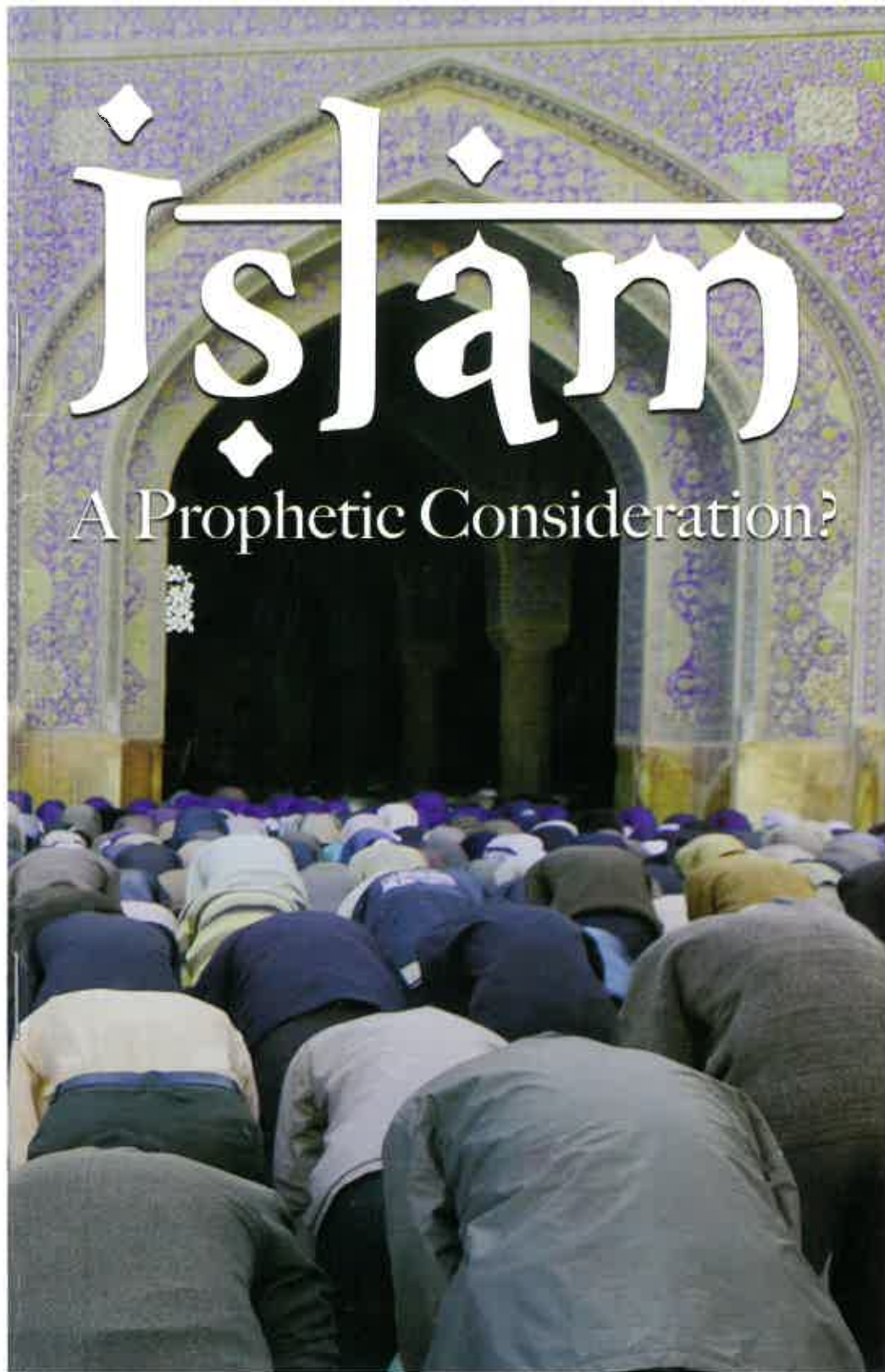




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Islam

A Prophetic Consideration?

Some believe Islam portrays a growing and continued threat to the free world of the West. They think Western leaders, desiring to be perceived as tolerant and civilized, don't recognize they're dealing with a perfidious people who have no intent to return this courtesy. Is this possible? Is the Western free world being naive?

Strangely enough, no one is talking about how the most recent Middle Eastern refugee migration is similar to those fleeing the horrific conditions Nazi Germany imposed on non-Nazis—especially the Jews—during World War II. Millions of Jewish people were massacred at the hands of the Nazi party leading up to and during World War II. It was an appalling realization after discovering so many death camps and what they really were *doing* to so many millions of human beings. It was extraordinarily inordinate and shocking for the world to finally see the magnitude of such ruthless behavior!

Most don't realize there were some 20,000 concentrations camps that were used for a variety of reasons, but primarily for extermination or experimentation upon what the Nazis viewed as so-called "enemies of the state"—human beings, including women, children, and the elderly from all segments of society. Those considered "asocial," or believed to be deviant by government standards—Jehovah's Witnesses, gypsies, homosexuals, German Communists, anti-Socialists, a variety of ethnicities, and of course the Jews—were exterminated by the millions.

However, from about 1933, when the Nazis came to power, until the end of the war in 1945, much of what was done in these concentration camps was unconfirmed and kept *secret* from the world. The detailed atrocities, human experimentation, sexual abuses and slavery, abortions, forced labor camps, and extermination centers were for the most part unknown. It really wasn't until the United States and its allies liberated thousands of POWs that these heinous facilities became plainly known for just what they actually were. Finally, as these camps became liberated, the enormous extent and detail of these "crimes against humanity," conducted within the walls of these camps, finally was revealed to the rest of the world, stunning even the German people with the grotesque images of such malicious treatment the Nazis imposed upon so many innocent people.

But as bewildering and horrifying as that was, by contrast, in our world today, *astoundingly*, Islamic religious groups claiming to be following the Qur'an, especially those of the Sunni faction, under the guise of IS (Islamic State), or ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant), *publicly*, in the open for *all the world* to see, are committing crimes against humanity, violating human rights on a genocidal scale, especially upon traditional Christians (and their own Muslim people) throughout the regions of Iraq, Syria, Libya, and other parts of the Middle East and North Africa, with Europe, the Netherlands, and Turkey being the next targets. It's shockingly unbelievable and unequivocally as brutal and savage as the Nazis!

These atrocities are committed systemically throughout the region *in open daylight!* Recently, the city of Mosul has been cleared of most, if not all, traditional Christians, along with many children and mothers being mercilessly beheaded. Some have had their heads impaled on sticks, displayed in public, like some kind of macabre horror film—their *only crime*: they claimed the name of *Jesus Christ*, or *perhaps failed to submit to IS's rule of law*. There have been reports of crucifixions, and women and children being buried alive, or group drownings in cages, be it in water or acid—and of course homicidal bombers. Others have been kidnapped, raped, held as sex slaves (children included), and sold as so much chattel. Others are held for ransom, and when they get the money, the person is killed regardless—their body parts sent back in a box to the family, as was recently done to a Catholic priest, *after* the family paid the ransom.

It's a *nightmare*—a grotesque situation being orchestrated *IN THE OPEN FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE*—yet no Western nation, China, Japan, or Russia has taken any serious steps to put an end to this *demonic madness* conducted by these Muslim groups. Why do you suppose that is? There certainly isn't any question or doubt about what's happening. There is all kinds of evidence validating, confirming, and authenticating these "crimes against humanity."

So what is stopping the world from carrying out their *moral duty* to obliterate this faction of *deranged Muslims* that are on an Islamic religious mission? And don't kid yourself; it is a *religious* mission they are on. Remember, in their minds, it's all about *dominating* the world with their seventh-century ways of oppression.

Strangely enough, many Western leaders *do not understand* Islam. They believe the *moderate* Muslims of the West define what Islam is—when in fact, that couldn't be further from the truth. Now I know many may find that statement uncomfortable and perhaps rather disturbing, because many "Westerners" would like to consider these Muslims as extremists, or an aberration, or oddity of sorts that stand apart from Islam, misappropriating and misapplying the beliefs of Islam and the Qur'an. But as much as those in the West would like to believe there is such a thing as a "moderate Muslim,"

make no mistake: moderate Islam *doesn't exist* to any significant degree—not even in Central Asia where Muslims coexist peacefully with non-Muslims.

However, though some will make the case this is slightly being done sporadically, keep in mind that it's *not* because anything has changed in their teachings of Jihad—it's just simply due to certain Islamic laws presently being *ignored*. History has *proved* that nations allowing this kind of fraternization can expect the "true" Muslims among them to *change* and *influence* the *hosting culture* to adopt and embrace Islam—whether by forceful, violent jihad or by infringing on and embedding in the hosting culture, using peaceful, political, incremental means of "jihad" (to struggle, or strive), but intended to conquer from *within*—that's just what they do!

For example, the prominent American Muslim spokesman Siraj Wahaj, who by some is considered a moderate Muslim, addressed the U.S. Congress back in 1991. He attempted ten years later to ease America's nerves after 9/11 by saying he felt he should go on a jihad against this kind of extremism. However, this *same individual* recently warned the United States that if they didn't accept the Islamic agenda, it would fall! He has made additional comments indicating he would like to see the United States replace the constitutional government with a *caliphate*, *obviously employing Sharia law throughout the country*.

Sadly, there is a much bigger problem with Western leaders than we realize, when you understand that a man like this is allowed to give a prayer in the audience of the very men and women who are expected to uphold the U.S. Constitution. Obviously, this illustrates a symptom of a much more serious lack of judgment—a naiveté that, unbelievably, is hard to comprehend from Western leaders that you'd expect would know better.

In a recent interview, the Iraqi Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ahmad Hassani Baghdadi said, "But if they [Christians] still refuse—then we fight them, and we abduct their women, and destroy their churches—this is Islam! ...Come on, learn what Islam is, are you even a Muslim?" (ref., *The Post and Before It's News*, 10-18-15). This statement is from a very prominent Islamic leader. Yet, we dismiss this rhetoric as just words without meaning since we consider this "extremism" rather than a legitimate "denomination" of Islam—and then comfort ourselves by thinking this just can't represent what Islam really is. That is a very unfortunate and dangerous view!

We must keep in mind the significance of this statement and remember al-Baghdadi is a Marja. What that means for the Shia Muslim is, he is considered a "source of emulation"—an interpreter in matters of law and ritual. In other words, he is viewed as a powerful voice of "allegedly" radical leadership for the Muslim faith. He is determined to make it very clear: Islam *cannot* coexist with any other faith according to his interpretation of Islamic

doctrine (based on the Qur'an and Hadith)—because he believes “this is Islam.” In other words, Islam is defined as portrayed by their religiosity.

He proceeded to further explain all capable Muslims are *obligated* to fight for freedom of all occupied areas, including Israel! Furthermore, for those areas not presently occupied, Muslims are *mandated*, when they are prepared with enough strength, to go on the offensive and *conquer* all non-Muslims. The Ayatollah went on to expound that if they (those of the book, Christians and Jews) want to maintain their distinctive faith apart from Islam, they must concede to paying the *jizya* (Islamic poll tax) and live according to the *dhimmi* rules (guidelines for “protected persons,” a.k.a. the conquered people). This is their only option besides adopting the Islamic faith outright. Anything else will necessitate and *require* the Muslim to fight and kill the infidel.

Throughout the interview, al-Baghdadi was emphatic that this is the word of Allah! As far as the Ayatollah is concerned, this is fundamental, and if you don't understand or agree with this, you don't understand what Islam really is. Unquestionably, the vast majority, virtually *all* Muslim clerics, both Sunni and Shia, hold these views, clearly illustrating these are *not* “radical” views but rather, in the Middle East, are common “Islamic Fundamentalist” beliefs. It is the norm—the *accepted definition* of what Islam actually is and its ultimate intent and objective.

Unfortunately, many in the West *just don't get it*. They continue to believe Islam is a religion of peace, and from a jihadist's point of view, he would agree. However, his framing of that idea is engrafted in the concept of dominance, as was theorized by one of the twentieth century's foremost promoters of jihad, Muslim Brotherhood's Sayyid Qutb. Essentially, his idea of peace is when *everyone* becomes Muslim, or at least subject to Islamic law; and how that peace will be secured is through jihad, be it peacefully or through violence! So, that's why a Muslim jihadist would agree Islam is a religion of peace—even to the point of claiming the word “Islam” means peace—however, in the context of conceding to the *dominance/subjugation* of Islamic law.

So many non-Muslims, especially here in the West, don't realize these Sunni and Shia Muslims *use the Qur'an* to justify terrorism because they *fundamentally* take their book *literally*! This is undeniable! Notice just a few verses from the Qur'an that Muslims use to justify violent jihad:

- *Then when the sacred months have passed slay the unbelievers (idolaters) wherever you find them, and take them captive, and besiege them, and prepare for them each ambush... (Qur'an 9:5).*
- *Therefore, when you meet the unbelievers in fight, smite at their necks (behead them), at length, when you have thoroughly subdued them, bind*

a bond firmly on them (Qur'an 47:4).

- *O you who believe! Take not the Jew and the Christian for your friends and protectors: they are but friends and protectors to each other and he amongst you that turns to them (for friendship) is of them (Qur'an 5:51).*
- *O Prophet, make war on (strive hard against) the unbelievers and the hypocrites and deal rigorously with (be firm against) them. Their abode is hell, an evil refuge indeed (Qur'an 9:73).*
- *Those who believe fight in the cause of Allah (jihad) and those who reject faith fight in the cause of evil: so fight you against the friends of Satan (Qur'an 4:76).*
- *O you who believe! Fight the unbeliever who gird you about, and let them find firmness in you: and know that Allah is with those who fear Him (Qur'an 9:123).*

These are just a few of over 100 verses in the Qur'an encouraging believers to engage in violent jihad against non-Muslims. Yet, many will argue there isn't any difference with these directives from Allah when compared to that which the God of the Old Testament made against so many nations He mandated Israel to conquer. But is that a fair assessment of this comparison? Or is there an important distinction to be made?

Contextually, there is a *critical difference* to be made when comparing this *alleged similarity*. But that doesn't stop some Islamic apologists from attempting to make the case that Muslims are no more violent than those who followed the directives of the God of Israel. They will claim that selectively picking scriptures out of the Bible can be equally as easy to illustrate the moral equivalence between Islam and those following the Judeo-Christian Bible. These Islamic apologists insist you will find this kind of violence described in many religions throughout mankind's history and embedded in a variety of cultural traditions.

They will even take scriptures out of the New Testament such as Luke 19:26–27 and attempt to spin them to mean Christ was instructing His followers to slay His enemies in His presence. Unfortunately, they often fail to explain Jesus was using a *parable* to illustrate a spiritual principle, not giving a directive to His followers to kill His enemies. They will also use Matthew 10:34–35: “Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. I am sent to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother....”

Yet most apologists fail to admit that even if this were true and Christ was advocating violent jihad behavior, it would be kept within the limitations of one's family. But regardless, it is simply ridiculous and laughable to equate the Qur'an's jihad directives with the peaceful message of Jesus Christ, which is clearly illustrated throughout the Bible. Contextually, taking that

into consideration, it becomes evident Christ was using a *metaphor* to describe the spiritual effect His teachings would have within some families.

But perhaps *most* importantly, throughout the whole Bible, when God gives a directive for an invasion of a nation of people, He is very *specific* as to *who* they are and *where* and *when* it should be done. Admittedly, the Bible is filled with descriptions of wars between His nation Israel and other nations He wanted them to fight, especially those living in the land He intended to give them (Deuteronomy 7:1–2). But clearly, a *major distinction* between these historical records of war and the Qur'an's instructions to fight non-Muslims is that the latter are *mandates* that apply at all times—including the *present*—and in all places!

Therefore, make no mistake, “Muslim Fundamentalists” interpret these Suras as *open-ended directives* to wage war on all unbelievers at any time, whenever and wherever you come up against those who resist the laws or tenets of Islam. This is something most fail to recognize or refuse to accept in light of our present “politically correct” environment, and it may well exacerbate our own decline and seriously add extra risk to endangering our Western Judeo-Christian culture!

What Is So Threatening to the West?

The Islamic religion is the fastest growing religion presently in the world, according to many sources. The *Pew Research Center's* religious profile claims about 1.6 billion Muslims and 2.17 billion Christians are on the planet as of 2010. Its present growth rate is postured to exceed Christianity, some say as early as 2050, while others say not until the end of the 21st century. Many facts and figures are exaggerated regarding Islam's growth from a variety of sources (e.g., *BBC*, 2003 *Guinness Book of World Records*, *Pew Forum*, *Carnegie Endowment for World Peace—2007*, *Wikipedia*), so it appears that Islam is presently the fastest growing religion *in the world*. However, much of that is actually due to the reproductive rate of Muslims compared to other religions—an average of 3.1 percent compared to Christians at 2.7 percent. Comparably, regardless of religion, the world's total reproductive rate averages 2.5 percent.

It's been estimated that as of 2009, the world's population was 23 percent Muslim, with 80 percent of them living *outside* the Arab world since 2002. Muslims are expected to be approximately 26.4 percent of the world's population by about 2030. (This is based on an estimated world population of 7.9 billion.) It's been approximated that from about 1990 through 2010 the global Muslim population increased by about 2.2 percent annually.

A common misconception or stereotype in the West about Muslims is that most are Arabic. *This isn't true!* Most Muslims actually live in Asia and Africa. Generally, they are considered “people of color,” with about 60 per-

cent of all Muslims living in Asia and about another 25 percent living in Africa, and many in Indonesia.

Admittedly, this has been very dynamic and fluid over the last few decades, with Western and Eastern Europe and North America becoming destination spots for many Islamists, and especially most recently with so many migrating refugees moving westward. The primary means by which Muslims are growing in these areas is by two specific ways: immigration and the high Muslim birth rate, not necessarily by adding converts through their evangelistic methods. To illustrate this point, seven percent of all babies born in the European Union in 1998 were Muslim and as many as 57 percent in Brussels.

According to research scientist Carol Stone, it's also very difficult to estimate how many Muslims are in North America today, due to a lack of reliable information. However, there are some signs that can give us some idea; but admittedly, inadequate religious census polling, inaccurate membership roles from mosques, and exaggerated figures from Muslims make it all rather difficult to arrive at a definite number.

Yet, Muslim and Christian sources all agree, Islam is the fastest growing religion in North America, also. According to *The Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, 2000*, the claim is made that 3.9 million Muslims are in the United States. *Islamic Horizons* states there are approximately 8–10 million Muslims in all of North America. However, the most common number of Muslims used by the United States government is about six million, with the top five largest concentrations being in California, New York, Illinois, New Jersey, and Indiana. Michigan, Virginia, Texas, Ohio, and Maryland round out the top 10. It's been estimated there are about 400,000 Muslims in the general Chicago area alone.

Though some of these figures can be debated, what is certain is the enormous growth rate Islam is experiencing. According to the United Nation's statistics, Islam has grown by 25 percent in the United States between 1989 and 1998. In 1990, there were only about 50 Muslim schools in the USA. Today, the number exceeds 200 nationwide. According to the *Islamic School League of America* (ISLA) an estimated 40,000 children are enrolled in Islamic schools throughout the USA. This represents a 25 percent increase since 2006. Mosques have tripled throughout the United States since about 1990. Presently, there are over 2,500 mosques and Islamic centers across the United States.

So, what was once a Judeo-Christian culture in North America, especially in the United States, is now becoming forcefully exposed to not only a Middle Eastern religion, but also a Middle Eastern “*political*” and religious culture not respectful of Western civilization, or lifestyle of the United States and Canada. Instead of assimilating, conversely, these foreign nationals are

establishing their own neighborhoods to preserve their own cultural presence and laws (sharia in particular) within the host nation. They are segregated communities, because that's what they *do*. Islam, properly understood, is both political and religious—it's a *theocracy*!

This brings up many questions that, based on some of the progressive conditions we see developing, causes one to ponder just where all this is leading, especially *prophetically*. Should it be considered more seriously? Looking at the present Muslim "migration invasion" of Europe, including the European Union, one can't help but to ask: Are we witnessing a major cultural shift of such gigantic proportions that it may lead to a significant rearrangement of the whole continent's population and its ethos? Are these conditions becoming the proverbial "straw that breaks the camel's back," resulting in contributing to the collapse of the European Union as we know it today? And if so, what significance might it have?

According to the Pew Research Center's religious profile predictions, Islam may become the most popular religion around the world by 2070. This, of course, does not take into account any unforeseen circumstances, natural or supernatural, such as social movements, political upheavals, natural disasters, or simply a major war that could alter these projections. Presently, there are about 1.75 billion Muslims and 2.25 billion Christians in the world.

Specifically for Europe, San Diego University did some research resulting in a stunning estimate. They claim that in just the next dozen years, 25 percent of Europe's total population will be Muslim. Bernard Lewis, world-renowned Emeritus of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University, predicts that by the end of the twenty-first century, Islam will *dominate* Europe, *surpassing* Christianity as the continent's leading religion. Many all over the world do not recognize or place any significance on this changing "cultural tsunami." Yet, one *cannot* dismiss the major effects, which are now considerably noticeable, and *impact* it's having on the lifestyles and economies within European culture. This is primarily due to the growing Muslim population in many cities throughout Europe, and the enormous burden it has caused on the social assistance programs within each country.

For example, the cities of Malmö, Sweden, Marseille, France, and Amsterdam are presently 25 percent Islamic. Currently, Paris is surrounded by Muslim neighborhoods with significant areas identified as "no-go zones," with large numbers of young people under the age of 18 living in these districts. Admittedly, in the case of Paris, we have seen how this caused a degree of vulnerability from this culture change and non-assimilating/segregated Islamic lifestyle, and how multiple terrorist attacks are play-

ing out against the indigenous French.

This illustrates what was already mentioned, and how Islam generally employs two specific methods of ultimately infiltrating for the domination of the cultures they target for submission: violent Jihad, of course, is one—but secondly, peaceful Jihad—*embedding inside* the host nation and by means from within, gaining dominance, causing the host nation to submit to Islamic law (remember, Jihad simply means "the struggle," be it violent or peaceful). This is how it's done—and it's now occurring in the United States, also!

We are beginning to see this occur most significantly in city after city where *accommodations* for Islamic culture are made. These compromises often lead to relaxing and making concessions that undermine the indigenous culture, consequently displacing ethnicities that were there for generations. Undeniably, sometimes it's done through natural and legal means of migration and granting natural citizenship; but recently, due to the unrest and civil wars in the Middle East, combined with many competing terrorist groups driving this movement of literally millions of people, an overwhelming number of Islamic *foreign nationals* are now entering Europe as refugees, who are unknown and without any substantive background checks. They're allowed to settle in areas throughout Europe, which obviously stresses the ethos and economics in multiple ways. The size, scope, and enormity of this migration has not been seen since the days of WW II.

Unquestionably, this has caused a lot of hardship and tension within the cultures of Europe. For instance, many public schools in Belgium and Denmark will only serve halal food (specially prescribed and prepared foods according to sharia law) to the pupils. In French schools, teachers are encouraged to "steer clear" of authors considered offensive to Muslims. Homosexuals in Amsterdam are being beaten and mugged, while women are being sexually assaulted and raped, along with children as young as seven years old, both male and female. The history of the Holocaust can no longer be taught in some areas where Muslims attend due to their sensitivities. Sharia courts are now officially part of the British legal system. The following article is shocking as to what Britain is allowing: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1055764/Isl-sharia-courts-Britain-legally-binding.html>.

This growing increase of Muslim dominance within hosting governments and neighborhood after neighborhood has also led to a rise in anti-Semitism, causing a record number of Jews to leave Europe. Clearly, the Islamization of Europe is underway, and trying to stop it would not be considered "politically correct." Even Germany is welcoming enormous numbers of Muslim refugees to settle within the nation (approximately one million over 2015), while not knowing who they are, where they're from, or what they can con-

tribute to the country. Actually, truth be known, many are just coming to receive the variety of entitlements offered under the social assistance programs subsidized and provided by the socialistic governments of Europe.

Gaining Some Context—A Historical Thumbnail Sketch

You may ask, *Have we seen this before?* Do we have any historical record of similar circumstances occurring in the past? The Bible indicates that if we want to understand what will happen in the future we should become familiar with what happened down through history (Isaiah 41:21–23). Why? Because there are patterns. It has been said, those who don't learn the mistakes of the past are indeed "destined to repeat them." And so often that is exactly what happens! That's why it's been said, "History repeats itself," especially when considering the nature and patterns of empires and kingdoms and the cycles repeated time after time.

Since the rise of Islam, going back to the seventh century, just after Mohammed's death in 632 C.E., his followers have been conducting insurgency—rising up and either openly exercising violent jihad, attacking nations and literally slaughtering people, or infiltrating the social structure of the hosting culture and, from within, using the host nation's laws to steer and influence the hegemony to accommodate Islamic tradition and law. Either way, the profile fits the *non-assimilating* Islamic way, because it is not only a religion, but most importantly, there is a *secular* component imposing *political control* by ultimately embedding in the legislative sector of the culture it migrates to. Clearly, it is a *theocracy*! History proves this point very plainly.

To illustrate: Many will say the *beginning* of the Crusades occurred at the end of the eleventh century. Most modern historians will reference the call to arms that Pope Urban II conducted in about 1095 C.E. at the request of Alexius Comnenus. Alexius had seized the Byzantine throne in 1081 C.E. and

assumed control of the remains of the Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman Empire) as Emperor Alexius I. It was at the Council of Clermont, November 1095 C.E., that Pope Urban called upon Western Christians to help the Byzantines **reconquer** the Holy Land from Islamic dominance. It was met with a great outpouring of support from all classes of the population who were willing to go and fight the Muslims with and for the sign of the cross.



Dome of the Rock

But is this really how and what started the Crusades? Or was this a long overdue response to centuries of Muslim aggression, which continued to compound, growing ever more vicious through the years of genocidal Jihadi attacks? Those who insist on rewriting history prefer you don't know what led up to Alexius's appeal for help to Pope Urban II—it's just not politically correct today for that historical detail of the narrative to be disclosed.

However, what most people don't realize, and what is often overlooked and dismissed by both Christian and Islamic historians, is that the objective of the Catholic Church sanctioning the Crusades was defined as a mission to *recapture* and *recover* former Christian territory taken by Muslims in previous centuries. Yes, the truth is, the Crusades were a *direct response* by Western Rome to counter the aggressive tactics—Jihadist attacks—by Muslim hoards from centuries before. It was a reaction from Western Christians (Rome in particular) to answer the call for help from the Byzantines who wanted to "reconquer" former Christian territory.

Keep in mind, Muslims attacked and seized Jerusalem as far back as 638 C.E., just six years after Mohammad's death, which was a direct result of the weakening of the Eastern Roman Empire (the Byzantium) due to the Byzantine-Sasanian War of 602–628 C.E. The net outcome of this long, drawn-out, and over-extended war contributed to enormous territorial losses exacerbated by the Islamic jihadist conquests of the seventh century. It was at this time Muslims initiated *invasions* into Christian Byzantine lands. Some of the richest areas of the Eastern Roman Empire were lost to Muslim dominance as early as the seventh century. Over the years, Egypt, Syria, and parts of northern Africa, including Jerusalem, were all lost to these Arab warriors of Mohammad. They "capstoned" their conquest of Jerusalem by completing an octagonal domed Islamic building over the rock on Mount Moriah, built by the Caliph Abd al-Malik in 691 C.E. Today, we know this building as the Dome of the Rock. What's important about this is that these events took place about 400 years *before* what is commonly accepted as the historical beginning of the Crusades! This clearly illustrates Islam was out conquering Roman/Christian territories long before what is recognized as the beginning of the Crusades.

Approximately 450 years of relentless Islamic jihadist aggression over much of the Eastern Roman Empire *preceded* the officially recognized date the Crusades started! Remember, commencing in the seventh century, until the end of the eleventh century, Muslims terrorized enormous numbers of Christian people residing in what was Eastern Byzantium. This violence escalated in the eighth century when sixty Christians were crucified and the Muslim governor of Caesarea seized a small group of pilgrims, accused them of being spies, and executed all of them. Those Christians refusing to convert to Islam had the *jizya* (religious tax) increased by many Muslim



Crusaders

rulers who also engaged in very vicious and horrific acts of violence toward those Christians among them.

In 772 C.E., the caliph, al-Mansur, ordered a *mark* to be stamped on the hands of all Jews and Christians, and if any were caught proselytizing, they would have their heads cut off as was done in 789 C.E. to many monks, when the

Bethlehem monastery of Saint Theodosius was plundered. As the persecutions increased early in the tenth century, many Christians fled to Constantinople and other cities in the West. But the Muslims were unmerciful, harsh, and implacable.

This continued pillaging and ruthless advances of jihadists finally caused a counter attack to erupt in the 960s by a General Nicephorus Phocas who later became a Byzantine emperor. He was able to parlay a series of successful campaigns, which resulted in recapturing Crete, Cilicia, Cyprus, and parts of Syria from the Muslims. In 969 C.E., he was able to secure and recover the city of Antioch and continue his military successes on into Syria for a few additional years. But soon the Sunni caliph from Bagdad declared violent jihad against these Christian defenders in 974 C.E.

Many years of battles followed, but due to the complication of disunity among the Sunni/Shi'ite Muslims, which hampered their efforts to defend what they believed to be theirs (since Muslims believe once something belongs to Islam it is always Islamic)—a ten-year truce was negotiated in 1001 C.E., but it didn't last. Over the next ensuing years, 30,000 Christian church buildings were destroyed, including the Jerusalem Church of the Holy Sepulcher, where allegedly Christ was buried. During this eleventh century, Christians were in a very precarious condition, and throughout this century persecution became more intense. Three thousand people were killed in Jerusalem, and that was nothing compared to the ongoing advances of the jihadists. The Seljuks established the sultanate of Rum (referring to the new Rome of Constantinople) in Nicaea, hoping to use it as a platform to threaten the Byzantines and harass the Christians throughout the area.

It was at this time that Alexius Comnenus, emperor of the Byzantine, reached out to Pope Urban II, asking for help in pushing back and *recapturing* the lands that *originally* belonged to the Byzantium of Eastern Rome.

And as mentioned before, Pope Urban sent out the edict during the Council of Clermont in 1095 C.E. for all Christians of the Western world to come and help fight to regain and recapture the lands which originally were part of the Eastern Roman Empire. It's at this point most historians recognize the Crusades began, regardless of these Islamic invasions that were taking place for approximately 450 years previously. It's disingenuous, at best, not to include these attacks going back to the seventh century, if we're going to determine what really caused the Crusades and just how they actually got started. It's in this context the Crusades need to be framed for a more comprehensive understanding of what and why they occurred.

What Lessons Do We Learn From History?

There is much to be learned from the history of these two religions of the Middle Ages and the *raw hate* expressed when confronting each other during the Crusades. However, it's important we understand a very deep-seated difference that underscores the animosity keeping these followers of Mohammed so visceral toward Christian beliefs. Most don't recognize there is a fundamental driving *doctrinal disagreement* that causes the Muslim to perceive and view the Christian way with disgust, aversion, and repugnance.

In the Qur'an, there are suras that present the basis of the antipathy that *all Muslims* hold toward Jesus Christ, and consequently, Christianity in general. They read as follows:

- "In *blasphemy* indeed are those that say that Allah is Christ the son of Mary. Say: Who then hath the least power against Allah, if His will were to destroy Christ the son of Mary, his mother, and all every one that is on the earth? For to Allah, belongeth the dominion of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between. He createth what He pleaseth. For Allah hath power over all things" (Qur'an 5:17, *Yusuf Ali* edition).
- "They do *blaspheme* who say: Allah is Christ the son of Mary. But said Christ: O Children of Israel! worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. Whoever joins other gods with Allah, Allah will forbid him the garden, and the Fire will be his abode. There will for the wrong-doers be no one to help" (Qur'an 5:72, *Yusuf Ali* edition).
- "Then whoever disputes with you concerning him [Jesus] after knowledge that has come to you, [Jesus] being a slave of Allah, and having no share in Divinity say: (O Muhammad SAW) Come, let us call our sons and your sons, our women and your women, ourselves and your selves— then we pray and invoke (sincerely) *the Curse of Allah* upon those who lie" (Qur'an 3:61, *Muhsin Khan* edition).
- "That they said (boastfully), We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah;—but they *killed him not, nor crucified him*, but so

it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but *only conjecture* to follow, *for of a surety they killed him not:—*” (Qur’an 4:157, *Yusuf Ali* edition).

- “He (Jesus) said: Verily! I am a *slave of Allah*, He has given me the Scripture and made me a prophet” (Qur’an 19:30, *Muhsin Khan* edition).
- “Christ the son of Mary was *no more* than a messenger; many were the messengers that passed away before him. His mother was a woman of truth. They had both to eat their food. See how Allah doth make His signs clear to them; yet see in what ways they *are deluded* away from the truth” [of Islam] (Qur’an 5:75 *Yusuf Ali* edition).

These are just a few of the many references to Jesus Christ, and yes, admittedly, there are additional suras that appear to speak more favorably about Him, but that is not to ignore this *plain fact*: The Christian belief that Christ was God and actually became a man, incarnate, so He could be crucified and die so mankind could live eternally is *utter nonsense* and complete *blasphemy* to Islamic doctrine! This is considered a doctrine of *idolatry* to them! This is an *important distinction* to make!

It’s what underpins the extreme hatred toward Christians today—the fact that Christians will not concede this point: “And they were commanded only to worship Allah, and worship none but Him Alone (no gods beside God), and perform prayers and give charity: and that is the right religion” (Qur’an 98:4–5). All Muslims are *committed* to this one theological statement of belief: Allah is God and Mohammad is His prophet.

With this as their driving motivation and tireless obsession to conquer the world for Allah, the *second* most important lesson we can learn from history: Islam is *relentless* and will *not* stand down until all submit to the Islamization of the world. That is the overall objective for this theocracy. This movement is committed to rule the world and bring all of humanity under Islamic law.

Remember, Islam is more than a religion. At its core, it is a *political movement* that is driven by *religious fanaticism* of apocalyptic visions of the Twelfth Imam, or Mahdi’s (Messiah) return to rule the world and recover it from the chaos created by the Muslim jihadist movement! This is part of the “catalyst that generates the resolve” that Western nations are contending with but *refuse* to acknowledge as a significant Islamic tenet. This denial is detrimental to those suffering from it, and blinds them from addressing this aggressively *determined* theocratic movement. However, that doesn’t dismiss in the spiritual eyes and minds of most Shi’ite and Sunni Muslims that it remains a very *real* eschatological doctrine that is foremost in their religious beliefs. Don’t doubt for a minute that it isn’t a *compelling* belief that motivates them to do whatever it takes—even if they have to *kill themselves*

doing it. They are driven by an *overwhelming passion* to dominate for the sake of Allah! In their minds all must “submit” in obedience to Allah, whom they believe is the same God as the God of the Old Testament. It is derived from the Arabic root *Salema*, meaning peace, purity, submission, and obedience. In the religious sense, *Islam means submission* to the will of Allah (God) and His law—sharia! And when that happens, in their doctrine, the world will be at peace. This is what’s really behind the term “Islam” when it’s characterized as a religion of peace—yes, a religion of peace—when under submission to Islamic sharia law.

Keep in mind that even the “father” of the Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther, claimed after studying the Qur’an that it was a destroyer, enemy, and blasphemer of Jesus Christ. Yet many in the West refuse to admit the Qur’an calls for the execution of those who commit blasphemy, which is considered worshipping any other God but Allah. It is *imperative* we start allowing this information to resonate with us!

In the minds of certain segments of Islam, there are Muslims who are considered *fundamentalists*, which do, in fact, take the Qur’an *very literally*, and carry out what it instructs according to the sura narratives. Therefore, it should not be surprising as to why there are Muslim groups—*Islamic fundamentalists* today—claiming France, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, England, etc., and multiple cities within many of the Western European countries, are the “carriers of the banner of the Cross in Europe” and must be *conquered*—they *must* be—it’s mandated by the Qur’an that they submit!

It is a well-known fact among Muslims today that sharia law, which is *Islamic law*, is *not* compatible with democracy. So, even among the non-violent Muslims (the so-called moderate Muslims), there are movements and groups working within present governmental structures of the hosting communities, implementing tactics that fully intend to favor Islamic law. Obviously, as these groups begin to attain majority positions in government, they will be able to effect the changes they want and successfully change the laws of the land—it’s what they do. Watch this YouTube news story for additional details: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDKk15KcqNk>. It’s guaranteed you will be stunned!

In addition, this perception shared by these *Muslim fundamentalists*



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includes the United States as being the “great Satan” and Israel being the “little Satan.” In their minds, this isn’t just rhetoric, or figures of speech—they really mean this *literally*. Remember, we are dealing with a *theology*—it’s a *religion*! Yes, it is an ideology, but it is actually *rooted* and *underscored* by theology, written in the Qur’an and *magnified* by the Hadith. This makes it *far more dangerous* since the Qur’an’s scriptures (suras), which are used for their instruction, are so intolerantly myopic and prejudicial toward beliefs outside the laws (sharia) and traditions (culture) of Islam.

The Islamic attacks being conducted by these Muslim fundamentalists, under the guise of jihad, are testaments to this narrow-mindedness. Attacks against Jews and Christians, Yazidis, Hindus, Kurds, and other Sunnis and Shi’ites, only go to illustrate the confusion and complexity of just what this movement is all about and how it’s defined. It’s often quite a tangled, convoluted narrative that simply is just vicious, spiteful, brutal, and cruel.

However, one thing is clear: If you do not concede to Islamic sharia law and conform to a Friday sabbath, halal foods, certain holy days and fasts, religious prayer rituals, particular garb (especially for women), polygamy, child marriages, and the oppression of women, homosexuals, and those who *do not believe* that Allah is God and Mohammad is his prophet—even execution and/or limbs or heads that can legally be amputated for certain offenses, with stoning included—then you must either pay a jizya (tax), convert to Islam, or be executed. These are some of the rules that govern Islamic sharia law.

Presently, these cultural differences are causing a lot of tension, confusion, hurt, and enormous disappointment and sadness among the European communities that are experiencing an influx of Middle Eastern Muslim refugees and immigrants. Due to the *non-assimilation* of these Islamic foreign nationals, those indigenous people from the hosting nations are beginning to suffer grotesquely due to the *intolerance* of these Muslim fundamentalists which are now having an effect on the lifestyles, safety, and in some cases laws of those Western cultures that don’t share in this theological ideology that is quite *fascist* in its implementation. Consequently, it has lead to a tremendous amount of confusion on how to handle and address the influx of such foreigners. In so many cases they act so differently and come from such a different cultural background that it appears the incompatibilities due to the “*intolerance of diversity*” from these Muslim fundamentalists will continue to promote their non-assimilation into the hosting culture.

So, where is this leading, and to what prophetic *extent* can we expect this Islamic fundamentalist movement to affect the traditional Western Christian cultures of Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia, and other so-called Christian nations of the world?

The present movement by Muslim fundamentalists involved in jihad should be considered very dangerous—much more threatening than just political ideologues—because they interpret the Qur’an, a religious document, literally. This is not a secular political movement.

Remember, not all Muslim fundamentalists are violent jihadists, but all jihadists are Muslim fundamentalists. It’s important this distinction is understood, because it will help us recognize what defines Islam and jihad; and the important point of this is that no form of jihad, whether violent or nonviolent, dismisses or lessens the intent to *dominate*. Both types of jihadists are equally as dangerous in their methods of controlling and dominating the hegemony of the hosting culture.

Remember, there are *two distinct strategies* used by Muslims to conquer their targets for dominance. Obviously, violent jihad is *one* method used by this theocratic fundamentalist movement. But, *second*, and often underestimated, is that of embedding in the culture they migrate to, and then integrating so as to gain influence, *peacefully*, within the *political* segment of the culture. This too is jihad, but a different approach to the “struggle” all Muslims are actively involved with.

This second method or strategy—the peaceful means—can be executed in a few different ways. First, it can be accomplished, legally and seamlessly, with a degree of uncontested acceptance by simply assimilating as is necessary to acquire the influence and favor for election into a political office via the normal and natural means of a democratic system. This has been done for many years and is still done in the United States. As a matter of fact, there are currently two Muslim congressmen, Muslim mayors in Florida, New Jersey, and Connecticut, and a Muslim majority running the city of Hamtramck, Michigan, which now conducts the call to prayer multiple times a day throughout the city. All of this was voted in by the people within those districts and communities. Clearly, in time, their numbers will grow into a majority that can be threatening and ultimately detrimental for maintaining the laws and traditions of the hosting nation or culture. Hamtramck, Michigan is a *perfect example* of how a former Polish community has been essentially replaced by Islamic culture. It’s no secret that even the most moderate, non-violent Muslims will favor Islamic law—sharia—over a nation’s constitutional law, thereby eventually becoming the domineering hegemony through peaceful compromises and concessions. Even the city of London, England recently voted in their first Muslim mayor, thereby substantiating this exact strategic method!

In addition, we see something happening that most Muslims call *hijra*. This is the Arabic word describing what Mohammad did when moving to Medina from Mecca. This term of migration, or “moving,” is now being assigned as a facsimile to the migration of literally millions of Muslim

refugees to Europe and the rest of the world. However, it is nothing more than a *civilian invasion* of Islamic influence and culture, with the intent to *dominate*—as was conducted by Muhammad when he fled to Medina. It's the same principle being applied today and labeled as such by many Muslim leaders. This often results in what we are now witnessing throughout Europe and in particular areas of the United States, where certain long-established indigenous ethnicities and cultures are required to concede and compromise their values and traditions to accommodate Islamic laws and lifestyle requirements, even going so far as to ban certain holidays, celebrations, and foods in school, dress, or any other items Muslims might find offensive. As mentioned before—it's what they do! They become very assertive, somewhat xenophobic, and bigoted toward anything considered foreign or strange to Islamic law. Islam, *at its core*, is very intolerant and prejudicial toward *anything* contrary to Islamic thought and its theological ideas—and that is why it's considered so pugnacious, pernicious, and *perilous!*

An Additional Compounding Threat About Islam

Make no mistake: Islam is *absolutely* not a friend of the Christian Church. Though there are some who argue the God of the Old Testament is the same as Allah, this is simply not true! Let's take a moment to compare some fundamental differences to prove this point and thereby establish the following: Allah and YHVH are *not* the same, nor does the Qur'an agree with the Old or New Testament. These are *two important premises* to establish going forward in clarifying the definition of Islam and what it teaches.

What the Qur'an teaches and claims is quite different from what the Bible heralds, discloses, and confirms. Notice:

Muhammad wrote the Qur'an over a period of 20 years. He received his first revelation at the age of 42 in A.D. 612 and died in A.D. 632 at the age of 62. During that period, he claimed the angel Gabriel gave him revelations while in a trance, which allegedly revealed and established him as Allah's prophet. These revelations were first presented to the Arabs of Arabia and then, over time, spread throughout the world. After fleeing Mecca, Muhammad established himself in Medina, where he gained political power and adopted ruthless military action (violent jihad) as his method of converting others.

Once he gained political power after establishing himself in Medina, Muhammad's method of converting others was by ruthless military action (violent jihad), forcing non-believers to either accept Islam or die. He was known for his forceful military conquests using robbery, murder, rape, and terror as his most common methods of persuasion. The Old and New Testaments of the Bible *do not teach any of this*.

The five pillars of Islam are: 1) There is no God but Allah; Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah—his prophet. 2) Prayer is to be performed five times daily, facing Mecca, on Fridays in a mosque. 3) Alms and offerings are to be given to Allah as acts of piety. 4) Fast during the month of Ramadan. 5) Make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in your life. The Bible also does *not teach any of this*.

- According to the book *Differences—Bible vs. The Koran* by Ben J. Smith, the Qur'an teaches the following: (S=sura)
 - Muhammad is Allah's prophet above all others (S-5:75).
 - Jesus Christ is only a prophet (S-5:75).
 - Jesus is not the Son of God (S-3:59, 9:30, 10:68–69, 19:35).
 - Jesus did not die on the cross (S-4:147).
 - Jesus did not resurrect from the dead (S-4:158).
 - Mary, the mother of Jesus, is the *sister of Aaron*, the brother of Moses (S-19:27–28).
 - Muhammad came as the Messiah of the Old Testament (S-7:158).
 - Muhammad came as the Holy Spirit of the New Testament (S-61:6–7).
 - The Jews backslid and lost their right to the Old Covenant (S-61:5).
 - Christians backslid and lost their right to the New Covenant (S-9:30).
 - Believers (Muslims) shouldn't be friends with Jews or Christians (S-5:51).
 - Note: The Qur'an doesn't mention the Ten Commandments.
 - Enemies or adversaries of Islam should be killed (S-9:73).
 - No religion has the right to exist but Islam (S-2:256).
 - The world will be conquered by jihad (S-48:27–28, 61:9).
 - Men are allowed to have as many as four wives (S-4:34).
 - Muhammad could have as many as he wanted (S-33:51).
 - Rebellious wives can be beaten (S-4:34) (S-3:139–140, 42:39).
 - 20 percent of all war booty goes to Muhammad for Allah's good (S-8:44).

Obviously, the above list illustrates glaring differences between the teachings of Islam and the Christian Bible. It's important all of us begin recognizing Islam is not similar in any way, shape, or fashion, and has *nothing* in common with Christianity—from its origins and who wrote it, to the theology and god it advances. Allah and YHVH are *two different concepts*, and only YHVH is God, *not Allah!*

A true Muslim will argue the Bible has been corrupted and presently is a misleading and fraudulent document. This is how they justify not conceding to the blatant contradictions the Qur'an has with the Bible. Many Muslims, especially the Imams, firmly believe both Jews and Christians lost their right to the Covenants due to their disobedience toward God by aban-

doning His ways! Further, they believe the Old and New Testaments are mischaracterizing the story of Ishmael and Israel, as well as the record of what Jesus went through and His announcement and claim to be the Son of God and mankind's living Messiah and Savior.

We see very *serious differences* of belief and teaching in these two documents. Fundamentally, Islam is at *variance* with the Bible, and therefore the Qur'an is *unacceptable* as a credible document for consideration. This presents quite a dilemma when attempting to debate these two religious views, or come to an acceptable understanding about the differences between Islam and Christianity.

A Dangerous Complication: The Eschatological Factor

Most of the West doesn't realize that many Shi'ite Muslims believe a Messiah is promised, confirmed in the Hadith (an oral Islamic commentary of the Qur'an and life of Muhammad). It's known as the return of the Twelfth Imam, or the Imam al-Mahdi. This doctrinal teaching underscores much of the motivation behind what is played out in the terrorist attacks around the world. Many Muslims believe we are witnessing the "natural course" of the end-time signs. This adds an *eschatological dynamic* to these terrorist activities that cements the reason for this hate and violence. Why? Because Muslims who adopt this view believe they're doing God a service by helping to set up the *conditions of chaos* for the al-Mahdi's return. This translates to a motivational factor that provides those jihadis the sense of urgency and reason to sacrifice consistently, at all costs, for the "cause of chaos" that allegedly precedes the coming of this Islamic Imam al-Mahdi. In other words, this is central to the "psyche" of the jihadist! They believe they must be actively involved in jihad, or they are not fulfilling their role as a Muslim.

Iran has about 75–90 million people living in the country with about 90 percent being *Shia* Muslims who believe the Twelfth Imam, or al-Mahdi, is *alive today*. Their belief describes the al-Mahdi as being alive, and is in occultation (hiding) since A.D. 869, until the Day of Judgment. That's right, they believe he is alive *right now*, and has been for some ten to eleven centuries. At the time of judgment, he will reveal himself as Messiah, or Guide, and show humanity the right path to follow for achieving world peace and brotherly love. This is at the core of the eschatological teaching of how Islam will finally become the world's religion and save mankind from self-destruction.

This "eschatological factor" is a *significant* belief in the Islamic religion in general, and goes back to the idea of the Twelfth Imam. Interestingly, some scholars, including Bernard Lewis, Professor Emeritus of Near Eastern Studies, *Princeton University*, confirms this teaching and references

this Shia Imam is in occultation (hiding and seclusion), since A.D. 869, and explains it is not a new teaching but actually can be traced back to about A.D. 873.

There is a *Sunni* version of this teaching, but with a slight difference. They believe the al-Mahdi will come from Muhammad's family, but is currently in hiding or living in seclusion. Allah alone knows who this al-Mahdi is, and when the Imam al-Mahdi returns, he will come back with Isa (Jesus Christ); together, they will subdue the tyranny and evil of the world from the infidels and set the world "right" by establishing Islam as the global religion. This is the *objective* of both the non-violent (moderate) and violent jihadist.

However, this is the important point we should recognize: We're dealing with a *faith*—Shia or Sunni—it *is a faith!* This is what makes Islamic jihadist terrorism so difficult and enormously menacing when compared to contending with the "standard" political ideology like Communism, Socialism, or Fascism. We can't forget: When facing off with the *secular* political world powers of the Soviet Union and Red China during the days of the Cold War of the '50s through the '90s, there was a well ingrained understanding: "Mutual Assured Destruction" (MAD). This "gentlemen's understanding" kept everyone in check, frozen in the position of "stalemate" for fear of the "counter-punch" that would occur with a retaliation from a pre-emptive strike.

But in the case of an Islamic *nuclear-armed* Shia Republic of Iran, there is no idea, or agreement, of "Mutual Assured Destruction." Instead, their worldview is simply "Israel is the little Satan and the USA is the big Satan; and both need to be obliterated!" This presents a far more treacherous and threatening condition! Frankly, this is a *radical difference* which can only be described as an *apocalyptic* worldview; and due to the underpinning hatred they have for the West, combined with a *fearless* disregard of death from retaliation, fueled by their theology of the return of the al-Mahdi Messiah, we should easily and plainly see the menacing threat and risk this presents to the United States, Israel, and the rest of the world—especially since the current Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, and President Rouhani are both believers of the Twelfth Imam, or the al-Mahdi, as also is former Iranian President Ahmandinejad.

What Does This Tell Us?

Since it is believed the Twelfth Imam will return during a time of great calamity, unrest, and chaos, there is an inherent concern that there just might be *other* motivating factors behind Iran's seemingly relentless pursuit of nuclear development and the necessary ballistic missile delivery systems they currently are designing. Do you think these eschatological beliefs

should raise concerns about the possibility that what's *really* behind Iran's initiatives for nuclear development is a desire to *cause* the disruptive circumstances generating the cataclysmic conditions that will bring the al-Mahdi's return? That is an unnerving question to consider but, unfortunately, extremely *plausible* considering the theology that underscores the *religious mentality* of the Islamic jihadi fundamentalist!

Yet, incredibly, Western leadership will not address this fight for what it really is—a *religious* conflict, deeply imbedded with theological differences providing fuel for a relentless war of *potential mass destruction* of biblical proportions. The West insistently refuses to recognize these *real possibilities*.

Sadly, many in the West have ignored the plain statement of Shaker Assem, representing the Islamic Liberation Party, when he correctly said, "People who say there is a conflict between sharia and Western democracy *are right*." Now what is so difficult or hard to understand about his plain

and clear statement? What is it we don't understand?

In 1998, Omar Ahmad, Board Chairman of the *Council on American Islamic Relations* (CAIR) at the time, said, "Islam isn't in America to be equal to any other faith, but to become dominant. The Qur'an should be the highest authority in America, and Islam the only accepted religion on earth." CAIR spokesman Ibrahim Hooper was just as forthright when he said, "I wouldn't want to create the impression that I wouldn't like the government of the United States to be Islamic sometime in the



**Ayatollah Ruhallah
Khomeini**

future. But I'm not going to do anything violent to promote that. I'm going to do it through education." This goes to the *second strategy* we mentioned, doing it peacefully, by embedding into the hosting culture and *through legal and natural means* using the freedoms provided by the hosting nation's laws, advance the propagation of Islamic law—which is sharia!

What must clearly be understood is the *agenda*, which is to restore a *caliphate*, since Islam makes *no distinction* between the religious and secular arms of the Islamic theocratic movement. As mentioned, it's their *intent* to relieve mankind from what Muslims perceive as "humanities infringement." In their minds, this is idolatry—encroaching on God's sovereign right to guide human affairs. Therefore, they see it as their responsibility to *set the stage* for the return of the Imam al-Mahdi, and the construct of a caliphate is key to the success of their empowerment to accomplish this objective.

We cannot forget the deep anguish many jihadis have at the loss of the

most recent caliphate that was dismantled in 1924, after the Ottoman Empire fell at the end of WW I. It occurred when Mustafa Kemal Ataturk (the father of the Turks), the first President of Turkey, announced the establishment of a secular "Turkish Republic"—officially abandoning the caliphate structure. This sealed the destruction of the Ottoman Empire and the government's separation from the strong connection and influence of Islamic law—it was the death of the last caliphate of our modern day.

So, the question is: Where is all this leading? Will Islam continue to play a role in the prophetic trends that are gaining momentum? And if so, will it play a *major or minor* role in the developing circumstances that are sure to result in a global "Babylonian" system that is destined to influence and affect mankind on a worldwide scale (Daniel 7:23–27, Revelation 18:9–11, 15–18)?

The Bible is very clear—the beast, or man of sin, will be considered "antichrist." He will not share in or agree with the idea or belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Messiah, or Savior of mankind. Notice what is said by the apostle John: "Little children, it is the last time: and as you have heard that antichrist shall come..." (1 John 2:18). Assuredly, John goes much deeper into the meaning and scope of just what the term "antichrist" includes, but this, in particular, is a plain implication that apparently there were discussions about a *latter-day* antichrist within the Christian community at that time. (Request our free publication, *What Does the Bible Really Say About the Antichrist*, for additional details.)

Also, the apostle Paul *warned* about this same individual years before when writing to the Thessalonians. Notice: "Let no man deceive you... and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition [same as the antichrist]: Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God... So that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember you not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things" (2 Thessalonians 2:3–5)? Obviously, Paul at the time fully expected this "man of sin"—this antichrist—to appear and set himself up in the *physical* temple of God, which still existed when Paul wrote this. This passage also plainly indicates he expected an end-time temple would *facilitate this prophecy*.

The book of Daniel provides additional detail profiling this end-time tyrant the Bible also labels as a "king of fierce countenance." Notice: "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a *king of fierce countenance*, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power [the dragon, Satan, shall give him power—Revelation 13:4]: and he shall destroy wonderfully [not by force], and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy

the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand: and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace [prosperity] shall destroy many: he shall also stand up *against* the Prince of princes [he will be anti, or *against*, Jesus Christ, the Prince]; but he shall be broken without hand. And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut you up the vision; for it shall be for many days" (Daniel 8:23–26). Daniel goes on to say he didn't understand the vision at that time.

Later, in another visitation from what appears to be Michael, or Gabriel the Archangel, Daniel is told of the latter days and what events will lead up to the final concluding battle with the returning Christ and those in the first resurrection. All this begins in Daniel 10:7, which was exclusively his prophecy to hear and receive. The prophecy located right after chapter 10, commencing in chapter 11 through 12, is considered the longest prophecy in your Bible, outside of the book of Revelation, and is also about the latter days, covering major historical points related to Alexander the Great, who is listed as the "mighty king" (Daniel 11:3) right on through and including the first resurrection (Daniel 12:1–3).

Now specifically, in Daniel 11:36–45, we gain *additional* insight into the profile of this antichrist autocrat and what he is led to do on a geopolitical level. It's described as a retaliatory invasion into the "glorious" land, Palestine—where the Jews are today (Daniel 11:41)—due to some apparent aggravating provocation from a "king of the south" that allegedly gives him (the beast, this king of the north) cause to exercise military aggression (Daniel 11: 40–43). Ultimately, this stirs up the nations from the east and north (northeast) of Jerusalem to counter this invasion with a retaliation of biblical proportions, described in both the books of Joel and Revelation—the battle of Armageddon in the valley of Jehoshaphat (Daniel 12:1). It's clear—this is the *final battle*, because the first resurrection occurs at this time (Daniel 12:2–4), a clear indication this happens at the time of Christ's Second Coming to establish the Kingdom of God on earth (Zechariah 14:1–15) at the last trumpet.

Islamic History Demands A Cautious Prophetic Consideration

One thing is clear: the man of sin—or as John labeled him, the "antichrist"—is unique among the long list of tyrants down through world history. He is described as an individual who somehow is able to exercise authority and take control by means of affluence and non-violent advancement. He will ingratiate himself and win the hearts and minds of the people and ten kings (Revelation 17:12–15) throughout the world, but at some point becomes dominant and, ultimately, uses military power to counterattack an aggressive, offensive *invasion* from what the Bible calls a "king of

the south" (Daniel 11:40–45).

Obviously, many of these roles are *not yet* clearly identified; nor have the nations, coalitions, or individuals been described and connected to any specifics by *name*. But, there are *patterns* we can look to for some semblance of *sequential order* to clarify some of these crucial events and *possible* nations. One thing is *clear*: this coming socialistic world combine, with ten kings working as one, empowering a dictator and false prophet, is called *Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and the Abominations of the Earth* (Revelation 17:5). It is profiled as a combination of the Babylonian, Greco-Roman Empire (the former king of the north) that was, is not, and yet is, because it will be healed—it will "resurrect" and resurface into the present—on power and authority, both secularly and religiously, assuming it's destined role on into perdition. That is what the future portrays (Revelation 13:1–18; 17:8–14).

AND THIS BRINGS US TO THE QUESTIONS SOME HAVE: *Is Islam to be blamed for these conditions? Could the Muslims play a part in any of these events and circumstances? Could they be complicit to some degree for what the Bible describes as the end-time tribulation, beast, and false prophet? Some are seriously considering that Islam, at least at first blush, may be a plausible source of these end-time scenarios and persons. Could this actually be possible—that the beast and false prophet be Muslim?*

These questions merit a review of some surprising history that illustrates and confirms this is *not* the *first* time Islam has been "front and center" as a source of worldwide aggression and *suspicion of being* the end-time beast power. If we consider some historical facts about the Muslim movement, not the least of which were the Crusades, it goes to prove this point: we need to consider the prophetic value of Islam's emergence as the alleged beast power very *cautiously and with a sense of some doubt—why?* Well, let's consider Islam's effect on the world, but limited to just over the last 500 to 600 years. In so doing, we shall see what is happening today has indeed happened *before*. This is *not* a maturing, or *first-time* progression of Islamic influence and development—actually, it's *nothing new* to the geopolitical interplay with Islam.

Let me remind us, as was pointed out earlier, that Islam was an aggressive force to contend with throughout the period *preceding and during* the Crusades. It was well on its way to expanding throughout Christendom. The Ottoman Turkish Empire was on the rise, subjugating the remaining Byzantine Empire as an all-consuming Islamic Caliphate, which included most of Greece, Serbia, and Albania. The Catholic Church had its hands full trying to battle back the advancing hoards of Muslim invaders throughout the European region.

It was so bad, the historian for Emperor Frederick III, Joseph Grunpeck,

stated: "When you perceive the miserable corruption of the whole of Christendom, of all the praiseworthy customs, rules, and laws, the wretchedness of all classes, the many pestilences, the changes in this epoch and all the strange happenings, *you know that the End of the World is near.*" Interestingly enough, we see it was no different some 600 years ago as the Islamic advancements were forging ahead, moving closer to the doorsteps of Vienna. It caused *great fear and terror* in the minds and hearts of those throughout Western Europe at the time.

Unquestionably, Islamic fundamentalism wants to dominate the world. That's what Islam means, "submission." And these same Islamic jihadi fundamentalists are *presently* causing all kinds of havoc, chaos, and terror among many non-Islamic nations today—and this has much of the world's community of nations very disturbed and anxious about how to handle this horrible aggression. It seems almost unthinkable, unimaginable, and astonishing that what is currently happening can occur in what many secularists today claim is a civilized and highly developed world. But, hard as it might be to believe, it is indeed happening!

Yet, as incredibly macabre the conditions are (public beheadings, sex slaves and rapes, public drownings in water, and dissolving people in acid while they are alive), it becomes very suitable for many "prophecy prognosticators" to *exploit* these circumstances described in today's headlines, spinning the information as some kind of *new truth*, or *new prophetic perspective* to their advantage for some kind of personal gain or following. This is sad, but true!

We see it time and time again, using specific tragedies or foreboding threats to *headline* an alleged prophetic connection they portray as something currently menacing, or about to herald the Second Coming of Christ. We've seen it with Y2K, Harold Camping's prophecies, the Mayan calendar, the *Left Behind* series, and here recently with the lunar tetrads, a.k.a. blood moons of 2014 and 2015. And so it is for some religious leaders today, Islam portends to be the *new apocalyptic threat* that will usher in the return of Christ, or for the Muslim, the return of the "Al Mahdi."

Historicists have shown Islam has a long historical connection of being suspected as the destructive force that ultimately would face off with Christ. It's a known fact according to Peter Toon, Anglican priest, professor, and author, that the Protestants in Europe felt threatened by the Ottoman Empire, especially as it increased in size over the years and took on the profile of a caliphate. Many early Presbyterians, Baptists, Puritans, and other Protestant groups began to identify the Turkish Muslims as the ones John was talking about in the book of Revelation. Mark U. Edwards, Jr., in his book, *Luther's Last Battles: Politics and Polemics, 1531–46*, claims Martin Luther believed the papacy was the antichrist, but the Turks comprised the

small horn that eliminated the three horns of the beast in Daniel 7. Luther also believed the Turks were Gog and the papacy was Magog. From the book *Luther's View of Church History*, page 265, Luther wrote: "I believe that we are the last trumpet which prepares for and precedes the advent of Christ."

Martin Luther wasn't the only one at this time to think Muslims were key players within prophetic events; Calvin also had his own observations. He believed Islam was one of the two horns of the beast—the pope was one, and Islam was the other.

John Gill of the eighteenth century also portrayed the Muslim Turks a few times in his commentary, identifying Gog in Ezekiel 38 as the Islamic Turks. Also, Thomas Scott of the nineteenth century had similar beliefs with regard to Islam and their ultimate



aim to make war with the Jews. Thomas Newton of the eighteenth century and James Glasglow in his 1872 commentary both connected Mohammed with the star that fell from heaven, described in Revelation 9:1, the fifth trumpet, or first woe. So history is filled with *many* historians, religious leaders, and scholars from *multiple Christian denominations* that suspected Islam would have a role in the end-time prophetic events—it *really is nothing new!*

So Where Does This Lead Us?

This information should cause us to pause and recognize, when considering *current* events and headlines, that there exists a potential risk they could be *deceiving* if we *forget* our *history*. We must keep in mind the historical *patterns*—the *framing!* Let me remind us that there remains in the latter days two major forces that confront and face off with each other: they are the king of the north, formerly *Rome*, and the king of the south, formerly *Egypt* (Daniel 11:40).

This *historical* and *prophetic pattern* remains *unfulfilled* in the latter day, and if the Islamic movement continues to develop into an end-time caliphate, it *cannot* play both roles—it's either one or the other. The *historical end-time pattern* would seem to imply Islam stands a good chance of becoming the "*adhesion*" for the king of the south, since currently Egypt is predominantly Sunni, with a Shia Muslim minority. Keep in mind Iran (Persia) is majority Shia as is Hezbollah; while ISIS, Al-Qaeda, Hamas, and the Muslim Brotherhood, are primarily Sunni.

We know history tells us that in the eighth century Islam was thought to be Gog and Magog. Also, it was taught in the seventh century that Mohammad was the antichrist, but then in the tenth and eleventh centuries it changed to the Catholic popes. However, in the twelfth century, we find the Muslim leader Saladin considered as the “man of sin.” History has proved time after time *many individuals* were considered to be the antichrist—even Martin Luther was at one time suspected of being the antichrist. Incredible!

So, in all due respect, though Islam may appear to be rather threatening *at the moment*, and yes, may appear even stronger because of the compounding effect of weak leadership from the West conceding certain “enabling policies” (*weak* immigration enforcement, *mild* military counter attacks with *no clearly defined* military objectives, and *political correctness* paralyzing lawmakers), which allows Muslim encroachment into the polity, resulting in certain compromises of constitutional law in the hosting nations, which can change the hegemony over time—we *cannot forget* that, presently, the Islamic nations only account for about *one percent* of the world’s equity markets. By and large—*keeping Islam in perspective*—compared to the West much of the Muslim world still remains in poverty, but with some noted exceptions, of course, due to Western money.

However, we plainly know there are active Muslim jihadi fundamentalists advancing a violent *jihad* (violent struggle, or holy war), hoping to achieve dominance through terrorizing chaos in their pursuit of a resurrected caliphate, as they go about creating the environment for the returning Al Mahdi. This is at the core of their theology: the return of the Al Mahdi, or Twelfth Imam, who will save humankind from self destruction and restore Islamic law by *sharia*, for all to “enjoy.”

Admittedly, these current jihadi fundamentalists are a comparatively small *fraction* of what is considered to be defined as the greater Islamic population. However, that doesn’t dismiss the threat, risk, and danger they pose due to the tactics of *terrorism* and the potential of *additional* jihadists joining their ranks. Keep in mind that a recent Pew Research Study revealed there are about 1.6 billion Muslims in the world (23 percent of the global population). At present, there appears to be between 150,000 to 300,000 *jihadist* Muslim fundamentalists *actively engaged* in some sort of *violence* (less than 0.01 percent), and are actually associated with some terrorist group like ISIS, Hamas, Boko Haram, al Qaeda, etc.—obviously, a small percentage—yet, nevertheless, a very dangerous Islamic segment of Muslims. Add to this the fact that about 60-70 percent of all Muslims globally are considered to be *Salaf*—the Arabic religious term for “fundamentalist”—and you have a large scale “up-side” potential for growth!

When considering the *violent jihadists* as a whole, inclusive of all the

groups at the present time, clearly, they are *not a large number*. Though dangerous and menacing, by comparison they present what should appear to be a *mild* threat to the security of the West; but tragically, the tactics they employ—terrorism and civilian guerrilla warfare—make all the difference; and that is generating the motivation for the West to unite against it. If these Muslim jihadi fundamentalists do anything, they *may just cause* the West to be driven to collectively consolidate their assets and essentially “circle the wagons” to defend against this *common enemy* that threatens the values and lifestyles of Western society. That remains a real possibility. The only thing lacking from the West is *affirmative, strong, and assertive leadership*.

With that being said, Islam does indeed have a present role in the prophetic scenarios we are observing here in the West and especially in the United States. The reality is there are many *potential scenarios* that could develop out of what is happening, which continues to thrust world conditions and trends to their prophetic fulfillment. It remains to be seen just how expansive Islam’s role will be as mankind moves into the storm developing on the horizon. In the meantime, we need to be patient as God works toward accomplishing His plan—especially when considering all that is listed within the prophetic script.

However, one *prominent point of prophecy* is playing out right in front of us today. Notice: “The stranger [foreigner] that is within you [in your nation, embedded in the population] shall get up above you very high [exceed in influence and power]; and you shall come down very low [the indigenous people of the nation will lose influence, power, and ultimately control of the country]. He shall lend to you and you shall not lend to him [the nation will be beholden to those it borrows from—its debt will increase—it will be the borrower, not the lender]: he [the foreigner] will be the head, and you shall be the tail [the foreigner will gain the power and influence to control the nation]” (Deuteronomy 28:43–44).

It is *stunning* to see this *historical “Israelite” parallel* happening in so many areas of the West, especially in Europe, Scandinavia, Britain, Australia, and the USA, due to the nations’ laws of freedom and liberty *used against* the hosting country to compromise the standards, values, and conditions of the indigenous. They are being used to *erase* the lifestyles of the West and replace them with other ethnic *foreign* hegemonies—in particular, and presently, Islam!

By means of terrorism, Muslim jihadi fundamentalists are having an influence in shifting attention to internal security, which necessitates defensive steps to guard against this onslaught of violence. This naturally results in the loss of certain freedoms. Sadly, political correctness has paralyzed many Western nations to think in terms of accommodation and appeasement for the sake of peace and cooperation, but in so doing they compromise and con-

cede particular liberties and freedoms by the obfuscation of making hard decisions against Islamic fundamentalism. And so the price is being paid; risk, danger, and peril are accelerating for the populations of countries like Germany, France, England, Australia, Scandinavia, and yes, the United States, too. Terror alerts and threats of additional attacks are intensifying and only look to become worse in the future.

In the meantime, Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and others in the Middle East continue saber-rattling, taking aggressive political and/or military steps they believe can be won since the West appears to be so preoccupied with their own security and apologetic diplomacy—or as some would describe, “leading from behind,” which illustrates weak leadership from so many directions.

So What Does This Portend?

The conditions the world contends with today are extremely disturbing due to one *major element*—the United States is *perceived* as weak, indecisive, and without vision, purpose, or a clear objective—a paper tiger *at best!* Its foreign policy and soft approach of trying to be all things to everyone has been detrimental to the perception of America’s strength and influence; it has undermined its own image, and this has contributed to a very unstable world condition.

Tragically, the results have emboldened many potential enemies of the West and bought time to position themselves into a stronger posture for steering circumstances more favorably for their own self-serving objectives. Some major illustrations of this are China’s military presence and build-up in the South China Sea, Russia’s invasion of Crimea, and the Iranian nuclear deal that allows Iran to proceed with the development of nuclear technology without pragmatic supervision, which, if not changed, is most certainly going to culminate with Iran having nuclear weapons of mass destruction. When or if that happens, the world will never be the same.

All *indications* seem to be pointing to a *major clash* up ahead. Russia and China are growing closer together. Turkey is moving more toward an Islamic state, *perhaps* a revived caliphate, as it was in the early twentieth century. Iran is relentless in its research and development for nuclear technology and weapons of mass destruction, now that the United States Treasury has enriched it with billions of dollars from the release and payment of revenue it allowed. And the Israeli nation is growing more nervous by the day as it witnesses the abandonment of its nation state on the world stage. So it would appear, unless something drastically changes, the world is fast becoming a more dangerous and volatile place and doesn’t look to

be changing for the better any time soon! Instead, it appears circumstances indicate a *collision* of major world powers is becoming more intensely *probable* that could threaten the fragile peace the world is so desperately trying to maintain and hang onto.

Knowing the Bible *clearly describes* a Babylonian, Greco-Roman Empire that is to resurrect and revisit the present world (its wound will be healed—Revelation 13:3) and is indeed accelerating toward its destiny with this socialistic system controlled by ten kings, a beast, and false prophet that has the “blood of the saints on its hands,” it’s important we understand by virtue of the world’s reality that Islamic fundamentalism is presently being used to *weaken* the West via terrorism, immigration, refugee asylum, and embedding into the polity of the hosting nations to continue impairing and diluting these cultures to the point that, *just maybe*, they will no longer be able to defend themselves. Admittedly, it remains to be seen as to what degree this will be allowed to develop before the United States wakes up to this threat—if at all! And “waking up” is not out of the question—*it is possible*—if its leadership would take assertive and courageous action, regardless of world opinion!

But we cannot forget, a major obstacle *preventing* the Babylonian system from this future resurrection and achieving its destined position is the last bastion of freedom, liberty, and free market enterprise—none other than *the United States!* And as long as the United States is able to defend itself and is *perceived* able and willing to protect its homeland and foreign interests, it will remain a *counter balance* against worldwide aggression.

But when the day comes that the USA is *perceived* to be unable and incapable, that is the day the world will change forever, because it will be a world *without* the balance of power the United States and other free market countries like Britain bring to the global community of nations—it will be a *time of the Gentiles*. And, sadly, the Bible has a pre-prescribed pattern outlined for those nations that have *adopted* the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as *their model*, but fail to follow His laws and statutes; and it’s *not* a pleasant narrative—God is *not* amused!

Notice: “...because you (the USA) hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you [USA culture is morally bankrupt].... Because you served not the LORD your God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, from the abundance of all things [the USA is a very corrupted and wealthy nation].... The LORD shall bring a nation against you from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies [may it be a surprise attack?]; a nation whose tongue you shall not understand.... and he shall besiege you in all your gates, until your high and fenced walls come down, where in you trusted, throughout all your land [military prowess]: and he shall besiege you in all your gates throughout all your land [our homeland],

which the LORD your God had given you.... And you shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.... And the LORD shall scatter you among all people, from one end of the earth even unto the other..." (Deuteronomy 28:45–64).

This happened to ancient Israel, and will happen to any "parallel culture" representing the same God as original Israel. The United States and much of the British Commonwealth of nations are in this same mold, representing similar cultural values as ancient Israel, including its worship and belief in the God of the Old and New Testament and Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world! We, as a culture of people, are accountable to the God of Israel!

So, Islam is presently serving a purpose in the prophetic times we currently live in, but when compared to God's Word, it *hardly fits* the description of this coming socialistic Babylonian, Greco-Roman system destined to reemerge (Revelation 13:1–7) and bear down on the nations of the world. It just doesn't appear to have the *historical substance* to connect with the profile as the king of the north.

But more succinctly, it would appear the United States must be neutralized—taken out in some way—where it *no longer* is an *obstacle or deterrent*, preventing the world from coalescing into the socialistic system the Bible describes in Revelation 17:11–14.

Something is in the works that will enable this "beast" to rise and come to power and fit the descriptions explained in Daniel and Revelation. There are clouds on the horizon—they are building as they were in the 1930s, prior to World War II. Will potential forces and changing political circumstances, designed by God, afford more time for mankind to repent? To perhaps delay the storm? Or perhaps, rush the storm? That remains to be seen—time will tell, based on our ongoing dynamic world conditions.

But, John was sententious about a war that will eliminate 25 percent of humanity. Notice: "And when he had opened up the *fourth seal*... I looked and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell [the grave] followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth [25 percent], to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth" (Revelation 6:7–8). The fifth seal follows this enormous war of biblical proportions, which is a great Christian martyrdom. I don't have to remind us, much of the Western nations are traditionally considered "Christian."

A major conflict appears to be coming. We are in the throes of a world in transition. The European Union is weak and has many problems—it needs to be shaken up and redefined—why? Because it presently *does not match* the biblical description of the beast. Yet it is clear: the footprint, where this *Babylon the Great* system will sit, based on the *historical patterns* of Daniel

7, seems to illustrate it's where the European Union *currently* is, and thereby would be considered the king of the north in the last days—or the "healed" ancient Babylonian, Greco-Roman Empire. So, if these *historical patterns* are correct, how will it come to be? It would appear through much pain, destruction, death, and heartache. In other words, *through GREAT tribulation* (Revelation 7:14). Perhaps the fourth seal has the answer (Revelation 6:8).

In the book of Romans, Paul mentions this: "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light" (Romans 13:11–12).

This advice should be taken to heart to assure ourselves we remain motivated and committed to be engaged—and if we're not, to repent immediately and get right with God by living a life that exemplifies Jesus Christ. We need to repent *without delay* and begin modeling our lifestyles after Jesus Christ's example! So, why not begin today?

About the Church of God International

This literature is published by the Church of God International, based in Tyler, Texas. Incorporated in 1978, the CGI has ministers and congregations scattered throughout the United States and Canada. We also have churches in Jamaica, the Philippines, and Australia.

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