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead. And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south. And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S” (Obadiah 1:17-21).

Jordan occupies the land of ancient Edom, Moab, and Ammon east of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea.

Today Jordan is a somewhat pro-Western Arab nation, but it fought against Israel in the War of Independence and the Six-Day War.

It will be conquered by Israel when Christ returns. Southern Jordan (ancient Edom) in particular will be devastated.

“Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. 2 Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? 3 I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. 4 For the day of vengeance is in mine

heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. 5 And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. 6 And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth” (Isaiah 63:1-6).

“Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land” (Joel 3:19).

Isaiah sees the conquering Christ coming from Edom or southern Jordan with his garments stained in blood from a great slaughter.

Bozrah was the capital of Edom when Isaiah prophesied. Archaeological excavations have uncovered there the largest buildings from the Transjordan region, which were probably the king’s palaces. Amos spoke of the “palaces of Bozrah” (Amos 1:12). The modern name is Buseirah, and the area is largely desert plain and small mountains.

Apparently the Lord will defeat some of the Antichrist’s armies here. Joel says that Edom will be “a desolate wilderness” (Joel 3:19).

“Scripture seems to indicate that both Egypt and Edom are going to be particularly desolated by the end-time wars of the Antichrist. The Lord will arrange that as punishment for their violence against the Jewish people” (John Phillips).

Edom’s hatred of Israel is ancient. Edom was a name given to Esau when he sold his birthright, which was the Abrahamic covenant, for a bowl of red stew (Gen. 25:29-34). Though he despised his birthright and valued it less than a mere bowl of soup, Esau never forgave Jacob for taking it. When he later tried to regain the blessing of the firstborn by

bitter tears, he was unable to do so because Isaac had already given the blessing to Jacob (Gen. 27:33-41). Though Jacob and his mother Rebekah sinned in the matter of deceiving Isaac, God had already said that Jacob would receive the greater blessing (Gen. 25:23). Isaac eventually acknowledged this (Gen. 28:1-5), and God spoke from heaven and personally gave the promise to Jacob (Gen. 28:12-15).

Esau's descendants, who conquered the Horites and settled the land of Edom (Deut. 2:12), perpetually nurtured their father's hatred of Jacob or Israel. But by hating Israel, they also hated the God who had blessed Israel.

All of the territories occupied by Jordan, representing Edom, Moab, Ammon, will "obey" restored Israel when Christ returns.

"... they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them" (Isaiah 11:14).

Egypt, Syria, and Iraq (Assyria)

"In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which he shaketh over it. And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts, which he hath determined against it. In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the LORD of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction. In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD. And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them. And the LORD shall be known

to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform it. And the LORD shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the LORD, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them. In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance” (Isaiah 19:16-25).

“Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, *saying*, Surely God *is* in thee; and *there is* none else, *there is* no God” (Isaiah 45:14).

“And this man shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men. And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver us from the Assyrian, when he cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our borders” (Mic. 5:5-6).

Egypt is Israel’s most ancient enemy, and nothing has changed. Egypt attacked Israel in 1948, 1949, 1967, and 1973, and she remains a part of the Islamic alliance that hates Israel.

But Egypt’s attitude will change dramatically in the future.

The day will come when Egypt will be terrified of Israel. This is an amazing prophecy. Historically, Egypt was a mighty power compared to Israel, and it still has a much larger military machine. Some believe that this prophecy is being fulfilled today, since Egypt has lost four wars to Israel, but though Egypt might hesitate to go to war with Israel again, it can hardly be said that she is terrified of Israel. This prophecy will be fulfilled when Israel is converted and becomes an indestructible weapon in the hands of Almighty God.

Egyptians will be among those who are brought in chains to Israel (Isa. 45:14).

Egypt will cry out to the Lord and He will send them a saviour. We don't know if this refers to Christ Himself or to one of His generals.

Egypt's prophetic destiny is different than that of the other nations surrounding Israel. She will not merely be conquered; she will be converted and become an intimate associate of Israel (Isa. 19:18-21).

Many Egyptians will learn Hebrew and use it to swear allegiance to Jehovah God. There will be an altar to the living God in the midst of the nation and a pillar in His name at the border (Isa. 19:18-19). The name of *Allah* will be forgotten.

As for **Iraq and Syria**, which formed the heart of the ancient kingdom of Assyria, Micah says that Israel will lay waste to this region (Mic. 5:6). Micah also calls Iraq "the land of Nimrod," as Nimrod and his associates founded the first city states in that region, including Babylon which lies in southern Iraq and Nineveh which lies in northern Iraq (Gen. 10-11).

A highway will be built from Egypt to Assyria. The ancient Assyrian kingdom occupied the land held today by Syria and Iraq, plus the eastern portion of Turkey and the western portion of Iran. The highway will facilitate travel between

the two regions (Isa. 19:23-25). Instead of being partners to oppose Israel, as they did in the Six-Day War, Egypt, Iraq, and Syria will be partners *with* Israel.

In place of division and animosity between these nations, there will be unity and love. Instead of Israel dividing the nations as she does today, she will unite them in that day! The highway from Egypt to Assyria will doubtless run right through Israel.

“Never then shall there be rivalry of armies, fleets of sea or air. In vain shall be the search then for Protestant or Romanist, for Democrat or Republican, for Monarchist or Anarchist, for Aristocrat or Proletariat, for Jesus, Lord of all, has caused the earth to bask in universal peace and concord; and He, the Melchizedek Priest, is here seen spreading His hands in blessing over the whole scene. Egypt, those of the Gentiles once expressive of corruption, are now His ‘people;’ Assyria, those of the Gentiles once expressive of violence, are now ‘the work of His hands,’ and quite a different handiwork will they be then” (Jennings, *Studies in Isaiah*, p. 236).

We see, too, that Israel will maintain her exalted status as God’s “inheritance” even when she is joined by other nations (Isa. 19:25).

Lebanon

“I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and place shall not be found for them” (Zechariah 10:10).

The land of Lebanon belongs to Israel by right of the Abrahamic covenant, and she will own it when Christ returns (Gen. 15:18).

The city of Hamath is mentioned by Ezekiel as the northern border of the tribes of Israel during the Millennial

kingdom (Ezek. 47:15-17), and Hamath was located at the northern extreme of modern Lebanon.

Iran (Persia)

“And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet. ... And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone” (Ezekiel 38:3-5, 22).

Iran, which was called Persia until 1935, is a friend of Russia and a vicious enemy of Israel. Iran’s defense ministry has hailed the nation’s military ties to Russia (AP, Feb. 20, 2009).

In September 2008, Israel’s ambassador to the United States, Sallai Meridor, warned that Russian arms sales to Iran and Syria are “destabilizing and dangerous for Israel” (“Israel Irked by Iran-Russia Military Ties,” PressTV.ir, Sept. 13, 2008).

Russia is a major player in providing Iran with nuclear technology. In 2014, Russia pledged to build two more nuclear power plants in Iran (“Iran, Russia Agree to Continue Nuclear Cooperation,” ITAR-TASS, May 29, 2014).

In August 2012, Iran’s president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, said “the ultimate goal of world forces must be the annihilation of Israel” (*Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 2, 2012). That same month, Ahmadinejad called Israel a “cancerous

tumor” that must be removed, and a top Iranian military commander said he would welcome an Israeli strike against Iran’s nuclear facilities because it would give his nation a reason to retaliate and “get rid of the Jewish state forever” (“Top Iranian Commander,” *The Blaze*, Aug. 18, 2012).

Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also calls for the annihilation of Israel. On November 8, 2014, he Twittered, “This barbaric, wolflike & infanticidal regime of Israel which spares no crime has no cure but to be annihilated.” A year earlier, Khamenei called Israel the “sinister, unclean rabid dog of the region.”

According to Bible prophecy, the armies of Persia will join Russia’s attack on Israel and suffer destruction with her.

Saudi Arabia (Arabia, Midian)

“For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it. ... To wit, Jerusalem, and the cities of Judah, and the kings thereof, and the princes thereof, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, an hissing, and a curse; as it is this day. ... And all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the mingled people that dwell in the desert. ... And all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another, and all the kingdoms of the world, which are upon the face of the earth: and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them. Therefore thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, and fall, and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you” (Jeremiah 25:15, 18, 24, 26-27).

“The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense;

and they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD” (Isaiah 60:6).

Saudi Arabia will join the international alliance against Israel that will be destroyed at the Battle of Armageddon (Jer. 25).

Afterwards, Arabia will worship Christ and send offerings to Him (Isa. 60:6).

Yemen (Sheba)

“The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD” (Isaiah 60:6).

Yemen, which is in the southern Arabian Peninsula, will submit to Christ and send offerings to Him.

Yemen is where the Queen of Sheba had her spice empire of old, but over the past 2,000 years the region has become impoverished. This will change dramatically after Christ returns, and Sheba will again have riches which she will bring to glorify the God of Israel.

Northern Africa (Ethiopia, Libya, the Sabeans)

“Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, *saying*, Surely God *is* in thee; and *there is* none else, *there is* no God” (Isaiah 45:14).

“And the sword shall come upon Egypt, and great pain shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain shall fall in Egypt, and they shall take away her multitude, and her

foundations shall be broken down. Ethiopia, and Libya, and Lydia, and all the mingled people, and Chub, and the men of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword” (Ezekiel 30:4-5, 19).

“And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet” (Ezekiel 38:4-5).

Northern Africa is largely populated with Muslim nations today, and three of these are mentioned by name in Bible prophecy: Ethiopia, which borders the Red Sea, Libya on the northern coast, and the Sabeans. The Hebrew word for Sabean (*sebawee*) is from *sebaw*, which is Seba the son of Cush (Gen. 10:7). Seba’s descendants inhabited northern Africa.

Ethiopia and Libya will join the military alliance led by Gog and Magog which will attack Israel in the latter days and be destroyed (Ezek. 38:4-5).

Ethiopians and Sebans will be among those who are brought in chains to Israel at the return of Christ (Isa. 45:14).

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BIBLE TIMES AND ANCIENT KINGDOMS: TREASURES FROM ARCHAEOLOGY. ISBN 978-1-58318-121-8. This is a package consisting of a book and a series of PowerPoint and Keynote (Apple) presentations which are a graphical edition of the book. The PowerPoints are packed with high quality color photos, drawings, historic recreations, and video clips. Bible Times and Ancient Kingdoms is a course on Bible geography, Bible culture, and Bible history and has a two-fold objective: to present apologetic evidence for the Bible and to give background material to help the student better understand the setting of Bible history. We cover this fascinating history from Genesis to the New Testament, dealing with the Table of the Nations in Genesis 10, the Tower of Babel, Ur of the Chaldees, Egypt, Baal worship, the Philistines, the Canaanites, David's palace, Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, Ahab and Jezebel, the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel, the Assyrian Empire, Hezekiah and his times, Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylon, the Medo-Persian Empire, Herod the Great and his temple, the Roman rule over Israel, and the Roman destruction of Jerusalem. Many of the archaeological discoveries from the past 200 years, which we relate in the course, are so fascinating and improbable that they read like a novel. It is easy to see God's hand in this field, in spite of its prevailing skepticism. The course also deals with Bible culture, such as weights and measures, plant and animal life, Caesar's coin, the widow's mite, ancient scrolls and seals, phylacteries, cosmetics, tombs, and the operation of ancient lamps, millstones, pottery wheels, and olive presses. The course begins with an overview of Israel's geography and a timeline of Bible history to give the student a framework for better understanding the material. Each section includes maps to help the student place the events in their

proper location. The course is packed with important but little-known facts that illuminate Bible history and culture. The preparation for the book is extensive, the culmination of 40 years of Bible study, teaching, and research trips. In this context the author built a large personal library and collected information from major archaeological museums and locations in North America, England, Europe, Turkey, and Israel. We guarantee that the student who completes the course will read the Bible with new eyes and fresh enthusiasm. 500 pages book + DVD containing 19 PowerPoint presentations packed with more than 3,200 high quality color photos, drawings, historic recreations, and video clips.

THE BIBLE VERSION QUESTION ANSWER DATABASE. ISBN 1-58318-088-5. This book provides diligently-researched, in-depth answers to more than 80 of the most important questions on this topic. A vast number of myths are exposed, such as the myth that Erasmus promised to add 1 John 5:7 to his Greek New Testament if even one manuscript could be produced, the myth that the differences between the Greek texts and versions are slight and insignificant, the myth that there are no doctrines affected by the changes in the modern versions, and the myth that the King James translators said that all versions are equally the Word of God. It also includes reviews of several of the popular modern versions, including the Living Bible, New Living Bible, Today's English Version, New International Version, New American Standard Version, The Message, and the Holman Christian Standard Bible. 423 pages.

THE FOREIGN SPIRIT OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MUSIC. This hard-hitting multi-media video presentation, published in March 2012, documents the frightful spiritual compromise, heresy, and apostasy that permeate the field of contemporary worship music. By extensive documentation, it proves that contemporary worship music is impelled by "another spirit" (2 Cor. 11:4). It is the spirit of charismaticism, the spirit of the latter rain, the spirit of the one-world church, the spirit of the world, the spirit of homosexuality, and the spirit of the false god of *The Shack*. The presentation looks carefully at the origin of

contemporary worship in the Jesus Movement of the 1970s, examining the lives and testimonies of some of the most influential people. Nearly 60 video clips and hundreds of photos are featured. It is available on DVD and as an eDownload from the Way of Life web site.

THE FUTURE ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE. ISBN 978-1-58318-172-0. One of the many reasons why the Bible is the most amazing and exciting book on earth is its prophecies. The Bible unfolds the future in great detail, and *The Future According to the Bible* deals in depth with every major prophetic event, including the Rapture, the Judgment Seat of Christ, the Tribulation, the Antichrist, Gog and Magog, the Battle of Armageddon, the Two Witnesses, Christ's Return, Muslim nations in prophecy, the Judgment of the Nations, the resurrection body, the conversion of Israel, the highway of the redeemed, Christ's glorious kingdom, the Millennial Temple, the Great White Throne judgment, and the New Jerusalem. The first two chapters deal at length with the amazing prophecies that are being fulfilled today and with the church-age apostasy. Knowledge of these prophecies is essential for a proper understanding of the times and a proper Christian worldview today. The 130-page section on Christ's kingdom describes the coming world kingdom in more detail than any book we are familiar with. Every major Messianic prophecy is examined. Prophecy is a powerful witness to the Bible's divine inspiration, and it is a great motivator for holy Christian living. In this book we show that the Lord's churches are outposts of the coming kingdom. The believer's position in Christ's earthly kingdom will be determined by his service in this present world (Revelation 2:26-27; 3:21). The book is based on forty years of intense Bible study plus firsthand research in Israel, Turkey, and Europe.

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST MUSIC WARS. ISBN 978-1-58318-179-9. This book is a warning about the transformational power of Contemporary Christian Music to transport Bible-believing Baptists into the sphere of the end-time one-world "church." The author is a musician, preacher, and writer who lived the rock & roll "hippy" lifestyle before conversion and

has researched this issue for 40 years. We don't believe that good Christian music stopped being written when Fanny Crosby died or that rhythm is wrong or that drums and guitars are inherently evil. We believe, rather, that Contemporary Christian Music is a powerful bridge to a very dangerous spiritual and doctrinal world. The book begins by documenting the radical change in thinking that has occurred among independent Baptists. Whereas just a few years ago the overwhelming consensus was that CCM was wrong and dangerous, the consensus now has formed around the position that CCM can be used in moderation, that it is OK to "adapt" it to a more traditional sacred sound and presentation technique. The more "conservative" contemporary worship artists such as the Gettys are considered safe and their music is sung widely in churches and included in new hymnals published by independent Baptists. As usual, the driving force behind this change is the example set by prominent leaders, churches, and schools, which we identify in this volume. The heart of the book is the section giving eight reasons for rejecting Contemporary Christian Music (it is built on the lie that music is neutral, it is worldly, it is ecumenical, it is charismatic, it is experienced-oriented, it is permeated with false christs, it is infiltrated with homosexuality, and it weakens the Biblicist stance of a church) and the section answering 39 major arguments that are used in defense of CCM. We deal with the popular argument that since we have selectively used hymns by Protestants we should also be able to selectively use those by contemporary hymn writers. There are also chapters on the history of CCM and the author's experience of living the rock & roll lifestyle before conversion and how the Lord dealt with him about music in the early months of his Christian life. The book is accompanied by a DVD containing two video presentations: *The Transformational Power of Contemporary Praise Music* and *The Foreign Spirit of Contemporary Worship Music*. 285 pages.

KEEPING THE KIDS: HOW TO KEEP THE CHILDREN FROM FALLING PREY TO THE WORLD. ISBN 978-1-58318-115-7. This book aims to help parents and churches raise children to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to avoid the pitfalls of the world, the flesh, and the devil. The book is a collaborative effort. It contains testimonies from hundreds of individuals who provided feedback

to our questionnaires on this subject, as well as powerful ideas gleaned from interviews with pastors, missionaries, and church people who have raised godly children. The book is packed with practical suggestions and deals with many issues: Conversion, the husband-wife relationship, the necessity of permeating the home with Christian love, mothers as keepers at home, the father's role as the spiritual head of the home, child discipline, separation from the pop culture, discipleship of youth, the grandparents' role, effectual prayer and fasting. Chapter titles include the following: "Conversion," "The Home: Consistent Christian Living and the Husband-Wife Relationship," "Child Discipline," "The Church," "Unplugging from the Pop Culture," "Discipleship," "The Grandparents," "Grace and the Power of Prayer." 531 pages.

MUSIC FOR GOOD OR EVIL. This video series, which is packed with photos, video and audio clips, has eight segments. **I. Biblical Principles of Good Christian Music.** **II. Why We Reject Contemporary Christian Music.** It is worldly, addictive, ecumenical, charismatic, shallow and man-centered, opposed to preaching, experience-oriented, and it weakens the strong biblicist stance of a church. **III. The Sound of Contemporary Christian Music.** In this section we give the believer simple tools that he can use to discern the difference between sensual and sacred music. We deal with syncopated dance styles, sensual vocal styles, relativistic styles, and overly soft styles that do not fit the message. **IV. The Transformational Power of Contemporary Worship Music.** We show why CCM is able to transform a "traditional" Bible-believing church into a New Evangelical contemporary one. Its transformational power resides in its enticing philosophy of "liberty" and in its sensual, addictive music. We use video and audio to illustrate the sound of contemporary worship. **V. Southern Gospel.** We deal with the history of Southern Gospel, its character, its influence, and the role of the Gaithers in its renaissance. This section is packed with audio, video, and photos. **VI. Marks of Good Song Leading.** There is a great need for proper training of song leaders today, and in this segment we deal with the following eight principles: Leadership, preparation, edification, spirituality, spiritual discernment, wisdom in song selection, diversity. One thing we emphasize is the need to sing worship

songs that turn the people's focus directly to God. We give dozens of examples of worship songs that are found in standard hymnals used by Bible-believing churches, but typically these are not sung properly as "unto God." **VII. Questions Answered on Contemporary Christian Music.** We answer 15 of the most common questions on this subject, such as the following: Is rhythm wrong? Isn't this issue just a matter of different taste? Isn't the sincerity of the musicians the important thing? Isn't some CCM acceptable? Didn't Luther and the Wesleys use tavern music? What is the difference between using contemporary worship hymns and using old Protestant hymns? **VIII. The Foreign Spirit of Contemporary Worship Music.** This presentation documents the frightful spiritual compromise, heresy, and apostasy that permeate the field of contemporary praise. Through extensive documentation, it proves that contemporary worship music is controlled by "another spirit" (2 Cor. 11:4). It is the spirit of charismaticism, the spirit of the "latter rain," the spirit of Roman Catholicism and the one-world "church," the spirit of the world that is condemned by 1 John 2:16, the spirit of homosexuality, and the spirit of the false god of *The Shack*. The presentation looks carefully at the origin of contemporary worship in the Jesus Movement of the 1970s, examining the lives and testimonies of some of the most influential people. 5 DVDs.

ONE YEAR DISCIPLESHIP COURSE, ISBN 978-1-58318-117-1. This powerful course features 52 lessons in Christian living. It can be broken into sections and used as a new converts' course, an advanced discipleship course, a Sunday School series, a Home Schooling or Bible Institute course, or for preaching outlines. The lessons are thorough, meaty, and very practical. There is an extensive memory verse program built into the course, and each lesson features carefully designed review questions. Following are some of the lesson titles (some subjects feature multiple lessons): Repentance, Faith, The Gospel, Baptism, Eternal Security, Position and Practice, The Law and the New Testament Christian, Christian Growth and Victory, Prayer, The Armor of God, The Church, The Bible, The Bible's Proof, Daily Bible Study, Key Principles of Bible Interpretation, Foundational Bible Words, Knowing God's Will, Making Wise Decisions, Christ's Great Commission, Suffering in

the Christian Life, The Judgment Seat of Christ, Separation - Moral, Separation - Doctrinal, Tests of Entertainment, Fasting, Miracles, A Testing Mindset, Tongues Speaking, The Rapture, How to Be Wise with Your Money, The Believer and Drinking, Abortion, Evolution, Dressing for the Lord. 8.5X11, coated cover, spiral-bound. 221 pages.

THE PENTECOSTAL-CHARISMATIC MOVEMENTS: THE HISTORY AND THE ERROR. ISBN 1-58318-099-0. The 5th edition of this book, November 2014, is significantly enlarged and revised throughout. The Pentecostal-charismatic movement is one of the major building blocks of the end-time, one-world “church,” and young people in particular need to be informed and forewarned. The author was led to Christ by a Pentecostal in 1973 and has researched the movement ever since. He has built a large library on the subject, interviewed influential Pentecostals and charismatics, and attended churches and conferences with media credentials in many parts of the world. The book deals with the history of Pentecostalism beginning at the turn of the 20th century, the Latter Rain Covenant, major Pentecostal healing evangelists, the Sharon Schools and the New Order of the Latter Rain, Manifest Sons of God, the charismatic movement, the Word-Faith movement, the Roman Catholic Charismatic Renewal, the Pentecostal prophets, the Third Wave, and recent Pentecostal and charismatic scandals. The book deals extensively with the theological errors of the Pentecostal-charismatic movements (exalting experience over Scripture, emphasis on the miraculous, the continuation of Messianic and apostolic miracles and sign gifts, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the baptism of fire, tongues speaking, physical healing guaranteed in the atonement, spirit slaying, spirit drunkenness, visions of Jesus, trips to heaven, women preachers, and ecumenism). The final section of the book answers the question: “Why are people deluded by Pentecostal-Charismatic error?” David and Tami Lee, former Pentecostals, after reviewing a section of the book said: “Very well done! We pray God will use it to open the eyes of many and to help keep many of His children out of such deception.” A former charismatic said, “The book is excellent and I have no doubt whatever that the Lord is going to use it in a mighty way. Amen!!” 487 pages.

A PORTRAIT OF CHRIST: THE TABERNACLE, THE PRIESTHOOD, AND THE OFFERINGS. ISBN 978-1-58318-178-2. (new for 2014) This book is an extensive study on the Old Testament tabernacle and its priestly system, which has been called “God’s masterpiece of typology.” Whereas the record of the creation of the universe takes up two chapters of the Bible and the fall of man takes up one chapter, the tabernacle, with its priesthood and offerings, takes up 50 chapters. It is obvious that God has many important lessons for us in this portion of His Word. Speaking personally, nothing has helped me better understand the Triune God and the salvation that He has purchased for man, and I believe that I can guarantee that the reader will be taken to new heights in his understanding of these things. Everything about the tabernacle points to Jesus Christ: the design, the materials, the colors, the court walls and pillars, the door into the court, the sacrificial altar, the laver, the tabernacle tent itself with its boards and curtains and silver sockets, the tabernacle gate, and veil before the holy of holies, the candlestick, the table of shewbread, the incense altar, the ark of the covenant, the high priest, and the offerings. All is Christ. The tabernacle system offers brilliant, unforgettable lessons on Christ’s person, offices and work: His eternal Sonship, His sinless manhood, His anointing, His atonement, His resurrection glory, His work as the life and sustainer and light of creation, His eternal high priesthood and intercession, and His kingdom. In addition to the studies on every aspect of the tabernacle, *A Portrait of Christ* features studies on the high priest, the Levitical priests, the five offerings of Leviticus, the day of atonement, the ransom money, the red heifer, the cherubims, strange fire, the golden calf, leprosy, the Nazarite vow, the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire, and the transportation of the tabernacle through the wilderness. The tabernacle is very practical in its teaching, as it also depicts believer priests carrying Christ through this world (1 Pet. 2:5, 9). Like the Israelites in the wilderness, believers today are on a pilgrimage through a foreign land on the way to our eternal home (1 Pet. 2:11). Don Jasmin, editor of the *Fundamentalist Digest* says, “This new book on the Tabernacle constitutes the 21st-century classic treatise of this rich theme.” 420 pages.

SEEING THE NON-EXISTENT: EVOLUTION’S MYTHS AND HOAXES. ISBN 1-58318-002-8. This book is designed both as a stand alone title as well as a companion to the apologetics course

AN UNSHAKEABLE FAITH. The contents are as follows: Canals on Mars, Charles Darwin and His Granddaddy, Thomas Huxley: Darwin's Bulldog, Ernst Haeckel: Darwin's German Apostle, Icons of Evolution, Icons of Creation, The Ape-men, Predictions, Questions for Evolutionists, Darwinian Gods, Darwin's Social Influence. The **ICONS OF EVOLUTION** that we refute include mutations, the fossil record, homology, the peppered moth, Darwin's finches, the fruit fly, vestigial organs, the horse series, the embryo chart, the Miller experiment, Archaeopteryx, bacterial resistance, the big bang, and billions of years. The **ICONS OF CREATION** that we examine include the monarch butterfly, the trilobite, the living cell, the human eye, the human brain, the human hand, blood clotting, the bird's flight feathers, bird migration, bird song, harmony and symbiosis, sexual reproduction, living technology, the dragonfly, the bee, and the bat. The section on **APE-MEN** deals with Cro-Magnon, Neanderthal, Java Man, Piltdown Man, Nebraska Man, Peking Man, Lucy, Ardi, Ida, among others. The section on **PREDICTIONS** considers 29 predictions made by Biblical creationism, such as the universe will behave according to established laws, the universe will be logical, and there will be a vast unbridgeable gulf between man and the animal kingdom. **DARWINIAN GODS** takes a look at inventions that evolutionists have devised to avoid divine Creation, such as panspermia and aliens, self-organization, and the multiverse. 608 pages.

SOWING AND REAPING: A COURSE IN EVANGELISM. ISBN 978-1-58318-169-0. This course is unique in several ways. *It is unique in its approach.* While it is practical and down-to-earth, it does not present a formulaic approach to soul winning, recognizing that individuals have to be dealt with as individuals. The course does not include any sort of psychological manipulation techniques. It does not neglect repentance in soul winning, carefully explaining the biblical definition of repentance and the place of repentance in personal evangelism. It explains how to use the law of God to plow the soil of the human heart so that the gospel can find good ground. *The course is unique in its objective.* The objective of biblical soul winning is not to get people to "pray a sinner's prayer"; the objective is to see people soundly

converted to Christ. This course trains the soul winner to pursue genuine conversions as opposed to mere “decisions.” *The course is also unique in its breadth.* It covers a wide variety of situations, including how to deal with Hindus and with skeptics and how to use apologetics or evidences in evangelism. There is a memory course consisting of 111 select verses and links to a large number of resources that can be used in evangelism, many of them free. The course is suitable for teens and adults and for use in Sunday School, Youth Ministries, Preaching, and private study. **OUTLINE:** The Message of Evangelism, Repentance and Evangelism, God’s Law and Evangelism, The Reason for Evangelism, The Authority for Evangelism, The Power for Evangelism, The Attitude in Evangelism, The Technique of Evangelism, Using Tracts in Evangelism, Dealing with Skeptics. 104 pages, 8x11, spiral bound.

THINGS HARD TO BE UNDERSTOOD: A HANDBOOK OF BIBLICAL DIFFICULTIES. ISBN 1-58318-002-8. This volume deals with a variety of biblical difficulties. Find the answer to the seeming contradictions in the Bible. Meet the challenge of false teachers who misuse biblical passages to prove their doctrine. Find out the meaning of difficult passages that are oftentimes overlooked in the Bible commentaries. Be confirmed in your confidence in the inerrancy and perfection of the Scriptures and be able to refute the skeptics. Learn the meaning of difficult expressions such as “the unpardonable sin.” A major objective of this volume is to protect God’s people from the false teachers that abound in these last days. For example, we examine verses misused by Seventh-day Adventists, Roman Catholics, Pentecostals, and others to support their heresies. We deal with things such as the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, cremation, head coverings, did Jesus die on Friday, God’s repentance, healing in the atonement, losing one’s salvation, sinless perfectionism, soul sleep, and the Trinity. Jerry Huffman, editor of *Calvary Contender*, testified: “You don’t have to agree with everything to greatly benefit from this helpful book.” In researching and writing

this book, the author consulted roughly 500 volumes, old and new, that deal with biblical difficulties and the various other subjects addressed in *Things Hard to Be Understood*. This one volume, therefore, represents the essence of a sizable library. Sixth edition Feb. 2014, enlarged and completely revised, 441 pages.

AN UNSHAKEABLE FAITH: A CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS COURSE. ISBN 978-1-58318-119-5. The course is built upon nearly 40 years of serious Bible study and 30 years of apologetics writing. Research was done in the author's personal 6,000-volume library plus in major museums and other locations in America, England, Europe, Australia, Asia, and the Middle East. The package consists of an apologetics course entitled *AN UNSHAKEABLE FAITH* (both print and eBook editions) plus an extensive series of Powerpoint/Keynote presentations. (Keynote is the Apple version of Powerpoint.) The 1,800 PowerPoint slides deal with archaeology, evolution/creation science, and the prophecies pertaining to Israel's history. The material in the 360-page course is extensive, and the teacher can decide whether to use all of it or to select only some portion of it for his particular class and situation. After each section there are review questions to help the students focus on the most important points. The course can be used for private study as well as for a classroom setting. Sections include The Bible's Nature, The Bible's Proof, The Dead Sea Scrolls, The Bible's Difficulties, Historical Evidence for Jesus, Evidence for Christ's Resurrection, Archaeological Treasures Confirming the Bible, A History of Evolution, Icons of Evolution, Icons of Creation, Noah's Ark and the Global Flood.

WAY OF LIFE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE BIBLE & CHRISTIANITY. ISBN 1-58318-005-2. This hardcover Bible encyclopedia contains 640 pages (8.5x11) of information, over 6,000 entries, and over 7,000 cross-references. Twenty-five years of research went into this one-of-a-kind reference tool. It is a complete dictionary of biblical terminology and features many other areas of research not often covered in such volumes, including Bible Versions, Denominations, Cults, Christian Movements, Typology, the Church, Social issues and practical

Christian living, Bible Prophecy, and Old English Terminology. It does not correct the Authorized Version of the Bible, nor does it undermine the fundamental Baptist's doctrines and practices as many study tools do. The 5th edition (October 2008) contains new entries, extensive additions to existing entries, and a complete rewriting of the major articles. Many preachers have told us that apart from Strong's Concordance, the Way of Life Bible Encyclopedia is their favorite study tool. A missionary told us that if he could save only one study book out of his library, it would be our Bible encyclopedia. An evangelist in South Dakota wrote: "If I were going to the mission field and could carry only three books, they would be the Strong's concordance, a hymnal, and the Way of Life Bible Encyclopedia." Missionary author Jack Moorman says: "The encyclopedia is excellent. The entries show a 'distilled spirituality.'" 5th edition, 640 pages. A computer edition of the encyclopedia is available as a standalone eBook for PDF, Kindle, and ePub. It is also available as a module for Swordseacher.

Way of Life Literature

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