

# *Islamic and Biblical Prophecies for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

*What about Greco-Roman Catholic prophecies?*

*Where do they converge and where do they differ?*

*How might you be affected by them?*



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*Quran quotes or references are mainly from Quran.com and will normally show the term “Sura” which refers to the chapter, with the verse following the chapter number. Hadiths are statements companions of Muhammad ascribed to him by some who knew him. Most of the hadiths quoted come from Sunnah.com. Biblical quotes are mostly taken from the New King James Version (Thomas Nelson, Copyright © 1997; used by permission) sometimes abbreviated as NKJV, but normally shown without any abbreviation. This book most often relies on the translations of others for the prophecies (whether from the Quran, the Bible, or other sources) it discusses as relatively few predictions it mentions were originally written in English. Items within { } were added into quotes by the author of this book, normally for clarification. The use of the terms father, blessed, brother, venerable, saint, etc. when referring to Greco-Roman Catholic leaders does not mean that the author concurs with any of those titles – their use in this text (as well as various Muslim titles) is only intended to mean that those are titles others have used to identify certain persons.*

NOTE: THIS IS A DRAFT AND THE BOOK IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED UNTIL THE LATTER PORTION OF 2024

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## **Forward: Why Pay Any Attention to Religious Prophecies?**

You may or may not be religious, so you might wonder why you would want to pay any attention to religious prophecies.

Well as it turns out, about 84% of the world's population identifies with some religious group. And the bulk of the those in a religious group are in groups that profess belief in some type of prophecies.

While this author has been writing books relating to prophecies of numerous groups, including biblical, Hindu, Buddhist, Tao, New Age, Freemason, and Native American ones, this book is focused on biblical prophecies as well as Islamic ones, plus some Greco-Roman Catholic ones.

A Pew Research study found that 31.7% of the world's population are part of a religion that uses the Bible (including Jews, real Christians, and professing Christians) with an additional 23.2% as part of Islam (which, to a degree, also uses the Bible).<sup>1</sup>

That means that most people in the world (54.9%) are, to some degree, somehow aligned with teachings from the Bible and/or from Islam. World Population Review asserts that there are over 2 billion Muslims currently on the earth.<sup>2</sup>

It has been stated that, "Islam maintains that humanity stands in need of Divine Guidance in order to attain true prosperity in this life and the next."<sup>3</sup> Most who claim Christianity and Judaism would agree with that statement.

Many in the Jewish, Greco-Roman Catholic, Christian, Protestant, Mormon, and Islamic world believe that we are in the "end times" and often will point to various prophecies by their writers and seers as proof of this as well as to state what they think will happen.

And beyond that, there are people in many religious groups who believe it is their duty to take steps to enable the fulfillment of various predictions. Therefore, even if ALL prophecies are false, the fact that perhaps billions are in groups that believe in them means that you and your family will be affected by them.

Furthermore, since all prophecies are NOT false, if you live long enough, the fulfillment of some of them will impact you as well.

This book is mainly focused on those prophecies related to the Bible, Islam, lands that are dominated by Islam, as well as some of the ramifications of them on other lands.

# 1. The Bible, Quran, Islam, and the People of the Book

Islam considers that the biblically-faithful leaders practiced the Islamic faith.

As far as prophecies go, various Islamic ones are similar to certain ones in the Bible.

Now regarding the Bible, it was written in the over the course of nearly 1600 years. Biblical literalists (including this author) point to its first writer as Moses (with Genesis as his first book, 15<sup>th</sup> century B.C./B.C.E.) and the last writer as being the Apostle John (with Revelation as his last book). About forty men were directly involved in actually writing the Bible. The last book of the Bible was written c. 95 A.D./C.E.

The Bible was written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek by various prophets and biblical figures. The Hebrew and Aramaic scriptures are considered God's word by Orthodox Jews. Christians accept those writings and normally refer to them as the Old Testament. Christians also accept the Greek texts, known as the New Testament, as the word of God. Jews do not accept the New Testament as scripture, whereas Christians and Muslims consider the Old and New Testaments to be scripture, in part of what is commonly called the Bible.

(As far as how we got the Bible, that is covered in a free online book, available at [ccog.org](http://ccog.org), titled *Who Gave the World the Bible?*)

## Islam, the Quran, and People of the Book

Islam was formally started in the 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D./C.E. by one known as Muhammad in Medina and Mecca. Islam was a movement claiming to return to the original faith of biblically-listed persons such as Abraham, Noah, Moses, King Solomin, John the Baptist, Mary, and Jesus.<sup>4</sup>

Its holy book, the Quran, was written in Arabic. The Quran consists of 114 chapters, called suras (or surahs). Muslims believe that the Quran was orally revealed by God to their prophet, Muhammad, through the archangel Gabriel (often spelled Jibreel by Muslims). Muslims believe this happened incrementally over a period of some 23 years, beginning on Laylat Al Qadr, when Muhammad was 40, and concluding in 632, the year of his death at age 61–62. According to Islamic tradition, several of Muhammad's companions served as scribes, recording the revelations from Gabriel (the Mormons also claim that an angel gave them their *Book of Mormon*—the Bible warns against accepting a different gospel even if it comes from “an angel in heaven” in Galatians 1:18). Shortly after Muhammad's death, the Quran was compiled by the companions, who had written down or memorized parts of it.

Muslims consider that the Quran is the very word of God, and anything in it that may contradict the Bible either 1) supersedes the Bible or 2) the contradictory portion of the Bible was not in the original text as it was allegedly altered by the Jews and/or the Greco-Romans and/or Christians. But it should be pointed out that the latter (2 above) is mainly

a later Muslim tradition. The Quran itself does NOT say that the Bible was altered, but instead it states that many people have distorted its meaning (Sura 3:78; 2:75-79; 5:12-13), which, of course, is true.

The Quran claims that Muslims worship the same God as the Jews (e.g. Sura 29:26). Muhammad asserts the Quran is a confirmation of the scriptures that God gave to the children of Israel (Sura 2:41), not that the scriptures in the Bible are not valid.

That said, Islam claims to be older than Mosaic Judaism or Christianity<sup>5</sup> because it claims to represent the true faith of Abraham (Sura 2:135).

Muslims properly lament that many humans have used various idols as part of their worship to supposedly get closer to the true God (Sura 39:3).

Some Muslims believe that Muhammad was the prophesied 'Comforter' of John 15:23, the 'Prophet' of John 1:25, as well as the 'watchman' of Isaiah 21:6-9, whereas others believe that the Jews and Christians changed the Bible to remove its supposed references to Muhammad <sup>6</sup> --though that is not something that the Quran actually teaches. Some Muslims also claim that Hindu prophecies predicted Muhammad, whom they say is referred to as Ahmad.<sup>7</sup>

Muslims denounce the trinity that Emperor Theodosius' Council of Constantinople endorsed in 381 A.D. And the Quran warns of punishment for those who push trinitarian assertions (Sura 5:73).

Notice also something else from the Quran related to believers:

Indeed, the believers, Jews, Christians, and Sabians – whoever 'truly' believes in Allah and the Last Day and does good will have their reward with their Lord. And there will be no fear for them, nor will they grieve. (Sura 2:62)

People of the Book ... Some of them are faithful, but most are rebellious. They can never inflict harm on you, except a little annoyance. But if they meet you in battle, they will flee and they will have no helpers. ...

Yet they are not all alike: there are some among the People of the Book who are upright, ... They believe in Allah and the Last Day, encourage good and forbid evil, and race with one another in doing good. They are 'truly' among the righteous. They will never be denied the reward for any good they have done. (Sura 3:110-115)

The "People of the Book" is a reference to Jews and professing Christians, whether or not they are faithful. Notice that the Quran says that the faithful ones do not inflict harm, do not fight in battles, believe in God, believe in the Last Day, encourage good, forbid evil, and are considered among the righteous. The Sabians were a group who lived mainly in Iraq and believed in a Supreme Being, and may have considered that their teachings came from Adam, his son Seth, Noah, his son Shem, and others including John the Baptist.<sup>8</sup>

Muslims have noted that after Roman Emperors got involved, some of those emperors tried to get Christians to accept their preferred changed version of the faith and caused difficulties for those who would not change to their sect, some of which had to relocate to avoid persecution.<sup>9</sup>

The Quran, itself, refers to two distinct groups of Christians with one group it suggests was/is faithful and the larger group that was/is not (e.g. Sura: 2:137).<sup>10</sup>

Let it be noted here that scholars realize that early Christians were NOT militaristic, hence they did not inflict harm. It was basically only after Emperor Constantine that the majority of those who claimed Christianity became militaristic.<sup>11</sup> No Christian, faithful to the original Christian teachings and practices, has harmed Muslims, other than perhaps being, as the Quran claims, occasionally some type of "little annoyance" (Sura 3:111).

Muslims would not consider that *Continuing Church of God* (CCOG) Christians were idolators the way they have tended to consider the Greco-Roman professors of Christ. Let it also be noted that those who held to the original faith did not become "Crusaders." Furthermore, original Christians did not use nor venerate crosses nor accept the adoption of the Greco-Roman trinity (for references on that, see also the free book, online at ccog.org, titled: *Beliefs of the Original Catholic Church: Could a remnant group have continuing apostolic succession?*). The truly faithful remain that way, as well as being pacifists, to this day. We also observe a Holy Day (Leviticus 23:36b) commonly called 'the Last Great Day' (cf. John 7:37) which helps remind us of God's plan for the 'Last Day.'

As most scholars realize, original Christians would not eat pork. According to the Roman Catholic *Liber Pontificalis*, it was a Bishop of Rome named Eleutherius that declared that his followers could eat biblically unclean meats c. 180 A.D.<sup>12</sup> Those faithful in the Church of God did not accept that declaration. Like Muslims, the faithful have avoided pork consumption throughout the entire church age, even though Emperor Constantine once ordered the death penalty for Christians in Jerusalem who refused to eat pork.<sup>13</sup>

Some believe that "Nontrinitarianist" "Judeo-Christians" (who would have tended to have original Christian Church of God practices) directly influenced Islam in Muhammad's formative years. As "... it is possible to recognize in the Qur'an some theologoumena that are like those attributed to 'Judeo-Christian' doctrines or practices " though some scholars think the similarities are "little more than phenomenological coincidences."<sup>14</sup>

Another source stated, related to "premillennial" end-time prophecies, "it is nearly impossible to conceive of the Muslim concept being developed independently of the Jewish and Christian traditions."<sup>15</sup> That same source mentioned that since the Greco-Roman Churches had done away with many original prophetic beliefs by the time of Muhammad, that perhaps Muhammad came in contact with Christians who held the original prophetic views. Those, then, could have been passed on to him by the "Judeo-Christians" who continued with the original beliefs.

As Islam claims to be the faith of Abraham, that would tend to make it closer to that of Judeo–Christians than that of the Greco-Roman faiths. Such claimed ties to Abraham could account for some of the similarities of Islam to the CCOG. The original “Judeo–Christian” faith seems to be the one which professes Christ that the Quran is more favorable towards.<sup>16</sup>

## **Allah**

In Arabic, the word Islam means “submission to God.” The Bible teaches:

<sup>6</sup> But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

<sup>7</sup> Therefore submit to God. (James 4:6-7)

All who are faithful truly need to submit to God.

Related to Islam, the late Church of God leader, Herbert W. Armstrong stated to then Egyptian President Anwar Sadat who concurred with him:

‘The God. We call him God.’ And I said, ‘I believe you call him, Allah.’<sup>17</sup>

Herbert Armstrong also stated that like the Book of Genesis (Genesis 1:26) the Quran refers to the Creator of humans in the plural (Suras 7:11; 23:12).<sup>18</sup>

Related to the name plurality and the name Allah, the old Radio Church of God taught:

Daniel and Ezra TRANSLATED the Hebrew names for God into the Aramaic word ELAH! ... El is perhaps the primary Hebrew word used to express the attribute of the divine all-ruling Creator. It is a root common to most of the Semitic languages, found in Babylonian and Ugaritic literature and appearing in Arabic as Allah. Eloah seems to be a variant form of El though the singular is not used frequently. However, the plural is one of the most frequently used words in the Bible.

Elohim is the second-most-used word (after YHWH) for the Divinity in the Old Testament. ... Elohim serves very well to express the idea of the divine Family. It can apply to every member or to one member without changing form. For example, the plural verb in Gen.1:26 obviously takes more than one person.<sup>19</sup>

So, Allah is an Arabic translation from what is in the Old Testament. And grammatical terms in the Old Testament point to a plurality in the Godhead.

## **Back to the Quran**

Related to parables, the Quran, itself, also gives a more scriptural reason for why the Lord spoke in parables than many who claim Christianity have taught:

As for the believers, they know that it is the truth from their Lord. And as for the disbelievers, they argue, “What does Allah mean by such a parable?” Through this



‘test’, He leaves many to stray, and guides many. And He leaves none to stray except the rebellious—those who violate Allah’s covenant after it has been affirmed, break whatever ‘ties’ Allah has ordered to be maintained, and spread corruption in the land. It is they who are the ‘true’ losers. (Sura 2:26-27)

Jesus stated He spoke in parable so most would not understand, other than those God calls (e.g. Matthew 13:13-17). Yet, many corruptly teach that the reason was to make the understanding easier (cf. Jude 4,16). The Apostle John also warned about such people (1 John 2:19).

The Quran also teaches that real believers in Jesus will be superior to non-believers after the resurrection:

‘Remember’ when Allah said, “O Jesus! I will take you and raise you up to Myself. I will deliver you from those who disbelieve, and elevate your followers above the disbelievers until the Day of Judgment. (Sura 3:55)

According to the Bible, true believers have God’s Spirit (Romans 8:9) and that the Holy Spirit is only given to those who obey God (Acts 5:32) – it is only they who attain salvation through Jesus (cf. Hebrews 5:9; see also the free book, online at ccog.org, titled: *Hope of Salvation: How the Continuing Church of God Differs from Protestantism*).

That said, there are interesting overlaps in how Muslims, the Greco-Romans, and Church of God Christians view aspects of prophecy that are discussed in the next several chapters.

## 2. Prophets, Signs, and Prophecy

Muslims generally refer to Jesus and Muhammad as prophets with Jesus also considered to be 'the Messiah' (e.g. Sura 3:45), but Muhammed considered as 'the Prophet.'

Christians, Jews, and other non-Muslims may wonder why many Muslims are so devout and attached to their faith. Well, one reason appears to be that they are convinced that Muhammad gave forth numerous prophecies that were fulfilled during his lifetime as well as miracles that happened related to him.<sup>20</sup> Also, they believe that numerous predictions by Muhammad were later confirmed after his death by historical events,<sup>21</sup> hence they believe he was a true prophet of God. Another reason for their devoutness is they see outward signs of paganism in the Greco-Roman-Protestant faiths as well as the rising immorality in the West.

Thus, Muslims see those as proof their faith is the correct one.

That said, many Greco-Roman Catholics assert that apparitions, bleeding eucharists, stigmatics, incorruptibles (the dead whose bodies do not decompose), predictions by certain seers, and other wonders basically are signs that help prove their faith is the correct one.

Now it should be pointed out that Muslims also have stigmatics (instead of the claimed wounds of Jesus, Muslim stigmatics claim to have "wounds suffered by Muhammad during his efforts to spread Islam" <sup>22</sup>). As far as incorruptibles go, Buddhists also have them, <sup>23</sup> and several Muslims reportedly are incorruptibles as well, but some Muslims do not believe that such signs are divine proof.<sup>24</sup>

Anyway, like the Muslims, the Greco-Roman Catholics hold that theirs is the original faith – despite changes their scholars will admit they made.<sup>25</sup>

Interestingly, Roman Catholic scholars have concluded that Muhammad was some type of prophet, have written that he helped eliminate polytheism in the Arabic world, and that he had certain positive impacts.<sup>26</sup>

Muslims, themselves, believe that Muhammad was the LAST of the prophets (called "the seal of the prophets" in Sura 33:40). Muhammad, himself, reportedly (there is some controversies associated with hadiths) stated, "And there is no Prophet after me" (Hadith from Abu Hurayrah<sup>27</sup>). This differs from the Bible which tells of prophets in the last days (Acts 2:17-18), including the 'two witnesses' who in the end times are to be given power and the ability to prophesy for 1260 days as well as perform various miracles (Revelation 11:3).

Related to end times and prophecy, notice the following published by HarperCollins:

While Muslim apocalyptic thought is diverse and complex, most narratives contain some elements that would be easily recognized by Christians and Jews: at

an undetermined time in the future the world will end, a messianic figure will return to the earth, and God will pass judgment on all people,<sup>28</sup>

For one example, Christians (Acts 1:9-11) and Muslims believe that Jesus ascended into heaven and that He will return.<sup>29</sup> For another, both also believe that Jesus was a prophet who performed miracles and will defeat one called the Beast that rises from the sea in Revelation 13:1-10 as well as the Beast from the earth of Revelation 13:11-17. That first Beast, which Protestants (and some Roman Catholics) tend to call the Antichrist, is often called the Dajjal in Islamic writings.<sup>30</sup>

The Arabic word Dajjal, itself, literally means deceiver. But generally, the use of Dajjal in Islam is considered to be a reference to al-Masīḥ ad-Dajjāl essentially meaning “the Messiah of Mixed Deception.” The Dajjāl is expected to mix truth with error. Because most people seem to be quite comfortable with that (cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:12), that will be one of the reasons Islam believes the Dajjāl will be successful for a time.<sup>31</sup>

The one called al-Masīḥ ad-Dajjāl shares some traits like the biblical Beast who will exalt himself as God (cf. Daniel 11:36-37; 2 Thessalonians 2:4) as the Dajjal is expected by Muslims to claim to be God.<sup>32</sup>

Muslims also claim the Dajjal will be a Jew.<sup>33</sup> The 3<sup>rd</sup> century Roman Catholic bishop Hippolytus pointed to the Beast (who he said is not the False Prophet of Revelation 16:13) as being from the Israelite tribe of Dan.<sup>34</sup>

Getting back to scripture, the patriarch Jacob was renamed ‘Israel’ by God (Genesis 32:28) and was the father of the Jews as well as those of the tribe of Dan. But the Bible, itself, does not state that the Beast or final Antichrist will be a Jew or a descendant of the tribe of Dan.

Some Christians have pointed to the Hapsburg/Habsburg line as connected to the Beast of Revelation 13.<sup>35</sup> While there is controversy if the Habsburg line has Jewish blood, at least one living Habsburg descendant (on his mother’s side) has the name Jacob as part of his string of names. And that is: Karl-Theodor Maria Nikolaus Johann Jacob Philipp Franz Joseph Sylvester Freiherr von und zu Guttenberg.

The Bible points to false prophets with deceptive signs and wonders (Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12) as well as true ones (Acts 2:17-18; Revelation 11:3-6), in the last days. It is important to know the difference.

That said, since billions of people are connected to religions with prophetic beliefs, we can understand that signs and prophecies for even opposing religions sometimes point to similar conclusions.

### **3. Prophecy, Imam Mahdi, a Peace Deal, and the King of the South?**

Islam, to a significant degree, considers itself a prophetic religion. Taken a step further, many have claimed "Islam is the religion of all Prophets,"<sup>36</sup> basically meaning that all the biblical prophets and any other true prophets were Muslim.

That said, when it comes to prophetic events, most Muslims seem to be looking for a leader who will arise in these end times, sometimes called the Imam Mahdi:

In a 2012 Pew poll, in most of the countries surveyed in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia, half or more Muslims believe that they will personally witness the appearance of the Mahdi. In Islamic eschatology, the messianic figure known as the Mahdi (the Guided One) will appear before the Day of Judgment. This expectation is most common in Afghanistan (83 percent), followed by Iraq (72), Tunisia (67), and Malaysia (62).<sup>37</sup>

Mahdi means the "Guided One." The Imam Mahdi is believed to be a leader who will unite Muslims and eliminate Islamic poverty.

Although most Muslims expect the Imam Mahdi to arise, various Islamic scholars question that and assert he is not mentioned in the Quran:

Since the Qur'an, the primary source of Islam, does not explicitly use the term "Mahdī" even though it uses words derived from the root h-d-y, the issue becomes somewhat complicated. Many questions arise regarding the person of the Mahdī, the number of the Mahdīs, and the time of his/their appearance. ...

Perhaps because some traditions associate the Mahdī with caliphs, the Mahdī came to be seen as a great Muslim leader at the end of time. <sup>38</sup>

So, yes, there are differences in Islam related to the Imam Mahdi and other prophetic matters. Like the Quran, the Bible does not directly use the term Mahdi.

#### **Islam and the Bible Look for a Peace Deal**

In Islam, there are hadithic writings that say there will be a treaty, like a seven-year peace deal with a Roman Catholic European leader, that will be broken:

Rasaullah [Muhammed] said: "There will be four peace agreements between you and the Romans [Christians]. The fourth agreement will be mediated through a

person who will be the progeny of Hadrat Haroon [Honorable Aaron -- Moses' brother] and will be upheld for seven years.<sup>39</sup>

There will be a treaty between you and the Romans, then they will betray you and march against you with eighty banners, under each of which will be twelve thousand (troops). (Sunan Ibn Majah 4042, Book 36, Hadith 117)

General anarchy and bloodshed, that no Arab household will be spared from it Then a life of peace as a result of a peace agreement between you and the Banil Asfaar (Romans) which they will break and attack you with a force consisting of eighty flags and under each flag will be an army of twelve thousand men.<sup>40</sup>

To varying degrees, those treaty writings appear to be consistent with the following biblical prophecy:

<sup>26</sup> And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. <sup>27</sup> Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate. (Daniel 9:26-27)

The above is referring to a deal or covenant that has a time element attached to it. The "one week" time element has generally been understood anciently to mean a seven-year deal (e.g. early 3<sup>rd</sup> century by Hippolytus of Rome <sup>41</sup>), that will be broken in the middle of it (after 3 1/2 years, which is a half a week also per the 2<sup>nd</sup> century Irenaeus of Lyon <sup>42</sup>). The "with many" would seem to indicate that multiple nations, as opposed to one or two, are agreeing to something.

The one biblically called a "prince" will be some type of leader of the final developing European empire. One way to show this is a European reference is to realize that it was the people of the Roman Empire of the 1<sup>st</sup> century that fulfilled the portion of Daniel 9:26 as they destroyed "the city" (Jerusalem) "and the sanctuary" (the Jewish Temple) in 70 A.D.

Because of other biblical passages (Daniel 8:25; 11:23-24), this "covenant" is generally considered to be a "peace deal" by prophecy watchers. Bible prophecy refers to a coming leader of lands currently dominated by Islam as the "King of the South." Whether, or how, the coming King of the South of Daniel 11 may be involved in the deal of Daniel 9:27 is not directly specified. However, it might be implied from biblical prophecies in Daniel 11, as well as Islamic prophecy, that one considered as the Imam Mahdi (or a "great caliph") is involved.

Anyway, both biblical and Islamic prophecy tell of a time when there is a peace deal between the Europeans and others in Islamic-dominated lands that will one day be broken.

The confirmation of a seven-year portion of some 'peace' agreement by the relatively powerless "prince" is an event that will set off what could be considered the final clock of many prophesied end-time events. Including pointing to the last 3 ½ years of the U.S.A. and its British-descended allies before they are conquered.

Since various Protestant and other prophecy watchers are also looking for this deal, it is likely it will not look obvious to most when it is confirmed. But, make no mistake about it, this will be an important prophetic event. Even though many looking for it will not believe it, even when it is told to them (cf. Habakkuk 1:5).

A confirmation of a particular deal with a time element in it by a European "prince" will set the countdown for the rise of the Beast and the destructive Great Tribulation.

That "prince" is the one who is called the 'King of the North' in Daniel 11:40, as he is shown as also fulfilling the last prophecy of Daniel 9:27 in Daniel 11:

<sup>31</sup> And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation. (Daniel 11:31)

However, the way it will be done will seemingly be in a manner that those that do not sufficiently understand biblical prophecy will not accept, even though some will be told (cf. Acts 13:41).

Like the CCOG, most Muslims believe that Jesus will return after a coming seven-year period,<sup>43</sup> with the CCOG specifically pointing to seven years after the deal of Daniel 9:27 is confirmed by "the prince." Perhaps it should be mentioned that like the CCOG, Muslim do not believe that there will be a pre-tribulation or mid-tribulation rapture like some Protestants hold to.<sup>44</sup>

That said, the Bible warns about the Kings of the North (Daniel 11:21-45; Isaiah 10:5-12) and South (Daniel 11:27,40-43) who will make one or more deals that sound consistent with Islamic prophecy.

The Roman Catholic saint and doctor of their church Jerome said (unlike some modern Roman Catholic writers<sup>45</sup>) that many of the prophecies in Daniel 11 were not to be considered to have been anciently fulfilled, but that they had future fulfillment.<sup>46</sup> Islamic prophecy also suggests a deal where the Roman Catholics and Muslims make a deceitful

deal.<sup>47</sup> So, there are similarities in some of the biblical, Roman Catholic, and Islamic traditions here.

Perhaps it should be pointed out that some hadiths point to Islam conquering India,<sup>48</sup> but biblical prophecy related to the coming King of the South (Daniel 11:40-43) does not look to support that. That said, it is possible that Muslims in Pakistan, which is basically ethnically Indian, may support the coming King of the South.

### **Shi'ite Differences**

Islam is divided into basically three pieces, with Sunni Muslims being the majority, with Shi'ite Muslims being the next large group, and a third smaller group known as Sufis (who often are considered as a type of Sunni Muslim). Shi'ite Muslims tend to be considered, overall, stricter Muslims than the other groups.

The nation with the most Shi'ite Muslims is Iran. Consider also:

Shi'a Islam is distinguished from Sunni Islam mainly in its interpretation of the role of the imam in the Islamic social order. The essential distinction between Shi'a and Sunni Islam is the doctrine of the imamate, which is essential for all Shi'a.

The Shi'a believe that the human race needs divinely guided leaders and teachers, who are the imams who continue the mission of the prophets in every respect, except bringing new scriptures. The imams are endowed with 'isma, i.e., immunity from sin and error in order to fulfill their divine mission. All Shi'a believe that without the imams the world would cease to exist, ...

The imams are not only the religious teachers, they also have an eschatological significance, for they can intercede for believers on Judgment Day. Therefore, knowing the imam is necessary for salvation. This point is especially emphasized by the messianic belief in the hidden imam, Muhammad al-Muntazar al-Mahdi, who is alive and in occultation. Beginning in 872 a.d. and during the minor occultation the imam would communicate with his followers through four direct representatives from among them. Since 941, he has been in major occultation and will only reappear when the world is filled with injustice and oppression in order to establish justice and to prepare the second coming of Christ.<sup>49</sup>

The Shi'ites claim descent through Muhammad's cousin Ali, whom they consider to have been a great early Imam (an Islamic leader) and then through the twelfth Imam, Muhammad al-Muntazar al-Mahdi—who they claim is still alive. Some have suggested he is in some type of suspended animation, usually called “major occultation” of the “Hidden Imam” (occultation means hidden) until he officially returns to rule.

Because of Shiite views of imams, some Sunni's consider that Shiites are idolators and polytheists. In 2024, the Sunni-connected group ISIS went so far to set off bombs in Iran to kill Shiites, that they referred to as "polytheists." <sup>50</sup>

It should be mentioned that another of the differences between the Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims is that most Shi'ites strongly believe that their great leader will rise up, help destroy the West, and ultimately force everyone to become Muslim or die.

On the other hand, many other Muslims believe that Jesus returns after a Mahdi comes, and then the world will basically become Muslim; hence they tend to see the coming of a future Mahdi is simply a necessary step.

### **Shi'ite Claimed 'Mahdi' Scriptures**

A Shi'ite Iranian professor named Reza Rezaie Khanghah wrote various claims related to the Imam Mahdi:

#### **Imam Mahdi In The Books Of Other Religions ...**

##### **Judaism**

##### **Qaem (Qa'im) Messiah**

###### The Prophet Isaiah

He will judge the needy in justice, and will honestly rule for the oppressed of the earth. His belt will be fair and honest. The wolf will live with the lamb. (part 11, paragraphs, 1-10)

###### Psalms Of David

The wicked are cut off, but those who trust in God, the humbled will be the heirs of the earth, will benefit from abundant health. The righteous will inherit the earth forever. (Old Testament, Psalms 37 P9-38)

###### Psalms Of David

He will judge the people fairly. The sky rejoices and the earth exerts, the sea roars. The desert and everything in it is delighting. Then all the trees will sing because he comes. (Old Testament, Psalms 96)

###### Daniel Prophecy



The great king who stands for the sons of your people is the Qa'im (Qaem). Many of them who are asleep will wake up, but for eternal life and their eternal shame and humiliation...Happy are those who wait. (page 1309, page 12, paragraph 1-12)

□ The Prophet Habakkuk

Though he may delay, wait for him, since he will certainly come and delay, but he will gather all the nations together. (Chapter 2, paragraph 3-14)

□ The Prophet Isaiah

He has to be the one who takes care of others. The doors will open. Cities will be welcomed first. The people of the universe will find peace in it. He is a man whom God has chosen and directed to conquer victory after victory and fulfill his real mission. (part 45)

## **Christianity**

### **The last Mahmid Son Of Man**

□ The Gospel of Luke

You should be like those who are waiting for their mistress to come back from wedding, so whenever he comes and knocks on the door, he immediately opens the door for him...so you also be ready because at a time when you do not think the Son Of Man comes. (page 116, part 12, paragraphs 35-40)

□ The Gospel of Matthew

See the Son Of Man coming upon the clouds of heaven with great power...but no one knows of that day and hour ... at an hour you do not think the Son of Man is coming... (page 41, part24, paragraphs 1-37)

□ The Gospel of Mark

Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. (page 77, part13, paragraphs 1-9)

□ The Gospel Of John

And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out. (page 152, part 5, paragraphs 26-28)

□ Epistle of Paul

One who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope. (Page 261, part 15, Section 12)

{□ Gospel of Matthew}

Then he (Jesus) left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field. He answered, The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ... (Matthew 13:36-37) ...

There have been some speeches about him in various Gospels:

“For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man... Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” (Matthew 24: 27, 30)

And the same Gospel talks about ‘expectation’: “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you did not expect.” (Matthew 24: 44)

And the Gospel of Mark talks about the responsibilities of those awaiting the savior:

But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. Be on guard, keep awake. Because you do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:32, 33)

An interesting point regarding the Gospels: “According to American Max in the “Lexicon of the Holy Bible”, the word ‘Son of Man’ is repeated 80 times in the Gospels and accessories (New Testament), of which 30 are adaptable to Jesus Christ and the other 50 are descriptions of the Savior who will come in apocalypse; And Jesus Christ will come with him and glorify him, and no one knows the date and time of his coming but great God.” <sup>51</sup>

Jews and Christians would NOT agree that these passages are references to the Imam Mahdi, nor would most Sunni Muslims. Christians, for example, consider the ‘Son of Man’ to be Jesus as He repeatedly applied the term to Himself (e.g. Matthew 8:20, 9:6, 11:19, 12:8, 12:40, 16:28, 17:9, 17:12, 20:18, 24:27, 24:30), and most Sunni Muslims would also agree with that. Let me also add that the second chapter of Habakkuk mainly

discusses what is going to happen to a highly indebted nation in the end time and does NOT resemble Islamic prophecies related to the Imam Mahdi.

That said, some Muslims (whether Shi'ite, Sufi, or Sunni) may refer to those passages as support of the biblical importance of a pan-national Islamic leader once he is on the scene. Additionally, the Bible does tell of a coming leader with certain similarities to the Imam Mahdi that will be addressed later in this chapter.

### **More on the Mahdi**

According to the following hadith, the Mahdi will not be a good Muslim to start with:

The Mahdi shall be from the Ahlal Bait. Allah SWT will rectify him one night, and make him good in one night. (Sunnah of ibn Maajah<sup>52</sup>)

Muslim scholars tend to interpret the above as saying that the Mahdi was not a good Muslim as a young man, but he gets changed to be a very good one. They also believe he will be alive when the Dajjal is alive.<sup>53</sup>

Here is an Islamic report related to conditions that lead to the emergence of the Imam Mahdi:

Conditions before the Advent of Al Mahdi:

Amongst other things injustice, harm, starvation, murder and continuous trials will be prevalent and religious innovations common. Forbidden things will be practiced, and it will be said that wine is permitted and most do not pray.<sup>54</sup>

The above is consistent with biblical prophecies on famines (Matthew 24:7), selfishness, and various forms of immorality in the last days (cf. Timothy 3:1-7). Many Muslims have rightly denounced the 'West' for immorality and depravity. For example, Esra Erdoğan, the daughter of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, even declared that immoral Western values will result "in the ultimate victory of the Islamic crescent over the cross of the West."<sup>55</sup> Some believe a/the Mahdi will accomplish that—yet the Bible shows a different end for the crescent, while also pointing to the end of the cross of the West.

Regarding the background and appearance of the Imam Mahdi here are some Islamic assertions:

Mahdi has been described in detail. He will have brown eyes, teeth of extreme whiteness, a beauty mark on his cheek, and will be born in Madinah of a slave-girl. There has been some controversy as regards the place of his appearance, but Morocco, Kufah, and Damascus are mentioned among the possible places.<sup>56</sup>

In traditions from the Prophet (ﷺ) it is generally believed that the Mahdi will appear at a time of anarchy and chaos that will precede the end of the world.<sup>57</sup>

Should the Mahdi also be the biblical 'King of the South,' he might arise instead from Egypt or the Arab peninsula or elsewhere in the Middle East.

Muhammad reportedly said that the Mahdi's name is to be Mohammad Ibn Abdullah and he will fill the earth with justice.<sup>58</sup> Shi'ite Muslims point to Muhammad al-Muntazar al-Mahdi. Others have other views.

Here are some hadiths related to the Imam Mahdi, who also looks to be the Caliph with wealth mentioned below as well:

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: The Mahdi will be of my family, of the descendants of Fatimah. The Prophet (ﷺ) said: The Mahdi will be of my stock, and will have a broad forehead a prominent nose. He will fill the earth with equity and justice as it was filled with oppression and tyranny, and he will rule for seven years. (Sunan Abi Dawud 4284-5, Book 38, Hadiths 6-7)

"The Mahdi will be among my nation. If he lives for a short period, it will be seven, and if he lives for a long period, it will be nine, during which my nation will enjoy a time of ease such as it has never enjoyed. The land will bring forth its yield and will not hold back anything, and wealth at that time will be piled up. A man will stand up and say: 'O Mahdi, give me!' He will say: 'Take.'"

"Three will fight one another for your treasure, each one of them the son of a caliph, but none of them will gain it. Then the black banners will come from the east, and they will kill you in an unprecedented manner." (Sunan Abi Dawud 4083-4, Book 36, Hadith 158-159)

"A man will come to him and say: O Mahdi! 'Give to me, give to me! So he will fill in his garment whatever he is able to carry.'" (Jami` at-Tirmidhi 2232, Book 33, Hadith 75)

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "From your caliphs there will be one in the Last Days who will distribute wealth without counting it." (Riyad as-Salihin 1824, Book 18, Hadith 17)

"The Prophet (ﷺ) looked out at us from a room, when we were talking about the Hour. He said: 'The Hour will not begin until there are ten signs: Dajjal, (False Christ), the smoke, and the rising of the sun from the west.'" (Sunan Ibn Majah 4041, Book 36, Hadith 116)

He is to arise when there are “black flags” arising from Khorasan <sup>59</sup> (an area covering parts of Iran, Turkmenistan, and Afghanistan).

The Mahdi is to be the leader of all the Muslim ummah (meaning Muslim world).  
<sup>60</sup>

The Mahdi is to arise after a time of turmoil, <sup>61</sup> and that is consistent with the rise of the biblical King of the South who, I believe, arises during what Jesus referred to as “the beginning of sorrows” (Matthew 24:4-8) which has “wars and rumors of war” (Matthew 24:6), a time we now seem to be in.

The Mahdi is believed to be a type of savior for Islam as well as an eliminator of Islamic poverty:

Mahdi ... some time after being in place, is expected to basically eliminate Islamic poverty and hunger, plus reign for seven years. <sup>62</sup>

Based on various biblical prophecies, I do not believe that the one the Bible calls the King of the South in the latter portion of Daniel 11 will be able to reign that long – unless he reigned only in one land or smaller confederation for a time first.

That being the case, when the King of the South is defeated (Daniel 11:40-43), some Muslims will likely conclude that he was not the Imam Mahdi. Others will likely realize that Sunni Islam does teach that the Mahdi will be defeated by the Dajjal and that the Dajjal is the European King of the North (Daniel 11:40), also called the Beast (e.g. Revelation 13:4).

### **Chaos, the Mahdi, and Jesus**

A time of sorrows and chaos is coming.

Notice the following from the *New Encyclopedia of Islam*:

The last days, as described in Islam, are marked by the figures of Gog and Magog (Juj wa Jajuj), the Mahdi, the Antichrist (Dajjal), and Jesus ... Gog and Magog, representing the forces of chaos, have been kept at bay ... At the end of time, chaos will break through the wall of Divinely imposed order, and the world will succumb to “outer darkness”. At the same time, it is believed, there will be a countercurrent, or a brief return to the state of spiritual lucidity and primordial integrity that obtained at the dawn of time. This is the reign of the Mahdi, the “rightly guided one” ...

The reign of the Mahdi will be followed by that of the Antichrist ... once the Antichrist has led away his followers, Jesus will then come to destroy the Antichrist in the closing moments of the cosmic drama.

Belief in the Mahdi has been rejected by noted Sunni authorities ...<sup>63</sup>

The Bible points to Gog and Magog coming after the demise of Antichrist and after the millennium (Ezekiel 38:2-16, Revelation 20:7-8).

Now, related to difficulties in the end times before then, Jesus taught:

9 But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately."

10 Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11 And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. (Luke 21:9-11)

A hadith states:

The hour will not come till ... earthquakes are become many, ... senseless killing increases (Hadith from Abu Hurayrah<sup>64</sup>).

But notice concerns from some Roman Catholic prophecies:

*Trappistine Nun of Notre Dame des Gardes.* "Chastisement will come when a very large number of bad books have been spread." <sup>65</sup>

*Abbe Voclin (19<sup>th</sup> century).* "Horrible books will be freely available. Intellectuals will argue fiercely among themselves. Then war will break out that will see the rise of the Great Monarch." <sup>66</sup>

So, the Great Monarch is to arise during a time of chastisement. The Bible teaches that the King of the North will arise during a time of troubles (cf. Mark 13:8-14; Daniel 11:31).

Might some of the claimed "bad books" contain actual knowledge?

That would seem to be likely.

A hadith states:

The hour will not come till knowledge is taken ... (Hadith from Abu Hurayrah<sup>67</sup>).

Could that mean some type of censorship is to come?

Well, the Hebrew scriptures warn:

11 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God,

"That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the Lord. 12 They shall wander from sea to sea, And from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, But shall not find it. (Amos 8:11-12)

While the above is not how many have traditionally viewed the hadith, knowledge being taken away is consistent with the 'famine of the word' as well as censorship. As far as Amos' writing is concerned, this looks to foretell more censorship of biblical knowledge – "the word of the Lord" – in the media as well as on the internet.

Various hadiths indicate that the time will come when the Quran will be taken and Islam will be wiped away.<sup>68</sup>

This seems to be tied in with the rise of the Beast. Notice also the following Roman Catholic prophecy:

*St. Francis de Paul (1470) ... the Great Monarch ... he will destroy the Mahometan sect and the rest of the infidels. He shall annihilate all the heresies and tyrannies of the world.*<sup>69</sup>

Some massive type of censorship would seem to be needed to try to "annihilate all the heresies." So, it looks like censorship is included in what that Roman Catholic prophecy is pointing to.

### **Prophetic Similarities**

The Quran teaches:

When the sky splits open, and when the stars fall away, and when the seas burst forth, (Sura 82:1-3)

Jesus taught:

<sup>29</sup> Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (Matthew 24:29)

The Quran teaches:

When the earth will be violently shaken, and the mountains will be crushed to pieces, (Sura 56:4-6)

The New Testament teaches:

<sup>18</sup> And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. <sup>19</sup> Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. <sup>20</sup> Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. (Revelation 16:18-20)

The Qur'an says: "When the earth shall be shaken to its depths and the mountains shall be crumbled to atoms, becoming dust scattered abroad" (*Surah* 56:4-6). Or, as previously quoted: "When the oceans are suffered to burst forth; and when the graves are turned upside down" (*Surah* 82:3-4). Finally, "What is the Day of noise and clamor? ... It is a Day whereon men will be like moths scattered about and the mountains like carded wool" (*Surah* 101:1-5).

One is reminded of Biblical references, first from the Old Testament: "Therefore I will make the heavens tremble; and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the Lord Almighty, in the day of his burning anger" (Isaiah 13:13). Also, the words of Jesus: "Immediately after the distress of those days, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky and the heavenly bodies will be shaken" (Matthew 24:29). And, "There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events, and great signs from heaven" (Luke 21:11).<sup>70</sup>

So, there are some similarities related to end time disastrous events.

### **Timing of the Mahdi/King of the South?**

The Bible tells of a leader called the King of the South (Daniel 11:40-43) that sounds similar to the Mahdi that various ones in Islam are looking forward to. Even without this Mahdi, 2016 saw the world's largest military exercise (called North Thunder) composed of 20, basically Sunni-Muslim, nations,<sup>71</sup> which are consistent with the peoples prophesied to get together later (Daniel 11:40-43; Ezekiel 30:2-8). As far as the timing of chaos goes, we appear to be in the time of "troubles" that Jesus referred to as the "beginning of sorrows" (Mark 13:8).



So, when might the Mahdi arise? Probably within the next seven years, if he is also the biblical King of the South.

A Muslim source, pointing what he considered to be numerous proofs, asserted:

The Second Coming of Jesus and the Mahdi (AS) ..... is in the year--2023 A.D.<sup>72</sup>

In 2022 and 2023, this author denounced that as well as some Protestant declarations pointing to Jesus' returning in 2023 or 2024 as biblically impossible.<sup>73</sup>

At this instant (mid 2024), the earliest return date for Jesus would be 2031 – and that would only be the case if the deal of Daniel 9:27 is confirmed in 2024 by the prince who will become the King of the North of Daniel 11 (more on that later).

### **Truces/Deals Between the Europeans and the Muslims**

Notice the following Islamic prophecies which may involve the Mahdi:

I heard the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) say: you will make a secure peace with the Byzantines, then you and they will fight an enemy behind you, and you will be victorious, take booty, and be safe. (Hadith of Sunan Abi Dawud 4292, Book 39, Hadith 2)

And the sixth is a truce between you and Banu Al-Asfar (white Europeans). They march towards you (joining you) under eighty flags, each flag has twelve thousand underneath it. The country of Muslims will lie in a land called Ghoutta. It will be a city called Damascus. (Hadith from Aouf Ibn Malik<sup>74</sup>).

Here are comments from Muslim writer Moustafa Zayed on the last one above (who is the same one who put in the above parenthetical comments):

The alliance between the Muslims and the Romans will help fight a major enemy ...<sup>75</sup>

It is possible that this could relate to some biblical prophecies.

One set is found in the Book of Daniel:

<sup>15</sup> So the king of the north ... <sup>24</sup> shall devise his plans against the strongholds ... <sup>25</sup> ... And the king of the South ... <sup>27</sup> Both these kings' hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper, for the end will still be at the appointed time. (Daniel 11:15,25, 27)

In the above passages, we see that a lying deal is made between the king of the north (who is a European power) and the king of the south (who is a power of nations in the Middle East and North Africa) – but what the deal itself is all about is not specified. If it has to do with the power with the strongest fortresses (Daniel 11:39), that would be a major power they would be agreeing to defeat.

## **The Rise of Great Britain and the End of the USA**

A Muslim suggested that this author listen to lectures by Sheikh Imran Nazar Hosein to better understand certain Islamic views on prophecy. In one of those lectures, he stated:

How do you explain a little island in Europe ... establishes its rule over the world – Pax Britannica? ... Muhammad.<sup>76</sup>

Various Muslims have said there is a prophecy about the island of the Dajjal – which Imran Nazar Hosein connects to Britain (cf. Sahih Muslim 2942c, Book 54, Hadith 149; Sahih Muslim, Book 54, Hadith 51; Sura 18:94) and he also claimed this was based on an explanation from Muhammad.

Imran Nazar Hosein also stated in the same lecture that the USA took over world leadership after Britain.

Those of us who accept the last days applications of certain biblical prophecies in, for example, the 48<sup>th</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> chapters of the Book of Genesis, believe that the rise of Great Britain (prophetic Ephraim) and the USA (prophetic Manasseh/Samaria) were prophesied to be a “multitude of nations” and a “great” nation respectively (Genesis 48:19).

Imran Nazar Hosein also made statements on the connection of Britain to the nation of Israel, and then later stated:

Can anyone explain the USA’s connection to Israel? None can explain, except a man named Muhammad.<sup>77</sup>

But some of us, other than Muhammad, can explain it. We in the *Continuing Church of God* believe that there is a sibling relationship between the USA, UK, and the nation of Israel (see also the free book, available online at ccog.org, titled: *Lost Tribes and Prophecies: What will happen to Australia, the British Isles, Canada, Europe, New Zealand and the United States of America?*).

We also point to the Hebrews scriptures that those three peoples will later turn on each other (cf. Isaiah 9:21) – and that means that eventually the USA will turn against the UK and its British descended allies. That, also is consistent with a Greco-Roman prophecy from the 6<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>78</sup>

Now, when this author asked Imran Nazar Hosein which suras or hadiths from Muhammad supported four of his assertions, he responded with:

If you are searching for Hadith which declare that which is below, I know of none.

Thank you for your email. I do hope that you can find another scholar more learned than I am who can help you.<sup>79</sup>

One issue that this author has encountered is that various teachers of Islam have made bold assertions which seem to be accepted because of traditions or personal feelings as opposed to actually being from Muhammad or the hadiths. So, related to his lecture, the hadiths and suras in this section were researched by this author to show where the ideas may be come from. Many beliefs that Muslims this author has spoken to come from traditions and interpretations that are not obvious from the Quran or the hadiths.

Getting back to his lecture Imran Nazar Hosein, he also stated:

The United States is flying high now, but its about to crash .. to end.<sup>80</sup>

Yes, the Bible shows that the power with the strongest military, which is currently the USA, will be conquered and its lands divided in Daniel 11:39.

The following from the Quran may be consistent with that as the USA is not likely to repent:

Corruption has spread on land and sea as a result of what people's hands have done, so that Allah may cause them to taste 'the consequences of' some of their deeds and perhaps they might return 'to the Right Path'.

Say, 'O Prophet,' "Travel throughout the land and see what was the end of those 'destroyed' before 'you' – most of them were polytheists." (Sura 30:41-42)

Some Muslims consider that trinitarians are polytheists. But beyond that, Islam tends to consider religious frauds as polytheists. So, perhaps one could apply Sura 30:41-42 to the USA.

In his lecture, Imran Nazar Hosein also pointed to the defeat of the people in the land of Israel. While he did not cite specific passages of the Quran, the following may be part of how he came to his interpretation:

And We warned the Children of Israel in the Scripture, "You will certainly cause corruption in the land twice, and you will become extremely arrogant. When the first of the two warnings would come to pass, We would send against you some of Our servants of great might, who would ravage your homes. This would be a warning fulfilled. (Sura 17:4-5)

Imran Nazar Hosein also stated:

The writing is on the wall ... And a new international monetary system is around the corner. And in which the US dollar will disappear. And when the US dollar crashes the American economy will crash with it.<sup>81</sup>

We in the *Continuing* Church of God have warned that the US dollar will get to the point it is not worth any more than the "cotton paper it is written on." <sup>82</sup>

### **Terrorism Deal?**

Another possibly related set of passages related to a temporal Muslim-European alliance is found in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Here is part of it, starting with verse 3, with some modern national identities from former Radio and Worldwide Church of God writers inserted using "{ }"<sup>83</sup>:

<sup>3</sup> They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones. <sup>4</sup> They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel {includes Jews as well as the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh, meaning the British-descended peoples and the USA} may be remembered no more."

<sup>5</sup> For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You: <sup>6</sup> The tents of Edom {Turks and possibly Afghanis} and the Ishmaelites {Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Libya}; Moab {part of Jordan} and the Hagrites {Syria}; <sup>7</sup> Gebal {Lebanon}, Ammon {Jordan, and perhaps the UAE}, and Amalek {part of the Turks}; Philistia {Palestinian Arabs} with the inhabitants of Tyre {Lebanon; perhaps also in part of Southern Italy}; <sup>8</sup> Assyria {migrated to Germanic Europe} also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot {Jordan and western Iraq}. (Psalm 83:3-8)

Nations like Tunisia and Algeria would also be expected to be involved, as well as those associated with the end time European Beast power.

The old Radio Church of God and Worldwide Church of God published the following related to that 83<sup>rd</sup> Psalm:

Notice an amazing prophecy about the Middle East in Psalm 83:1-8. It is a time of war. "Hold not Thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, Thine enemies ... have taken crafty counsel against Thy people." They have dealt treacherously with Judah and Israel – with the Jews and with America and Britain ... Israel {Genesis 48:14-16}. The Jews are merely the tribe of Judah. ...

So Germany ... is ultimately going to support an Arab union against the Jews and against Israel – Britain and America! This is what prophecy foretells.<sup>84</sup>

Here we see that the Arab nations mentioned are allied with Germany (Assur) which we know from other prophecies will be the military leader – naturally so – of a United States of Europe ... This European power – called the "king of the orth" in Daniel 11 <sup>85</sup>

(Psalm 83) provides additional insight into the coming Mideast picture. Germany (Assyria in Bible prophecy) and perhaps the rest of Europe will be in league in the

future with a union of Arab nations – a vast confederacy bound together in an effort to crush out the name "Israel" from the face of the earth! This Arab-Moslem confederacy may very well be the previously mentioned "king of the south" of Daniel 11 – a sphere of power encompassing vast portions of the Islamic world.

...

But in the end, this European-Arab alliance will prove short-lived. ... the "king of the north" of Daniel 11 – the leader of the German-led European union – will ultimately turn against the Arab "king of the south," with disastrous consequences for the entire Middle East <sup>86</sup>

Psalm 83 is talking about an alliance of predominantly Muslim peoples aligning with a European power to go against, according to the old Radio Church of God, the Jews of Israel, the British-descended nations, and the USA.

That is consistent with the previously quoted hadith from Aouf Ibn Malik mentioning a truce.

Verse three of Psalm 83 states this confederation will have “taken crafty counsel,” which suggests that the plan may include what could be considered as terrorism by some of the participants or supporters of the participants, as well as secrecy involving a planned attack. This deal will happen shortly before the start of what could be called WWIII (cf. Daniel 11:39; Matthew 24:21). Terrorism looks like it will be employed—as it is also prophesied to occur if the descendants of Israel disobeyed God (Leviticus 26:14-16; Deuteronomy 32:25).

## 4. Iran, Syria, and Terror

The Hamas-Israel war that began on October 7, 2023, highlighted for many that Iran has been involved in backing Hamas, Hezbollah, and others. And of course, Iran has long been an ally of Syria.

*HarperCollins* published the following about an Islamic end times sign and Syria:

Another purported sign is the movement into Syria of the pro Assad Hezbollah militia, whose flag is yellow.

“As Imam Sadeq has stated, when the (forces) with yellow flags fight anti-Shi’ites in Damascus and Iranian forces join them, this is a prelude and a sign of the coming of his holiness,” Rohollah Hosseinian, an Iranian cleric and member of Parliament, explained.<sup>87</sup>

The expression “his holiness” is a reference to the Imam Mahdi – and its use of terms like that that make some Sunni’s consider Shiites to be heretics and idolators.

That said, Iranians are Persians and not Arabs. Here is something about their ancestors:

Iranians ... are a mixed people of the remnants of Media and Elam and other ancestors of Semitic and Hamitic stock.<sup>88</sup>

Iran’s closest ally is Syria. While some Arab nations have made peace with Israel, Iran and Syria have not.

Notice the following hadiths:

"At the end of Time there will be a trial in which people will be sorted in a way similar to that in which gold is sorted from metal."

"So do not rebuke the people of Syria but rebuke the evil people among them because amongst them is Al Abdal.

A flood is about to be sent down upon the people of Syria which will disperse their groups in such a way that if foxes attacked they would be beaten.

At that time a man from the Family of my House will come under three banners; between twelve and fifteen thousand and their password is - 'Die, die.' Then, there will come seven banners and under each will be one man seeking the kingdom.

Allah will kill all of them and restore unity and favors upon the hearts of Muslims, and those who were far come close."<sup>89</sup>

"Al Mahdi is a man from my children. His face is like a glittering star, his skin is the color of an Arab, and his body is like that of Israel.

He will fill the earth with justice just as it will have been filled by injustice, and the dwellers of Heaven and Earth will be pleased with his Caliphate." <sup>90</sup>

Although one of the hadiths used the term Israel in a positive manner, in January 2021, Iranian state media ISNA reported:

Iranian lawmakers have submitted a bill seeking the government by law to commit to Israel's destruction by the year 2040," <sup>91</sup>

The Bible points to Iran (Elam below) and its ally Syria (Kir below) causing damage to Jerusalem of the nation of Israel:

<sup>5</sup> For it is a day of trouble and treading down and perplexity By the Lord God of hosts In the Valley of Vision – Breaking down the walls And of crying to the mountain.

<sup>6</sup> **Elam bore the quiver With chariots of men and horsemen**, And Kir uncovered the shield. <sup>7</sup> It shall come to pass that your choicest valleys Shall be full of chariots, And the horsemen shall set themselves in array at the gate.

<sup>8</sup> **He removed the protection of Judah**. You looked in that day to the armor of the House of the Forest; <sup>9</sup> **You also saw the damage to the city of David, That it was great**; And you gathered together the waters of the lower pool. <sup>10</sup> You numbered the houses of Jerusalem, And the houses you broke down To fortify the wall.

<sup>11</sup> You also made a reservoir between the two walls For the water of the old pool. But you did not look to its Maker, Nor did you have respect for Him who fashioned it long ago. <sup>12</sup> And in that day the Lord God of hosts Called for weeping and for mourning, For baldness and for girding with sackcloth. (Isaiah 22:5-12)

The Bible tells that after Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria took over Damascus, he moved Syrians to Kir (2 Kings 16:9-10). While this does not mean that Kir must (or must only) be a reference to Syria, the fact that Syria is an ally of Iran is interesting. The Bible also has the expression "the Syrians from Kir" (Amos 9:7), which is basically confirmation that Kir of Isaiah 22 would include Syrians. The prophecy that "Kir uncovered the shield" suggests that Syria will have somehow reduced the effectiveness of Israel's 'Iron Dome' and/or other defensive equipment the nation of Israel will use. The Bible additionally tells of a time when Kir will be destroyed (Isaiah 15:1b) and also says that Syria's capital Damascus will be destroyed (Isaiah 17:1). The "House of the Forest" was anciently located in Lebanon (e.g. 1 Kings 7:2, 10:17,21; 2 Chronicles 9:16,20 <sup>92</sup>)—which is where Hezbollah is based out of.

In Isaiah 22:8, "Judah" is a reference to those in the nation commonly called Israel—and we see that the Bible shows that God will allow Israel to be attacked. In Isaiah 22:9, understand that "the damage to the city of David" is a reference to at least part of Jerusalem, which is the "city of David" (cf. 2 Kings 9:28).

Further notice that Isaiah's prophecy states that the damage will be great. Also notice part of the reason will be because Judah (modern nation of Israel) would "not look to its Maker," nor "have respect for Him," that God will allow this. Just relying on Israel's own military will not be enough.

It appears there will likely be a regional war involving Israel, who has threatened to take preemptive attacks to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons<sup>93</sup> as well as retaliatory attacks because of a massive arial attack by Iran announced on April 14, 2024.<sup>94</sup> Israel has promised retaliation, with Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi asserting that even the "tiniest" invasion of its territory would bring a "massive and harsh" response. ... and that if Iran had wanted to carry out a bigger attack, "nothing would remain from the Zionist regime."<sup>95</sup>

Scripture points to an attack with Iranian involvement that will cause great damage to Israel.

Despite its posturing, relative military strength, and ability to damage Israel and others, Iran will be somehow effectively neutralized (cf. Ezekiel 32:24). This could perhaps be from an attack involving Israel and other nations and/or internal civil unrest -- this could also include electromagnetic (EMP) or similar weapons used against Iran (Jeremiah 49:34-39).

Before going further, that certain Protestant and Jewish prophecy watchers believe that Iran, along with Russia, will invade the nation of Israel before Jesus returns based on the 38<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Book of Ezekiel which is also related to Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38:2-6). But that prophecy is NOT for this age. Notice something Russia and Iran are prophesied to say:

<sup>11</sup> You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates' — <sup>12</sup> to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land. <sup>13</sup> Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, 'Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?'" (Ezekiel 38:11-13)



The tiny nation called Israel does not have any significant amount of gold,<sup>96</sup> nor is it filled with peaceful people who dwell safely, hence the Ezekiel 38 prophecy is not for this age (it is post millennial per Revelation 20:7-8). Islam tends to use Gog and Magog as representations of evil (Sura 18:94).

For this age, understand that Iran has weapons that can cause damage, including terror. Biblically, we see that terror is associated with Elam:

<sup>24</sup> **There is Elam** and all her multitude, All around her grave, All of them slain, fallen by the sword, Who have gone down uncircumcised to the lower parts of the earth, **Who caused their terror in the land of the living**; Now they bear their shame with those who go down to the Pit. (Ezekiel 32:24)

Furthermore, the U.S.A. itself, as well as the State of Israel, are vulnerable to EMP (electromagnetic pulse) type attacks and even items such as biological weapons, chemical weapons, terrorism, nuclear weapons, dirty bombs, etc. because of a conflict involving Iran, Syria, and/or others.

But should this attack occur, this would NOT be the final destruction of the U.S.A. Prophetically, Iran would not end up faring well (cf. Ezekiel 32:24-25).

Because of prophecies related to the destruction of Syria's capital Damascus (Isaiah 17:1), damage to Iran from multiple nations (Jeremiah 49:34-39), and great damage to be done to Jerusalem (Isaiah 22:8-9), one or more of those events may well precede the 'peace deal' of Daniel 9:27.

After this author originally wrote basically the paragraph above, he ran across the following:

There is an 800-year-old rabbinic commentary known as Yalkut Shimoni, which he translates: "Paras (Persia-Iran) will be the dread of humanity. The world's leaders will be frustrated in their futile efforts to save what they can, but to no avail. The people of Israel will also be petrified by the impending danger. And HaShem (God) will say to us, 'Why are you afraid? All of this I have done in order to bring you the awaited redemption. And this redemption will not be like the redemption from Egypt, which was followed by suffering. This redemption will be absolute, followed with peace.'"<sup>97</sup>

Yes, presuming we see great damage to Jerusalem, this would seem to set the stage for the peace deal of Daniel 9:27, which is consistent with the above old Jewish commentary.

Notice something else involving Syrians:

<sup>8</sup> The Lord sent a word against Jacob, And it has fallen on Israel. <sup>9</sup> All the people will know -- Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria -- ... <sup>11</sup> Therefore the Lord shall set up The adversaries of Rezin against him, And spur his enemies on, <sup>12</sup> The Syrians before and the Philistines behind; And they shall devour Israel with an open mouth. (Isaiah 9:8-9, 11-12)

In addition to the nation of Israel, the U.S.A. (prophetic Samaria) and its British descended allies (prophetic Ephraim) will have more terrorist attacks. Syrian and some other refugees are a potential terrorist problem (Jeremiah 15:6-8; Ezekiel 21:12, 32:24) as there will be "terror within" as (Deuteronomy 32:25).

Isaiah and Ezekiel look to be prophesying problems from Syrians, Palestinians, and Iranians. And this would be expected to include terrorism. And this is also consistent with prophecies in Psalm 83.

## 5. Islam, Fatima, and Mary

Fatima is a popular name for Islamic women as many have wanted to emulate Muhammad's favorite daughter Fatima.

The Iranian professor Khanghah wrote:

Prophet Muhammad states that: "Fātima is a part of me", adding that, "Whoever offends her offends me" <sup>98</sup> ... The Hidden Imam (Imam Mahdi) wrote to Abu-Omar Ameri: "the Prophet's daughter (Holy Fatima) is a nice model for me". <sup>99</sup>

Islam and various Eastern faiths may be influenced because of 'the Lady' who appeared in Fatima and future apparitions.

The Portuguese town of Fatima was named after a Muslim princess, Fatima Zahra. Princess Fatima Zahra converted to the Roman Catholic faith in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and married a knight named Don Gonçalo. Upon Roman Catholic baptism she took the name Oureana.<sup>100</sup>

While Roman Catholics tend to believe that it was Jesus' mother Mary who appeared to three shepherd children in the town of Fatima in 1917, many Muslims believe that it was Muhammad's daughter Fatima.

### Fatima and Mary

It has been claimed that Islam's prophet made some very positive statements about Jesus' mother Mary:

Prophet Muhammad Ali Ibn Abi Talib narrated that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

*"The best of the world's women is Mary (in her lifetime), and the best of the world's women is Khadija (in her lifetime)."* (Sahih Al-Bukhari)<sup>101</sup>

Abu Musa Al-Ashari also narrated that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

*"Many among men reached to the position of perfection. But it is only three women who acquired this perfection: Mary the daughter of Imran...Fatima"*<sup>102</sup>

Many in the West are unaware that Muhammad's first and most beloved daughter was Fatima, who he connected with Mary. After she died, Muhammad reportedly said,;

*"Thou shalt be the most blessed of all women in Paradise, after Mary."*<sup>103</sup>

It should be noted that prior to the apparition in Fatima, Islam called Fatima the 'Virgin Fatima.'

A 1906 report states:

The virginity of Fatima is a dogma of Islam. <sup>104</sup>

Greco-Roman Catholics declared the dogma of Jesus' mother Mary's "perpetual virginity" in 553.<sup>105</sup> Early leaders of the Protestant reformation, such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Ulrich Zwingli also asserted Mary's so-called "perpetual virginity,"<sup>106</sup> though many modern Protestants do not. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, Origen of Alexandria declared that doctrine came from the false gospels now known as the *Gospel of Peter* and the *Protoevangelium of James*.<sup>107</sup>

Furthermore, notice more Islamic claims about the woman Fatima:

Fatima will enter paradise next to Mahomet: The Mussulmans call her the Lady of Paradise. Some Shiites (followers of Ali) maintain that Fatima was nonetheless a virgin for becoming a mother, and that God was incarnate in her children. <sup>108</sup>

Fatima had five children, whereas the Bible points to Mary having at least 6 (four named brothers, plus unnamed sisters) after Jesus.

Perhaps it should be added that many Greco-Roman Catholics believe that Mary was taken up into heaven and the Muslims believe that Fatima was taken up into heaven.<sup>109</sup>

But they do not tend to specify a date. Roman Catholics claim that Mary ascended to heaven on August 15<sup>th</sup>, but officially they claim that they do not know why that date was chosen.<sup>110</sup> August 15<sup>th</sup> was the date the pagans observed for the ascension of the goddess Diana to heaven, and some do not consider the dates to be entirely coincidental.<sup>111</sup> Diana was known as the "revered virgin,"<sup>112</sup> "the virgin,"<sup>113</sup> and also "the Lady Artemis."<sup>114</sup> According to the descriptions the three shepherd children gave to the Roman Catholic priests in 1917, the Lady of Fatima resembled the goddess Diana.<sup>115</sup> Scholars have noted with Diana/Artemis "qualities and of attributes associated with the Virgin Mary."<sup>116</sup> And her being called "the Lady" also ties her in with the apparition that appeared in Fatima. (An illustration of what many think appeared at Fatima, along with an illustration of what the only three witnesses claimed to see is on the back cover of this book to prove that there is no way that Jesus' mother or Muhammad's daughter actually appeared in Fatima in 1917.)

That said, Muhammad's daughter Fatima, like Mary, was also believed to have been a widow. Mary and Fatima are believed to serve as intercessors, as well as role models, for their respective communities. Roman Catholics seek Mary's intercession in prayer, believing that she can advocate to Jesus on their behalf. Shi'a Muslims revere Fatima as a spiritual guide as well as being a source of inspiration.

Fatima, herself, was born around 604. Shi'ite Muslims traditions tremendously exalt her, while Sunni tradition, though acknowledging her importance, "characterizes her as often impatient and ungrateful."<sup>117</sup>

Related to Muhammad's daughter, Ergun Mehmet Caner noted that:

"the depth of reverence shown for Fatima compares with that shown to the Virgin Mary by the Roman Catholics."<sup>118</sup>

He also noted that Muslim females are encouraged to model their lives after Fatima's<sup>119</sup> which happens to be similar to what a lot of Roman Catholic females are encouraged to do in following Mary. Greco-Roman Catholic females are often named some version of Mary (such as Maria, Miriam, etc.). Many Muslim females have been named Fatima. "Fatima signifies 'mistress' or 'lady' in Arabic."<sup>120</sup>

History records that some Muslims have worn an amulet called the "hand of Fatima." Essentially it is considered by some to be a charm to protect against evil. Here is a report about it amongst the Arabs:

Fatima ... was ... one of the four perfect women ... the hand of Fatima was everywhere regarded as a charm, used in every conceivable way, from its impress on the door of the humblest house to the jeweled charm worn round the neck of the rich bride.<sup>121</sup>

As mentioned earlier, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was also in the list of "the perfect women" according to Islam.<sup>122</sup> The wearing of the 'hand of Fatima' amulet around the neck by some Muslims and the 'Immaculate Medalion' around the neck by some Roman Catholics<sup>123</sup> also suggests closer similarities than one might otherwise suspect.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen wrote:

It is our firm belief that ... Islam ... will be converted to Christianity ... It is our belief that this will not happen through direct teaching of Christianity, but through a summoning of the Muslims to a veneration of the Mother of God.<sup>124</sup>

He also wrote he believed that the apparition of 1917:

... chose to be known as "Our Lady of Fatima" as a pledge and sign of hope for the Muslim people ... so that they one day would accept ...<sup>125</sup>

Thus, Archbishop Sheen essentially thought that the appearance in Fatima was to also ultimately result in Muslims (and possibly Hindus as he further stated) accepting his faith.

**Fatima: The Lady of the Rosary?**

Let me add that the apparition at Fatima did not identify herself as Mary or the “Lady of Fatima,” but only as “the Lady”<sup>126</sup> as in her statement the “I am the Lady of the Rosary”<sup>127</sup> to the three shepherd children.

Could there be a tie to this “Lady of the Rosary” and Muhammad’s daughter Fatima?

First consider that a Roman Catholic rosary consists of 59 beads and is basically used to count repeated prayers.

Secondly, while not the same number of beads, in Islam they have a 100-beaded prayer ‘rosary.’ But Muslims do not call it a rosary. They call their prayer beads ‘subha’ or a ‘tasbih.’ They use these beads in association with what they call the ‘dhikr.’

The dhikr is a form of Islamic worship in which phrases or prayers are repeatedly recited. According to an Islamic narration from Ali ibn Abi Talib, the Islamic prophet Muhammad originally taught a dhikr (Tasbih of Fatimah) to his daughter Fatima.

According to one narration Fatima, who was tired due to daily routine, intended to ask her father for a servant to perform chores. Her father (Muhammad) heard of what she had to say, and so he went to her house, and sat with her, then said, “May I not direct you to something better than what you have asked for?” He then taught her the mentioned dhikr.<sup>128</sup>

There is also the following related hadith:

When Allah's Apostle (ﷺ) came, she (A'isha) informed him about the visit of Fatima. Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) came to them (Fatima and her family). They had gone to their beds. 'Ali further (reported):

We tried to stand up (as a mark of respect) but Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said: Keep to your beds, and he sat amongst us and I felt the coldness of his feet upon my chest. He then said: May I not direct you to something better than what you have asked for? When you go to your bed, you should recite Takbir (Allah-o-Akbar) thirty-four times and Tasbih (Subhan Allah) thirty-three times and Tahmid (al-Hamdu li-Allah) thirty-three times, and that is better than the servant for you. (Sahih Muslim 2727a, Book 48, Hadith 108)

So, there is a connection to Fatima and reciting repeated prayers. Fatima looks, then, to be part of the motivation for the development and use of prayer beads by Muslims.

Therefore, in a sense, one could say Muhammad’s daughter Fatima is the ‘Lady’ of the Islamic ‘rosary.’

Hence, this is another potential tie between Islam and the visits from the Lady of Fatima in 1917. Furthermore, some Muslims believe that during what was called ‘the Miracle of

the Sun' on October 13, 1917, that the Lady had beads, and therefore this was proof that the apparition was Muhammad's daughter Fatima. However, it should be understood that it was only ever the three shepherd children who actually saw the apparition at any of the appearances in Fatima. During what is called 'the Miracle of the Sun' tens of thousands of people reportedly saw an orb, which many concluded was the sun, move around. But they did NOT see 'the Lady.'

Perhaps it should also be pointed out the Muslims had prayer beads centuries before Roman Catholics had rosaries.<sup>129</sup>

### **Roman Catholics See Fatima as a Conversion Aid**

Getting back to Fulton Sheen, he also wrote:

Our missionaries report the most extraordinary reaction of these peoples as the Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima was carried through the East. At the edge of Nepal, three hundred Catholics were joined by three thousand Hindus and Moslems, as four elephants carried the statue to the little church for Rosary and Benediction ... The final evidence of the relationship of the village of *Fatima* to the *Moslems* is the enthusiastic reception that the *Moslems in Africa* and India and elsewhere gave to the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of *Fatima* ... *in Mozambique the Moslems, who were unconverted, became Christians as soon as the statue of Our Lady of Fatima was erected* ...

Missionaries in the future will, more and more, see that their apostolate among the Moslems will be successful in the measure they preach Our Lady of Fatima.<sup>130</sup>

On December 27, 1983, the man that shot Pope John-Paul II, Ali Ağca, referred to Muhammad's daughter as the goddess of the Fatima apparitions.<sup>131</sup>

It seems that apparitions could be a factor in temporarily getting many Muslims to consider that there is more to Roman Catholicism than most of them have thought. Archbishop Sheen felt that a Marian "miracle" would be a factor in Muslims and others together and become end time Roman Catholics in the Day of Wrath (*Dies Irae*):

And as Mary revealed herself in that first Miracle of the Sun, so may we look forward to another revelation of her power when the world has its next rehearsal for the *Dies Irae*.<sup>132</sup>

The Bible warns of signs and lying wonders coming (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12) as well as sorceries from "the Lady" (Isaiah 47:5-9) who one day God will have destroyed per Revelation 18:7-8.

No one, whether Muslim, Greco-Roman Catholic, Protestant, Hindu, etc. should fall for the sorceress 'Lady' the Bible warns against (Isaiah 47:9), yet most people will (cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:12).

## **More on Islam and Mary**

Getting back to some claimed version of Jesus' mother Mary, the following is something from Vatican II:

Moslems ... They also honor Mary, His virgin Mother; at times they even call on her with Devotion.<sup>133</sup>

Chapter 19 of the Quran is, from an Islamic perspective, devoted to Mary and Jesus ("Mary" is variously spelled Maryam, Marium, or Miriam in Arabic translations into English). Here are a few passages from it:

019.020 Y: She said: "How shall I have a son, seeing that no man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?" ...

019.027 ... S: And she came to her people with him, carrying him (with her). They said: O Marium! Surely you have done a strange thing.

019.028 Y: "O sister of Aaron! Thy father was not a man of evil, nor thy mother a woman unchaste!"<sup>134</sup>

066.012 Y: And Mary the daughter of 'Imran, who guarded her chastity; and We breathed into (her body) of Our spirit; and she testified to the truth of the words of her Lord and of His Revelations, and was one of the devout (servants).<sup>135</sup>

While the above supports the true virgin birth of Jesus, some also seem to believe that the Qur'an is also supportive of teaching the "immaculate" conception of Mary in Islam.<sup>136</sup>

So, there are Islamic ties to Mary that resemble those in post-sixth century Roman Catholicism.

That said, Islam considers Mary to be blessed (Quran 3:37). Also, the Quran objects to the worship/veneration of Mary that Greco-Roman Catholics do (Quran 5:116).

Perhaps it should be added that although we in the CCOG consider that Mary can be called "blessed" as scripture supports (Luke 1:48), we do not venerate her nor pray to her nor bow down (nor kneel nor genuflect) before statues that some claim are to represent her.

## **Marian Interest and Her Claimed Final House in Turkey**

A house where Mary may have lived out her last days is in Turkey (there are others who believe Mary's last days were in Jerusalem). My wife Joyce and I have visited it. It is on the outskirts of ancient Ephesus.



There is an annual celebration for Mary, in the area near Ephesus, which Islamic Turks put on and participate in.

Because of Islamic fascination with Mary, it is possible that an apparition claiming to be Mary might appear in Turkey and/or elsewhere. This may partially persuade some Muslims to temporarily consider that somehow God might be working through a Western religious leader. This belief will not last for all according to scripture (Daniel 11:27; 40), but it also seems to have been part of Roman Catholic prophecy:

*Blessed Maria of Agreda* (died 1665): The power of Mary in the latter days will be very conspicuous. Mary will extend the reign of Christ over the heathens and the Mohammedans ... <sup>137</sup>

Perhaps it should be mentioned that there are certain Roman Catholic prophecies that suggest many Muslims in Turkey will somewhat accept a Roman 'Catholic' faith. Here is one:

*Brother Louis Rocco* (19<sup>th</sup> century): Terrible wars will rage all over Europe...Great cities and small towns alike will be destroyed in a bloody revolution ... In Istanbul (Constantinople) the Cross will replace the half-moon of Islamism, and Jerusalem will be the seat of a King. The southern Slavs will form a great Catholic Empire and drive out of Europe the Turks (Mohammedans), who will withdraw to North Africa and subsequently embrace the Catholic faith.<sup>138</sup>

Many people of all persuasions, including apparently atheists, are going to change their current beliefs in vast numbers (even according to many Greco-Roman Catholic leaders) to embrace one who will promote an ecumenical/interfaith religion that is to be accompanied by what will appear to be real miracles.

It may be of interest to understand that there is a 17<sup>th</sup> century Islamic prophecy from a Dervish (Dervishes are Sufi Muslims mainly based in Turkey) that suggests that because many are not good Muslims, they will accept a faith that claims Christ after seeing in Medina something that resembles a female apparition, that some suspect will be considered to be Jesus' mother Mary. <sup>139</sup>

Hence, at least one Islamic prophecy seems to support the view that many Muslims (especially in Turkey) may accept the coming ecumenical religion promoted by a "Marian" apparition.

But, a small group of people on the earth will not be deceived, even by those or other wonders as Jesus said:

<sup>24</sup> For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch as to deceive (if possible) even the elect. (Matthew 24:24, DRB)

The “elect” that Jesus spoke of will not accept the false ‘Marian’ apparitions of Fatima or any future ones. But apparently future wonders will be so persuasive that all but these “elect” will fall for them.

### **Islamic Interest in Fatima, Portugal**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Italian journalist Giuseppe De Carli wrote the following related to Islam and Fatima:

The Shiites believe that the Fatima shrine belongs, by right, to Muslims, and that Catholics have stolen it from their rightful owners. They argue that if a Lady dressed in shining white appeared there, then it’s because she had a message for the Muslims, not for Christians.

Ali Ağca, in his megalomania thought he had a mission from God. Apparently, when John Paul II visited him at the Rebibbia prison in 1983, he asked the pontiff, “So who is Fatima for you?”

Twice now I have done on-the-scene reporting from Fatima and I have spotted Arabs who seemed to want to remain incognito ... Fatima has a religious and political significance. <sup>140</sup>

So, some Muslims, at least, believe that the messages for Fatima were apparently different than those publicly revealed, that Fatima is for them, and any message for Fatima has to do with Islam (Islam was not mentioned in any of the ‘three secrets’ that the Lady of Fatima reportedly gave).

Notice also from Roman Catholic priest L.J. Cizik:

It is a fact that Moslems from various nations, especially from the Middle East, make so many pilgrimages to Our Lady of Fatima’s Shrine in Portugal that Portuguese officials have expressed concern. The combination of an Islamic name and Islamic devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is a great attraction to Moslems. <sup>141</sup>

It would not surprise me if one or more future apparitions shows itself to Muslims and encourages them to support the ecumenical religion that the Europeans will themselves embrace in much greater numbers in very few years. The apparition(s) might claim to be

Mary or perhaps Muhammad's daughter Fatima, or perhaps that it somehow represents both.

Notice the following from the *Encyclopedia of Islam*:

Fatima is greatly revered by Muslims ... Moreover, she will be the first to enter PARADISE ... and like MARY in Catholic Christianity, she will intercede for those who honor her ... Indeed, in Shii literature, Fatima is compared to Mary the mother of JESUS because of the violent deaths suffered by each of their sons.<sup>142</sup>

Anyway, there are similarities (as well as differences) between Roman Catholic and Islamic beliefs related to Mary and Fatima.

Reportedly, a series of apparitions occurred at a Coptic Orthodox church in Zeitoun, Egypt, from 1968 to 1973 and:

Moslems, Copts, Roman Catholics, Protestants, and others were **overwhelmed by the Lady** who seemed to be composed of light. Moslems chanted from the Koran: "Mary, God has chosen thee. And purified thee; He has chosen thee above all women."<sup>143</sup>

So, some Muslims have already been impressed by apparitions of "the Lady," and may once again. But they should not be. These appearances were not truly Jesus' mother nor Muhammad's daughter.

### **What did the 'Lady of Fatima' Look Like?**

According to the three children that saw 'the Lady of Fatima,' she was immodestly dressed. There is no way that she was Muhammad's daughter or Jesus' mother.

Here is some of what their Roman Catholic Parish Priest of Fatima, Manuel Marques Ferreira, wrote in 1917 that the children reported about the apparition:

The clothing was a white mantle, which fell from the head to below the skirt, which was golden from the waist to below the strings...The skirt was all white and gold... [and] fell only to the knees; the coat was white...no shoes, but white socks with no gold; about the neck there was a gold chain with a pointed medallion.<sup>144</sup>

The short skirt might explain why Lúcia (the oldest of the three children who saw the apparition in Fatima) thought the apparition she saw on June 13, 1917 may have been the devil. She declared that back then:

I began to have doubts as to whether these manifestations might be from the devil.<sup>145</sup>

Later in 1917, the Roman Catholic priest and investigator Canon Manuel Nunes Formigão interviewed the three Fatima children.<sup>146</sup> Here is some of what he wrote related to the testimony of the youngest, Jacinta:

Jacinta confirms that Our Lady's dress fell only to the knees ... Our Lady obviously could not have appeared other than dressed with the utmost decency and modesty ... {This} constitutes a serious problem, opposing the very validity of the Apparition, giving rise in the spirit to the dread that this whole affair is a mystification, prepared by the Prince of Darkness. <sup>147</sup>

And that is true, yet Canon Formigão essentially decided that since some Catholics claimed to have felt better (physically or spiritually) because of the popularity of Fatima, he dismissed the eye witness testimony that he had received.<sup>148</sup> Yet, neither Mary nor Fatima would have been dressed as culturally immodest as the apparition was described (cf. 1 Timothy 2:9-10). Whatever the children saw, we can be certain that it was not Jesus' mother nor Muhammad's daughter.

Certain Roman Catholic priests have written:

As Saint Thomas {Aquinas} teaches, there is no argument against a fact – *contra factum non argumentum est*. If a statement is contrary to fact, then no authority on earth can expect us to believe it. <sup>149</sup>

Islamic scholars would also accept that you cannot accept an argument against fact as true, no matter how appealing the arguments in favor of it seem to be.

To accept that the Lady who appeared at Fatima could possibly be Mary is an argument against biblical fact as "women are to wear suitable clothes and to be dressed quietly and modestly" (1 Timothy 2:9, NJB). It is also against the Quran that it could be Mary or Fatima (cf. Sura 24:31). Moreover, the fact is that neither Jesus' mother Mary nor Muhammad's daughter Fatima would have appeared that, Furthermore, while some woman in modern Portugal may dress that way, they would not have back in the small town of Fatima back in 1917.

Clever sounding arguments notwithstanding, the testimony from the only three people who saw the Lady confirms that this was not Mary nor Fatima as the apparition appeared wearing an immodestly short skirt.

### **Orthodox Warning**

As it turns out, mainly because of Roman Catholic Marian claims, some Eastern Orthodox Catholic writers have been concerned that apparitions of “Mary” will be used as an ecumenical symbol for a false unity for the Greco-Roman Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, and others.

And that will lead people to follow the final Beast and Antichrist:

*Peter Jackson (20th century):* “Mother goddesses” known in the ancient world were not just confined to the Near East and Mediterranean but are universal. The Kogi Indians, among whom we lived in Columbia, worship a spirit called Nabuba, the “Ancient Mother.” When Roman Catholics missionaries attempted to evangelize the Kogi in the last century...rather than explaining the differences between the pagan mythology and Christian truth, they found “equivalences,” Christ, under this syncretistic view, corresponds to the Kogi Sejukukui (a trickster god who faked his own death by hiding in a cave), while Nabuba is said to be the Virgin Mary. This confusion has led the Kogis to call their pagan temples “cansamaria,” a corruption of “casa de Maria” (house of Mary) ...

To which Mary are Muslims and Protestants being drawn? Rome began to see her more and more as a “goddess,” a fourth Hypostasis of the Trinity ... Today, as heterodox Christians become more and more ecumenist and work toward creating a “One World Church,” the search has begun for a Mary of universal recognition, one who will appeal not only to those who bear the name Christian, but apparently to Muslims and others as well, just as attempts are likewise being made to identify the “new Christ” with the Muslim concept of their coming Mahdi and with the Messiah still awaited by the Jews. This, of course, will be no Christ at all but the antichrist.<sup>150</sup>

While the warning contains valid a warning, the reality is that people tend to believe what they see with their own eyes, and often what others tell them they have seen.

Plus, some will seemingly point to Roman Catholic writings as well as writings from various Islamic writers as justification for falling for this.

Almost everyone will be deceived by what is coming according to the Bible (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12).

Yet, the very elect will follow the Apostle Paul’s admonition to “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7).

That said, the Bible tells of deceitful cooperation coming between the King of the North and the leader of currently Islamically-dominated lands called the King of the South (e.g. Daniel 11:27).

It may be that Fatima and/or later apparitions that resemble one or more females will be a factor in various agreements between a rising European power and various Arabic and Turkish peoples (cf. Psalm 83:2-8).

## 6. The Dajjal

Perhaps it should be pointed out that Muslims say that Protestants who claim that the Antichrist will be Muslim are wrong, and Muslims are right about that.

Muslims tend to consider that the Dajjal is the one called the beast that arises out of the sea in Revelation 13:1, whereas they tend to use the term Dabbatul-Ard for the beast that comes out of the earth in Revelation 13:10.

Like many Protestants and some Roman Catholics, Muslims tend to equate the beast that arises out the sea as the final Antichrist. In this book, we (except when quoting sources with such) will tend to call that beast that arises out of the sea as the final King of the North or European Babylonian Beast power, with the beast of the earth being the final Antichrist (though both of them are anti-Christ).

Now much of the Islamic beliefs about one they call the Dajjal is from in the hadiths as quoted from Imam Yahya ibn Sharaf an-Nawaw.

Here is information from *18 The Book of Miscellaneous ahadith of Significant Values (370) Chapter: Ahadith about Dajjal and Portents of the Hour:*

Dajjal will be a young man with very curly hair with one eye protruding (with which he cannot see). I compare (his appearance) to that of Al-'Uzza bin Qatan. ...

We asked: "O Messenger of Allah! How long will he stay on the earth?" He said, "For forty days. One day will be like a year, one day like a month, one day like a week and the rest of the days will be like your days." We said: "O Messenger of Allah! Will one day's Salat (prayer) suffice for the Salat of that day which will be equal to one year?" Thereupon he said, "No, but you must make an estimate of time and then offer Salat." ...

He will come to the people and call them to his obedience and they will affirm their faith in him and respond to him. He will then give command to the sky and it will send its rain upon the earth and he will then send his command to the earth and it will grow vegetation. ...

He will then call a person brimming with youth and strike him with the sword and cut him into two pieces and make these pieces lie at a distance, which is generally between the archer and his target. He will then call that young man and he will come forward, laughing, with his face gleaming out of joy; and it will be at this very time that Allah will send `Isa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary) who will descend at the white minaret in the eastern side of Damascus, wearing two garments lightly dyed and placing his hands on the wings of two angels. When he will lower his head, there would fall drops of water from his head, and when he will raise it up, drops like pearls would scatter from it. Every disbeliever who will find his (i.e., `Isa's) smell will die and his smell will reach as far as he will be able

to see. He will then search for Dajjal until he will catch hold of him at the gate of Ludd (village near Jerusalem), and will kill him. Then the people, whom Allah will have protected, will come to `Isa son of Maryam, and he will wipe their faces and will inform them of their ranks in Jannah, and it will be under such conditions that Allah will reveal to `Isa these words: `I have brought forth from amongst my slaves such people against whom none will be able to fight, so take these people safely to the mountain.'<sup>151</sup>

### **The Mark of the anti-Christ**

Every Prophet warned his nation against the one-eyed liar. Listen! He is one-eyed and your Lord is not one-eyed. Between the eyes of the anti-Christ will be written KFR35 ...<sup>152</sup>

The false-messiah will have one eye, and upon his forehead will be written the word "Kafir" meaning unbeliever. Every believer will be able to read it even if they are illiterate.<sup>153</sup>

But what if the Anti-Christ or the Beast are not one-eyed or with an obvious name all can see? While something like that is remotely possible, the Bible certainly does not say that either will be. That said, one devout Muslim this author discussed this with said that the one-eyed description, etc. could be symbolic and was not needed to be accepted literally. This aligns with certain Islamic scholars which have suggested being one-eyed is a parable perhaps meaning he only sees one-side of life, like the physical only, but not the spiritual.<sup>154</sup>

Although the following does not have a clear biblical basis, it is possible that there will be a rebellion again, after the biblical King of the South is defeated, by some of that King's supporters that will defeat the European power in some region. Abu Hurayrah in the reference of Ibn Hibban states:

"The Romans will surround a leader from my pure musked children. His name will be the same as mine.

They will fight each other at a place called Al Imak and one third, or thereabouts, of the Muslims will be killed.

They will fight again on another day and again one third or thereabouts of the Muslims will be killed.

On the third day they will fight again and the Romans will be defeated.

And they will remain there until they open Constantinople.



It is whilst they are distributing the spoils of war that a messenger will come informing them that the false messiah is in their home town with their children."<sup>155</sup>

Other hadiths say the Dajjal/ Antichrist will be Jewish, be short, be between 20-30 years of age, have crooked legs, and walk abnormally.<sup>156</sup>

Notice also:

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "Let me tell you something about Dajjal (the Antichrist) which no Prophet had told his people. He is blind (in one eye) (Riyad as-Salihin 1818, Book 18, Hadith 11)

Thus, several of the hadiths basically claim that the Dajjal will be easy to identify from physical characteristics.

However, none of those physical properties are listed in the Bible. And some Muslims believe that the physical characteristics can be interpreted symbolically and not literally.

### **The Final Antichrist**

The Bible teaches that the Antichrist will be a false prophet who denies that Jesus truly came in the flesh (1 John 4:1-3). That man will also assist the Beast that rises from the sea which the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Book of Revelation discusses. He will also perform "great signs" which will deceive most of "those who dwell on the earth by those signs" per Revelation 13:13-14.

Now according to various prophecies, including various Greco-Roman Catholic ones,<sup>157</sup> the final Antichrist is apparently going to be a kind of anti-pope. If that is the case, it is not likely that he will be less than 30 years of age or that he will necessarily only have one eye or crooked legs.

Therefore, if Muslims are strictly looking towards outward appearance, they may well not understand who the final Antichrist is, for a time at least.

Now, certain hadiths also teach that the Dajjal will appear to perform miracles,<sup>158</sup> and that is consistent with what the Bible teaches about the Beast of the earth (Revelation 13:11-15) whom Muslims identify as the Dabbatul-Ard.

The Dajjal also will reportedly distribute food, which will make him popular.<sup>159</sup>

The biblical Antichrist is likely to distribute food as well as using wealth to assist in getting close cooperation with many nations in the world per Revelation 17:1-2 & 18:3.

Greco-Roman Catholic prophecy, from three of their saints, seemingly concurs with that:

*Saint Mechtilda* (died 1299): Antichrist will, through base and false strategem, and with presents of gold and gems, attain influence over the worldly princes. They will look up to him as their Lord and God.<sup>160</sup>

*Saint Ephrem* (died 375): Antichrist will use worldly goods as bait. He will entice many Christians with money and goods to apostatize ... The devil will help him find all the hidden treasures of the world, even those at the bottom of the ocean. With those treasures he will attain greater success for the reign of Satan than at any other time in past centuries .<sup>161</sup>

*Saint Jerome* (died 420): Antichrist...will gain support with many gifts and money. He will sell himself to the devil ... <sup>162</sup>

The Bible, by the way, does mention that the King of the North will end up with a lot of gold, silver, and precious stones (Daniel 11:38,43) and that a seven-hilled/mountain-based power will have "gold and precious stones and pearls" (Revelation 17:4).

While the following Islamic writer inserted the term "anti-Christ" (referring to the Dajjal), it could instead mean the Beast who is aligned with him:

He (anti-Christ) will pass through deserted places and call on them to bring forth their treasures and their treasures will follow him like wasps. ...

"People will flee to the mountains seeking refuge from the anti-Christ."

Reported by Umm Sharik in the reference of Nawawi, "Gardens of Righteousness."<sup>163</sup>

So, we seem to be seeing a convergence here as the above would be consistent with "the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt" that the Beast power will end up with (Daniel 11:43).

Islam teaches that invisible spirits are expected to do the Dajjal's bidding. <sup>164</sup> The Bible, in (Revelation 16:13, teaches that demons will come out of the mouths of the Beast and False Prophet (Antichrist) to essentially do their bidding.

### **More on Gold**

The Bible tells of gold being valuable after the start of the Great Tribulation (Zechariah 14:14; Revelation 18:12, 16; cf. 17:4) as well as there being noticeable amounts of gold in Egypt that supporters of the European Beast (a Dajjal) will acquire (Daniel 11:40,43).

Islam teaches:

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "The Hour will not come to pass before the River Euphrates dries up to unveil the mountain of gold, for which people will fight." (Riyad as-Salihin 1822, Book 18, Hadith 15)

We will see if such gold is revealed and where it may end up. It very well could end up in Egypt.

Islam also teaches:

The Earth will throw up the best it has inside it; of gold and silver, which no one will benefit from after that day. So a man will pass by them (rocks of gold and silver) kicking them with his foot and saying, "Because of this, people used to kill each other and today (they are worthless), and no one will benefit from them." (Hadith from Abu Hurayrah<sup>165</sup>).

So, we see Islam essentially is rightly disparaging people who killed each other for gold as well as teaching that gold will be of no value for at time.

The Bible, itself, also teaches that gold and silver, will, for a while, be less than worthless. Notice:

<sup>14</sup> The great day of the Lord is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. <sup>15</sup> That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, <sup>16</sup> A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers. <sup>17</sup> "I will bring distress upon men, And they shall walk like blind men, Because they have sinned against the Lord; Their blood shall be poured out like dust, And their flesh like refuse." <sup>18</sup> Neither their silver nor their gold Shall be able to deliver them In the day of the Lord's wrath; But the whole land shall be devoured By the fire of His jealousy, For He will make speedy riddance Of all those who dwell in the land. (Zephaniah 1:14-18)

<sup>19</sup> They will throw their silver into the streets, And their gold will be like refuse; Their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them In the day of the wrath of the Lord; They will not satisfy their souls, Nor fill their stomachs, Because it became their stumbling block of iniquity. (Ezekiel 7:19).

This is probably because gold and silver cannot be eaten (in times of massive and severe food shortages many people will not be interested in it) and because of the fact that if

nuclear weapons are exploded, and people are ill or dying from radiation sickness, that they will not want to have gold near them.

Both a hadith and scripture point to changes in attitudes towards precious metals.

### **A Losing Battle**

That said, since Islam teaches that their Mahdi will lose a battle to the European “Catholics,” Muslims should consider that the final Antichrist will be in league with that European Beast leader by that time.

Yet, many Muslims will doubt that the one defeated is the actual Iman Mahdi, as if he is the one who the Bible calls the final King of the South, he will not have reigned for seven years as Muslims believe he will.

Various Muslim scholars consider the hadiths about the Mahdi to be intended to be understood figuratively and not literally,<sup>166</sup> and hence that is something many Muslims will likely do when the biblical King of the South arises, but even more question when he is defeated.

Be that as it will be, the fact is that the next pan-Islamic leader who has a major battle with the Europeans (Daniel 11:40) after the destruction of the USA (Daniel 11:39), will be around after the final Antichrist is on the world scene.

### **Death of the Dajjal**

Let it be noted that the basic head of the Shi’ites, Ayatollah Khomeini, has claimed that the Imam Mahdi will kill the Dajjal,<sup>167</sup> but that differs from Sunni Islam.

Here is what a hadith teaches about Jesus and the Dajjal:

"I heard the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w) saying: 'Eisa bin Maryam will kill the Dajjal at the gate of Ludd.'" (Jami` at-Tirmidhi 2244, Book 33, Hadith 87)

The above asserts that Jesus (called Eisa bin Maryam above) will kill the Dajjal (False Messiah) at Ludd, which is southeast of Tel Aviv and northwest of Jerusalem. But, biblically, that is not quite his fate—Jesus will have him tossed alive into the “Lake of Fire” (Revelation 19:20).

### **The End of the Cross and the Pig?**

Notice the following hadith:

The hour will not come till Jesus, son of Maryam, descends amongst you a just judge, so He will break the Cross, kill the pig, ... (Hadith from Abu Hurayrah<sup>168</sup>).

Now, the Bible shows that those with the mark of the beast will be plagued (Revelation 16:2). And after Jesus returns:

<sup>20</sup> Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. (Revelation 19:20-21)

This, Beast and the mark of the Beast will be eliminated.

There have been various ones throughout history, such as the Cathari,<sup>169</sup> early Protestants,<sup>170</sup> Sir Isaac Newton,<sup>171</sup> and even some Roman Catholic scholars<sup>172</sup> who have asserted that some type of cross may be the "mark of the beast" of Revelation 13. If a cross is the or a "mark of the beast" it is certainly logical that Jesus would destroy it.

Roman Catholics commonly teach:

The sign of the cross is the mark of Christians.<sup>173</sup>

The 17<sup>th</sup> century Anglican Bishop Ezekiel Hopkins claimed, "the cross is our mark."<sup>174</sup>

Thus, Greco-Roman Catholics, and even Protestants, may have been set up to accept crosses as a mark in the end time.

There will be a mark of the beast (which involves disobedience to God). The fact that some Greco-Roman Catholic and non-Greco-Roman Catholic sources suggest that a cross or iconic physical symbol may be involved may be more than a coincidence.

**666**

The Bible teaches that the Beast power will persecute true Christians:

<sup>25</sup> He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time. (Daniel 7:25)

<sup>5</sup> And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who

dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup> It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. (Revelation 13:5-7)

<sup>15</sup> He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. <sup>16</sup> He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup> and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. <sup>18</sup> Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666. (Revelation 13:15-18)

Digital, CBDC, and/or other electronic forms of currency will be used to implement '666' controls. Such prophesied controls of buying and selling could not have occurred during the time that Apostle John penned the Book of Revelation nearly 2000 years ago – but can happen now!

As far as who '666' represents, according to the Greco-Roman saint Irenaeus, who claimed to have known Polycarp of Smyrna, 666 represents the last kingdom of the Romans.<sup>175</sup>

That is consistent with Islamic prophecy from Muhammad:

The day of judgment will only arise , when Ar-Rum are the dominant civilization of the world. (Hadith from Imam Muslim ibn al-Hajjaj al-Naysaburi<sup>176</sup>)

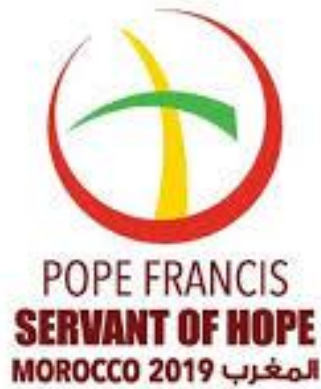
“Ar-Rum” literally means Roman. But in the above context, this means the European western civilization.<sup>177</sup>

The Bible teaches that it will be a revival of the Roman Empire that will dominate the end of days before Jesus returns (cf. Daniel 9:26-27, Revelation 13:1-10, 17:1-18).

## **Chrislam**

One way some have been trying to attain Islamic cooperation with Vatican objectives is through attempting to merge various ideas and even symbols. Some have referred to this type of merging as 'Chrislam.'

Notice the following that came from *Vatican News*:



One critic referred to the above as “the official logo for Chrislam.”<sup>178</sup> This author, however, has coined the term ‘Chrislam Cross.’<sup>179</sup>

Why?

While Islam has long been concerned about crosses, the ‘Chrislam cross’ looks to be a way to reduce Islamic repulsion. And while it does seem to do that with some Muslims, that will only be temporal.

Perhaps it should be pointed out that this author has seen Hindu and Buddhist temples with crosses of various types, and have noticed that large crosses are sometimes built within them. The Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia, to cite one specific example, has several. An ecumenical cross has been promoted in recent years.<sup>180</sup>

Hence, Islam and original Christianity notwithstanding, the cross seems to be an international religious symbol.

Thus, because the bulk of the world will tend to accept a coming false religion (Revelation 13:3-4,8), some type of ecumenical religious order, possibly using some type of a cross as a symbol, would seem to appeal to many around the world.

### **Cross-Bearing Persecutors**

Getting back to persecutions, there are Greco-Roman writings that indicate that some who wear crosses will be persecutors:

*St. Francis de Paul* (1470): ... These holy Cross-bearers shall reign and dominate holily over the whole world until the end of time.<sup>181</sup>

*Anna-Katarina Emmerick* ... Then I saw the beast fleeing to the sea, the enemy hurrying off in disorder, and immense circles of combatants surrounding the

church, some on the earth, others high in the air. The first circle was composed of youths and maidens; the second, of married persons of all classes from royalty down; the third, of religious; the fourth, of warriors, led by a rider on a white horse; and the fifth, and last was made up of citizens and peasants, **many of whom were marked on the forehead with a red cross**. As this army drew near, the captives and oppressed were delivered and swelled the ranks whilst the demolishers and conspirators were put to flight on all sides.<sup>182</sup>

*Josefa von Bourg* (d. 1807): God will choose a descendant of Constantine, Pepin, and St. Louis, who has been tried by a long period of exile to rule over Europe. He will have the sign of the cross on his breast ... Under him the Catholic religion will spread as never before.<sup>183</sup>

*St. Bridget of Sweden* (died 1373): ... war shall end when an emperor of Spanish origin will be elected, who will, in a wonderful manner, be victorious through the sign of the Cross. He shall destroy the Jewish and Mahometan sects ...<sup>184</sup>

*Latin Tiburtine Sibyl*: Whoever does not adore the Cross of Jesus Christ will be punished by the sword.<sup>185</sup>

*Priest Stefano Gobi* (20<sup>th</sup> century, claimed locutions from 'Mary'): Go all through the city, all through Jerusalem, and **mark a cross on the foreheads of those who deplore** ... Follow him through the city, and strike. Show neither pity nor merch; old men young men, virgins, women, kill and exterminate them all. But do not touch anyone with a cross on his forehead.<sup>186</sup>

So, Greco-Roman writings say persecutors are to have the mark of the cross to go against those who do not have that mark.

The Bible warns about the rider of the white horse (Revelation 6:1-2; Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse), who represents the final Antichrist. The Bible also warns that those who refuse the 'mark of the beast' (Revelation 13:16-17) are subject to be being killed through the direction of the Antichrist (Revelation 13:11-15). The fact that Roman Catholic prophecy points to people who are persecuting wearing a cross and going against "Jewish" sects (which Greco-Roman Catholics tend to consider the Church of God to be -specifically, some Greco-Roman Catholic writers and mystics have claimed that groups that observe the Sabbath are secretly Jews and not Christian) and "heretics" is consistent with the view that a cross may well be a mark or image of the Beast and Antichrist.

The Greco-Roman Catholic saint Jerome wrote:

I am a Christian, born of Christian parents, and carry the banner of the Cross on my forehead.<sup>187</sup>



A cross on the forehead sounds like a type of mark.

Basically, prophetic Greco-Roman Catholic writings indicate that those who support them noticeably will wear crosses/crucifixes at the end, persecute those that do not, and that Jesus (who they sometimes confuse with the final Antichrist<sup>188</sup>) will stop them from wearing crosses and carrying on other Greco-Roman Catholic practices. These predictions, combined with biblical writings, contain reasons to consider that some type of cross/statue may be associated with the mark and image of the Beast.

Of course, Jesus (e.g. Matthew 5:11-12; 10:23) taught that Christians would be the persecuted, not the persecutors.

### **The Mahdi, Euphrates, and the Beast**

Some in Islam seem to believe that the reign of the European Beast (Revelation 13:1-10) and Antichrist (Revelation 13:11-17; 1 John 4:1-3) will happen around the time the Mahdi's death.

Now, biblically, this looks to be true, to a degree, for the Arab lands. However, the Bible shows that the Beast of Revelation (also called the King of the North in Daniel 11) and the final Antichrist (a European-supporting false religious leader) will rule in Europe and also over some of the American lands (Daniel 11:39), prior to the European reign over Arab lands (Daniel 11:40-43). Hence, the Bible teaches that the final Antichrist will have power prior to the death of the biblical King of the South.

Although the belief in a "Mahdi" apparently had been a minority Sunni view and has had rejection by some Sunni authorities, "the Muslim World League issued a *fatwa* in October of 1976 commanding Sunni Muslims to believe in the concept of an Islamic Savior called the Mahdi."<sup>189</sup>

It should also be noted that some Sunni groups want a Caliph to arise and rule an Islamic caliphate that includes all the territory from north-west Africa through the Middle East and even further east.<sup>190</sup>

However, Sunnis (who vastly outnumber the Shi'ite Muslims) should not change their anti-Mahdi views (various Sunni scholars also agree<sup>191</sup>) or want such a Caliph, because of what the Bible shows will happen. Shi'ites also would do well to recognize that just because someone may claim to be the final Imam (or Mahdi), does not mean that God will agree that he should be followed. Neither Sunnis nor Shi'ites should support one who will appear to possibly be the final Imam/Caliph in the next decade or so. A major leader of Islamic lands will apparently make such claims and rise up, but will be defeated soundly (Ezekiel 30:2-8).

There is a hadith that says:

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "The Hour will not come to pass before the River Euphrates dries up to unveil the mountain of gold, for which people will fight. Ninety-nine out of one hundred will die (in the fighting) and every man amongst them will say: 'Perhaps I may be the only one to remain alive.'" (Riyad as-Salihin 1822, Book 18, Hadith 15)

This defeat is supposed to come, according Muslims, before Armageddon, and according to other hadiths, the Mahdi will be there.<sup>192</sup> However, the Bible points to the Euphrates drying up when kings from the east (Eurasian forces) are heading towards Armageddon per Revelation 16:12-16. And if the Mahdi is the biblical King of the South, he will have been defeated long before then. Some Muslims have interpreted a hadith which says, "Gog and Magog dig until they reach the water, whereupon they drink thereof" (Sahih Muslim, Book 41, Hadith 6931) to suggest this makes the Euphrates dry (some others interpret this to mean they make the Sea of Galilee dry instead, "Hadiths clearly mention that Gog and Magog will drink from Sea of Galilee and make it dry."<sup>193</sup>). Anyway, it is possible that efforts by Eurasians could be a factor in the Euphrates river drying up.

Now let's look at a battle related hadith which shows a lower level of defeat than the 99%:

The Last Hour would not come until the Romans would land at al-A'maq or in Dabiq. An army consisting of the best (soldiers) of the people of the earth at that time will come from Medina (to counteract them). When they will arrange themselves in ranks, the Romans would say: Do not stand between us and those (Muslims) who took prisoners from amongst us. Let us fight with them; and the Muslims would say: Nay, by Allah, we would never get aside from you and from our brethren that you may fight them. They will then fight and a third (part) of the army would run away, whom Allah will never forgive. A third (part of the army) which would be constituted of excellent martyrs in Allah's eye, would be killed and the third who would never be put to trial would win and they would be conquerors of Constantinople. ... The Dajjal has taken your place ... (Sahih Muslim 2897, Book 54, Hadith 44)

The above sounds a lot like a battle between the European King of the North and the Arabic King of the South that the Bible prophesies:

<sup>25</sup> "He shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the South with a great army. And the king of the South shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand, for they shall devise plans against him.

<sup>26</sup> **Yes, those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him; his army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain.** (Daniel 11:25-26)

<sup>40</sup> "At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through.  
<sup>41</sup> He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. <sup>42</sup> He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. <sup>43</sup> He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels. (Daniel 11:40-43)

This defeat also comes before the gathering at Armageddon, probably 1-3 years prior to it (neither the Bible nor the hadiths clearly specify how much before).

That is consistent with the European reorganization prophecies in Revelation 17:12-13.

It should be pointed out that the Muslim Brotherhood wants a confederation of lands consistent with those that will be dominated by the coming King of the South:

#### **What is the Muslim Brotherhood?**

The world's largest and most influential Islamist movement. Founded in Egypt in 1928, the group was originally focused on ridding the country of corrupting secular influences brought by British colonial rule. Over the years, it established branches and affiliates in many countries to promote traditional Sunni Islamic morals, social justice, and the eradication of poverty and corruption. "The Islamic nation," its charter states, "must be fully prepared to fight the tyrants and the enemies of Allah as a prelude to establishing an Islamic state" – ideally a re-established caliphate, stretching from Spain across the Middle East and Central Asia to Indonesia, to be governed according to Islamic sharia law.<sup>194</sup>

While it will not end up with Spain, and how far east its rule will extend can be debated, some type of confederation of Islamic lands in the Middle East and North Africa will form.

Let me also add, that the Greek Orthodox scholar, Dr. Helen Tzima Otto, wrote of a vision a Dervish had in the 17<sup>th</sup> century that Arab and other Muslims would fight against the "Christian" Europeans,<sup>195</sup> which sounds a lot like what is prophesied to happen in Daniel 11:40-43. She then wrote related to that:

WWIII ... will be a concerted Islamic attack against the 'West', namely ... the invasion of Europe from North Africa, the Near East and probably Central Asia,<sup>196</sup>

And while that is not WWIII, it may be considered something like that to the Muslim world.

There are likely several things that will trigger this battle of Daniel 11:40. First, consider the following hadith:

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) never left in his house anything containing the figure of a cross without destroying it. (Sunan Abi Dawud 4151, Book 34, Hadith 132)

Since Muhammad would destroy crosses, Muslims have a low tolerance for them and also consider them to be idolatrous.<sup>197</sup> According to Roman Catholic prophecies that may tie into the passages in Daniel 11, those fighting against the Muslims will be “cross-bearers”:

*St. Francis de Paul (1470): ... the Great Monarch ... He shall be a great captain and prince of holy men, who shall be called 'the holy Cross-bearers of Jesus Christ,' with whom he will destroy the Mahometan sect and the rest of the infidels.*<sup>198</sup>

There are numerous similarities in Greco-Roman prophecies about a coming Great Monarch and the King of the North of Daniel 11 as well as the Beast of Revelation 13. Europe will work to push out Islam. Here is something from a pope:

*Pope John Paul II (March 1993), as reported by Monsignor Mauro Longhi on October 22, 2017: 'Tell this to those whom you will meet in the Church of the third millennium. I see the Church afflicted by a deadly scourge. ... 'It's called islamism. They will invade Europe. I saw the hordes coming from the West to the East', and he described to me the countries one by one: from Morocco to Libya to Egypt, and so on to the eastern parts. The Holy Father added, 'They will invade Europe, Europe will be like a cellar, old relics, shadowy, cobwebs. Family heirlooms. **You, the Church of the third millennium, will have to contain the invasion.** Not with armies, armies will not suffice, but with your faith, lived with integrity.'*<sup>199</sup>

So, even a more recent Roman Catholic writing points out the Vatican's concern about Islam. Despite John Paul II's comment, armies will be involved.

Many Muslim nations will be among the first large peoples that will recognize and turn against the coming Beast and Antichrist power.

The Bible does not say what percentage of the King of the South's army will be defeated then, but suggests a massive destruction. That said, the Bible also points to some escaping – plus it also says that some who had been supporters of the King of the South will betray him.

In early 2023, this author wrote the following:

An early major rebellion to the Beast that the Bible discusses will come from many of the Arabs and North Africans. The distrust of the proclamations by the “crusaders,” combined with the prevalence of crosses being displayed, plus Islamic understandings related to the Antichrist,<sup>200</sup> may be part of what triggers the prophesied attack from an ‘Islamic Mahdi’ who looks to be the biblical King of the South.<sup>201</sup>

In late 2023, this author ran across the following hadith:

I heard the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) say: you will make a secure peace with the Byzantines, then you and they will fight an enemy behind you, and you will be victorious, take booty, and be safe. You will then return and alight in a meadow with mounds and one of the Christians will raise the cross and say: The cross has conquered. One of the Muslims will become angry and smash it, and the Byzantines will act treacherously and prepare for the battle. (Hadith of Sunan Abi Dawud 4292, Book 39, Hadith 2)

In the above, the Byzantines refers to Europeans according to various Muslim scholars as Byzantium was still part of the Eastern leg of the Roman Empire during Muhammad's time. So, that hadith is consistent with what this author felt that scripture, combined with some knowledge of historical and traditional beliefs suggested.

Here is a prediction from the Roman Catholic Nostradamus:

Out of the country of Greater Arabia  
Shall be born a strong master of Mohammedan law.  
He shall vex Spain and conquer Grenada.  
And by sea shall come to the Italian nation. (C5:Q55)

In the above, Nostradamus is predicting that a Muslim leader will try to invade southern Europe. That is consistent with biblical prophecies such as Daniel 11:40.

### **The Great Arab, Turkey, and a European Leader**

Now notice the following Roman Catholic writings which consider that the Byzantines are Turks – which have controlled Byzantium since 1453:

*Nostradamus* (died 1566): The Great Arab shall progress well forward, But betrayed shall be by the Byzantines. (Turks).

*Comment on above from Roman Catholic writer Yves Dupont:* Here, we are told that Turkey will break its faith with the rest of the Arab world.<sup>202</sup>

The "Great Arab" is probably supposed to represent the final King of the South who will likely be considered as a Mahdi/Caliph. The Turks currently control part of what was once called Byzantium. Hence, Roman Catholic prophecy indicates that a Muslim leader will arise militarily and Turkey will betray the Islamic Arabic power. That is also consistent with Daniel 11:40-41 which says that Edom, which includes modern day Turkey, will escape the wrath of the King of the North's armies – perhaps because they will have betrayed the King of the South. Turkey is also not listed as one of the nations that Ezekiel 30:3-5 (which also seems to be related to the coming King of the South) says will be defeated near the "day of the Lord."

Nostradamus' statement could also be consistent with the hadith (Sahih Muslim 2897, Book 54, Hadith 44) that says one third of the army against the Romans will not fight.

Furthermore, notice the following Roman Catholic prophecy:

*Rudolph Gekner* (died 1675): **A great prince of the North with a most powerful army will traverse all Europe, uproot all republics, and exterminate all rebels.** His sword ... will combat on behalf of the true orthodox faith, and shall subdue to his dominion the Mahometan Empire.<sup>203</sup>

If the above has a lot of accuracy (and it has certain biblical consistency with Daniel 11:40-43), it seems to also show that all (or at least some) republics are to be uprooted before the Muslim King of the South is invaded by the biblical King of the North. The Bible in Revelation 17:12-13 supports the idea of republics being replaced by a different form of governance.

So, yes, we see some convergence here of biblical, Islamic, and Roman Catholic prophecy. (Now there is a biblical prophecy about 1/3 getting killed in Revelation 9:15, but it is not related to this battle.)

That said, let's address Constantinople, which is now called Istanbul. Istanbul is controlled by Turkey. And while there is not a biblical reference that points to it being conquered again by other Muslims, like *Sahih Muslim 2897, Book 54, Hadith 44* states, some Muslims believe that Constantinople will possibly end up being dominated by false Muslims based on that same hadith.<sup>204</sup> That may be in line with scriptures related to the betrayal of the coming King of the South (Daniel (11:26,41)).

In addition, notice that a Roman Catholic prophecy points to Turks from Constantinople converting:

*Brother Louis Rocco* (19th century): Terrible wars will rage all over Europe. ... In Istanbul (Constantinople) the Cross will replace the half-moon of Islamism, and Jerusalem will be the seat of a King. The southern Slavs will form a great Catholic Empire and drive out of Europe the Turks (Mohammedans), who will withdraw to North Africa and subsequently embrace the Catholic faith.<sup>205</sup>

One of the times this author and his wife were in Turkey, we asked a Muslim guide about the Turks consuming alcohol. The guide stated that this was because the Turks had been a nomadic people and that in various ways there were not "good Muslims."

While that can be debated, overall, the Turks tend to be a pragmatic people. When the Turks see the power of the European King of the North and the impending doom on the King of the South (whom some may consider as the Imam Mahdi), the Turks look prophesied to betray him. Hence, they, in that sense, could be considered false Muslims who will fulfill that hadith of *Sahih Muslim 2897, Book 54, Hadith 44*.

### **Ships and Religious Betrayal**

As far as the European power goes, notice the following from the Quran:

The Romans have been defeated in a nearby land. Yet following their defeat, they will triumph ... There will be no intercessors for them from among their associate-gods, and they will 'totally' deny their associate-gods. (Sura 30:2-3, 13)

This is interesting because those verses in Sura 30 seems to align with three portions of biblical prophecy.

First, let's look in Daniel 11 and notice a defeat of the Romans/Europeans:

<sup>30</sup> For warships from western coastlands will scare him off, and he will withdraw and return home. But he will vent his anger against the people of the holy covenant and reward those who forsake the covenant. (Daniel 11:30, New Living Translation 1996 Greg Laurie)

The above is also consistent with a similar passage in Numbers 24:24, which according to Numbers 24:14, is for the latter times--and in it the Western naval power troubles descendants of Asshur/Assyria (many of whom now seem to be residing in Europe).

Secondly, that "defeat" DOES NOT last long, because that same European King of the North power is triumphant over the strongest military a few verses later in Daniel 11:

<sup>39</sup> Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain. Daniel 11:39).

The above is consistent with certain Greco-Roman Catholic prophecies which discuss the defeat of the USA and its British-descended allies by a European Great Monarch:

*Saint Cataldus of Tarentino* (c. 500): "The Great Monarch will be in war till he is forty years of age...he will assemble great armies and expel tyrants from his empire. He will conquer England and other island empires" (Connor, p.30).

*Werdin d' Otrante* (13th century): "The Great Monarch and the Great Pope will precede Antichrist ... All the sects will vanish. The capital of the world will fall." (Connor, p. 33)

It is possible that Washington D.C. is "the capital of the world" that is prophesied to fall by Werdin d' Otrante. And Canada, which is not an island (like the UK, Australia, and New Zealand are) is the USA's at least geographically closest ally.

Furthermore, notice:

*Zachary the Armenian* (published 1854 and summarized in 2010): And then there would be the war that the prophecy refers to as "the struggle of the strong, against the strong". This empire of the north ... will go to war against North America and North America will fall and be conquered and brought into bondage. The next phase is the most frightful thing of all. It is then that Zachary says this text

published in 1854, "and then the whole world fell under the dominion of the first born of hell." (Originally by Priest Fattecelli, Day of Anger: The Hand of God Upon an Empire, 1854, as paraphrased by Priest P. Kramer, What are the missing contents of the third secret? Fatima Crusader, 95, Summer 2010, pp. 45-46)

North America would clearly include the USA and Canada. After the defeat of the USA the Beast and the Antichrist will reign.

Now, as far as the biblical third point related to Sura 30, the Bible prophesies that the powerful supporters of the European power will turn against the seven hilled power (Revelation 17:9). That is the revised church of Rome, which, because of its veneration of it saints, would likely be considered by Muslims to be "associated deities":

<sup>16</sup> And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. <sup>17</sup> For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. <sup>18</sup> And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

So, this looks like another prophetic area we may be seeing a convergence of biblical and Islamic prophecies.

### **Militaristic Confederations?**

So, will there be a militaristic confederation of nations in the Middle East and North Africa?

Yes.

This is clear in several passages of scripture (e.g. Ezekiel 30:1-9; Daniel 11:40-43; Psalm 83:5-7).

Will this confederation fight against the Beast and the final Antichrist?

Yes.

That said, for a long time, Washington has wanted a coalition of Arab nations in the Middle East and North Africa to help deal with terrorism and other matters,<sup>206</sup> and hence may be expected to be at least publicly sympathetic to the idea. There have also been calls in the Middle East for an Arab or Middle East 'NATO.'<sup>207</sup> And while something like that will come, the Bible points out that this will not end well (Daniel 11:40-43; Ezekiel 30:2-8).

An alliance of these Gentile peoples is also mentioned in Psalm 83--and this takes place prior to the time of the Great Tribulation.



## 7. Jesus (Isa) is the Messiah and Will Return

Muslims accept that God sent Jesus, but not view Him as Christians do.

Perhaps it should be mentioned that the Quran tends to call Jesus the “son of Miriam” or Isa.

Why Isa?

Well, the actual Greek word for the Messiah’s name in the New Testament is Ἰησοῦ or Ἰησοῦς. Transliterated into English, it would be something like Ieesoú or Ieesoús. There was no “J” sound associated with it until the English language changed a few centuries ago. Hence, the Islamic “Isa” is probably a closer approximation than Jesus as far as the Greek is concerned.

Many people do not realize that most Muslims, whether they are Shia or Sunni, expect Jesus to return at the time of judgment. Notice what the Quran) teaches:

*043.057*

**YUSUFALI:** When (Jesus) the son of Mary is held up as an example, behold, thy people raise a clamour threat (in ridicule)!

*043.061*

**YUSUFALI:** And (Jesus) shall be a Sign (for the coming of) the Hour (of Judgment): therefore have no doubt about the (Hour), but follow ye Me: this is a Straight Way.<sup>208</sup>

My hope and prayer related to the above is that when Muslims do see Jesus return, they hopefully will accept the truth of His coming after He explains who He is.

Muslims teach that they will follow Jesus when He returns. Some basically also teach that the “People of the Book” will only follow Jesus if they accepted the Imam.<sup>209</sup> Scripture does point to a coming “King of the South,” and while true Christians will not accept him as their religious leader, he could be considered in an Imam role.

### Jesus is the Messiah

Do Muslims believe Jesus was the Messiah?

Yes, but not the same way Christians do.

As originally written, the Quran itself uses the term al-Masih, the Arabic term for Messiah (Christ):

When the angels said, "Mary, God gives thee good tidings of a Word from Him whose name is Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary; high honoured shall he be in this world and the next, near stationed to God. He shall speak to men in the cradle, and of age, and righteous he shall be." (Sura 3:41)

Muslims also believe in Jesus' virgin birth, but do not consider that He was the Son of God.

Consider:

The Quran refers to Jesus 35 times as "Isa ibn Maryam" (Jesus, son of Mary), a phrase occurring only once in the New Testament (Mark 6:3). The fact that he is *not* called the son of Joseph underscores Islamic agreement with Christians that Mary was a virgin when she conceived Jesus.<sup>210</sup>

Here is one example:

That is Jesus, son of Mary, in word of truth, concerning which they are doubting. It is not for God to take a son unto Him. Glory be to Him! (Sura 19:35, as shown in *The Koran Interpreted: A Translation* by A. J. Arberry. Touchstone, NY, 1955)

Jesus is also considered to have been one of the prophets by Muslims:

And We sent Noah, and Abraham, and We appointed the Prophecy and the Book to be among their seed; and some of them are guided, and many of them are ungodly.

Then We sent, following in their footsteps, Our Messengers; and We sent, following, Jesus son of Mary, and gave unto him the Gospel.

And We set in the hearts of those who followed him tenderness and mercy. (Sura 57:27-28)

Related to the virgin birth, the following are also from *The Koran Interpreted* a translation by A. J. Arberry (Sura chapters are correct, but verses are estimates as they were not completely delineated in the text used):

And mention in the Book Mary when she withdrew from her people to an eastern place, and she took a veil apart from them; then We sent unto her Our Spirit that presented himself to her a man without fault. She said, "I take refuge in the All-merciful from thee!

If thou fearest God. . . He said, "I am but a messenger come from thy Lord, to give thee a boy most pure.

She said, "How shall I have a son whom no mortal has touched, neither have I been unchaste?" He said, "Even so thy Lord has said: "Easy is that for Me; and

that We may appoint him a sign unto men and a mercy from Us; it is a thing decreed.”

So she conceived him, and withdrew with him to a distant place. And the birthpangs surprised her by the trunk of the palm-tree. (Sura 19:18-21)

And she who guarded her virginity, so We breathed into her of Our spirit and appointed her and her son to be a sign unto all beings. (Sura 21:91)

The context (which I have read) makes it clear that this was a reference to Mary and Jesus. Islam accepts the virgin birth as well as the fact that Jesus performed miracles.

### **Islam Claims Jesus Did Not Die**

Although the New Testament is repeatedly clear that Jesus would and did die (cf. Mark 14:44; Luke 24:46; John 2:22, 18:32, 20:9, 21:19; Acts 2:24, 3:15, 4:2, 4:10, 5:36, 10:41, 13:30, 13:34, 17:3, 26:23; Romans 1:4, 4:24, 5:6, 5:10, 6:3, 6:4, 6:5, 6:9, 6:10, 8:11, 8:34, 10:7, 10:9, 10:39, 14:9, 14:15; 1 Corinthians 8:11, 15:3, 15:12, 15:21; 2 Corinthians 15:3, 15:14, 15:15; Galatians 1:1, 2:21; Ephesians 1:20; Philippians 2:8; Colossians 1:22, 2:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 2:15, 4:14, 5:10; 2 Timothy 2:8; Hebrews 2:9, 2:14, 13:20; 1 Peter 1:3, 1:21; Revelation 1:5, 1:18, 2:8, 5:9), Islam does not accept those accounts as accurate.

Islam apparently considers passages in the Gospels of Jesus taking His last breath and/or giving up His Spirit (cf. Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; John 19:30) to support the Quran’s view that God took Him from the earth.

While Muslims believe that Jesus was the Messiah, they reject His divinity, execution, and resurrection.

The Quran teaches:

“We killed the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the messenger of Allah.” But they neither killed nor crucified him – it was only made to appear so.<sup>1</sup> Even those who argue for this ‘crucifixion’ are in doubt. They have no knowledge whatsoever – only making assumptions. They certainly did not kill him.

Rather, Allah raised him up to Himself. And Allah is Almighty, All-Wise.

Every one of the People of the Book will definitely believe in him before his death. And on the Day of Judgment Jesus will be a witness against them. (Sura 4:157-159)

So, Muslims tend to believe that Jesus will deny He was raised from the dead to be back on the Earth. They believe Jesus did not die, but that He is alive awaiting the time Allah will send Him back to the earth to kill the Dajjal.

The Bible teaches Jesus was raised from the dead (e.g. Acts 13:28-30) and will return will have the Beast and False Prophet (the final Antichrist) tossed into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:11-20).

Similar to the Talmud to Judaism, but perhaps more authoritatively, Muslims have hadiths which are interpretative explanations of the Koran. Notice one of them:

“They will go to “Isa and say, “O “Isa! You are the Messenger of Allah and His Word which He cast to Maryam and a spirit from Him. You spoke to people while in the cradle. Intercede with your Lord on our behalf. Do you not see what we are suffering?” (Bukhari, Book of Tafsir, 4435)

So, Muslim believe that Jesus was God’s messenger and His Word – that is consistent with what the New Testament teaches (John 1:1-2). They also teach that Jesus was the LAST one anointed by God.<sup>211</sup> However, the New Testament teaches that true Christians have anointing from God in 1 John 2:20.

Getting back to the Quran, it teaches:

They are unbelievers who say, “God is the Messiah, Mary’s son.” For the Messiah said, “Children of Israel, serve God, my Lord and your Lord. Verily whoso associates with God anything, God shall prohibit him entrance to Paradise, and his refuge shall be the Fire; and wrongdoers shall have no helpers.”

They are unbelievers who say, “God is the Third of Three. No god is there but One God. If they refrain not from what they say, there shall afflict those of them that disbelieve a painful chastisement.

Will they not turn to God and pray His forgiveness? God is All-forgiving, All-compassionate.

The Messiah, son of Mary, was only a Messenger; Messengers before him passed away; his mother was a just woman; they both ate food. Behold, how We make clear the signs to them; then behold, how they perverted are! (Sura 5:76-79)

Muslims believe that Jesus was the “servant of God,” not the Son of God.<sup>212</sup> Essentially, many believe (similar to secular skeptics) that parts of the New Testament were altered and hence reject parts related to Jesus’ divinity.

### **Yes, Jesus Will Return**

That being said, Sunni Muslims do believe that Jesus will return and usher in a glorious era:

The Sunni believe that after the al-Mahdi comes, Jesus will return to earth to fight the forces of evil led by al-Dajjal, the Great Charlatan or Antichrist. The forces of

good will prevail, and Jesus will rule the world for an undisclosed period of time, after which he will die and be buried alongside Muhammad in Medina.<sup>213</sup>

The Bible tells of a leader from the predominantly Islamic lands, called the King of the South (Daniel 11:40) in North Africa and the Middle East rising up. After what looks to be the start (Daniel 11:39) of the “Great Tribulation” (Matthew 24:21), this King of the South will fight against the “King of the North” (Daniel 11:40-43) called the “Beast” in Revelation 13. The King of the North will win, but this Beast will be destroyed when Jesus returns (Revelation 19:16-20). Jesus will then return to establish the millennial kingdom and reign for 1000 years (Revelation 20:6).

Islam agrees with most of this (though the time period is not as defined, though with Jesus only reigning 40 years per Sunan Abi Dawud 4324: Book 39, Hadith 34), but believes that Islam will then reign supreme.

Christians believe that Islam will essentially be gone by then (1 Corinthians 15:25; cf. Philippians 3:18).

Muslims believe that Jesus will return and kill the Antichrist which they call the *ad-dajjal*. Notice the following:

He will break the cross, kill swine, and abolish jizyah. Allah will perish all religions except Islam. He will destroy the Antichrist and will live on the earth for forty years and then he will die. (Sunan Abi Dawud 4324: Book 39, Hadith 34)

Surely, Jesus the son of Mary will soon descend among you and will judge mankind justly; he will break the cross and kill the pigs and there will be no Jizya. (Sahih al-Bukhari 4.55.657)

The Jizya is a tax that non-Muslims can be forced to pay in Muslim territories. Some Muslims believe by killing pigs that is symbolic and serves as a practical way to forbid people from eating and trading pork<sup>214</sup> – which early Christians did not do.

That said, why do Muslims generally NOT accept the deity of Jesus, etc.?

Muslims believe that Christians and Jews distorted the divine message given to Moses and Jesus and that today’s Hebrew scriptures and Christian Bible are flawed, unlike the Quran (Morgan, p. xvi)

However, hopefully those Muslims willing to look at the evidence will realize that the scriptures were not so corrupted (admittedly there were parts of two verses added to the New Testament, around 1000 A.D. that most scholars, and those in the *Continuing Church of God*, do not accept as genuine) that they cannot be relied on to accept Jesus’ divinity.

## **Binding of Satan and the Millennium**

The Bible shows that after being bound for a thousand years, Satan will be released before judgment day and that there will be an attack from Gog and Magog (Revelation 20:7-12).

Islam teaches that Ya'juj and Ma'juj' (which Muslims tie in with Gog and Magog) are to be released just before judgment day.<sup>215</sup> Islam teaches that a forty year era of peace for Jesus to rule comes after Ya'juj and Ma'juj' (Sunan Abi Dawud 4324, Book 39, Hadith 34) which biblically sounds like a short view of the millennium in Revelation 20:1-4 and Isaiah 11:5-10.

Islam also has multiple 100 year periods (cf. Sunan Abi Dawud 4291, Book 39, Hadith 1) and one could possibly point to the one of Isaiah 65:20.

Islam teaches that Jesus will die, but that is partially-based on what is considered by some to be from a "not authentic" hadith.<sup>216</sup> The Bible shows that Jesus has immortality (1 Timothy 6:16) and is to reign forever (Revelation 11:15), hence He will not experience physical death.

The Bible shows that Jesus and His faithful will reign on the earth for 1000 years:

<sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4)

That one-thousand year period of time is called the millennium. That is part of the good news of the kingdom of God.

God inspired Isaiah to write this about Jesus (called "Rod from the stem of Jesse" and "the Branch" below) the ruling and the millennium:

<sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup> His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; <sup>4</sup> But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. <sup>6</sup> "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And

the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. <sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious." (Isaiah 11:1-10).

The Book of Isaiah makes it clear that there will be a physical reign on earth, with the Messiah in charge, and people will not be allowed to hurt others. This is the real Utopia.

Related to the passages in Isaiah 11, the late Dr. Herman Hoeh observed:

This can't be in heaven. There are no wicked human beings in heaven. Children are not being suckled and weaned in heaven.

AND THIS CAN'T BE IN THE NEW EARTH BECAUSE THERE WILL BE NO WICKED PERSONS THERE (Rev. 21:1-4).

These events must occur on this earth during the millennium. <sup>217</sup>

Yes, there will be a millennial kingdom on the earth. It will be just:

<sup>16</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord God:

"Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation,  
A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation;  
Whoever believes will not act hastily.

<sup>17</sup> Also I will make justice the measuring line,  
And righteousness the plummet;  
The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies,  
And the waters will overflow the hiding place. (Isaiah 28:16-17)

<sup>16</sup> Then justice will dwell in the wilderness,  
And righteousness remain in the fruitful field.

<sup>17</sup> The work of righteousness will be peace,  
And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.

<sup>18</sup> My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation,  
In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places, (Isaiah 32:16-18a)

<sup>3</sup> A bruised reed He will not break,  
And smoking flax He will not quench;  
He will bring forth justice for truth.

<sup>4</sup> He will not fail nor be discouraged,

Till He has established justice in the earth;  
And the coastlands shall wait for His law. (Isaiah 42:3-4)

<sup>4</sup> "Listen to Me, My people;  
And give ear to Me, O My nation:  
For law will proceed from Me,  
And I will make My justice rest  
As a light of the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup> My righteousness is near,  
My salvation has gone forth,  
And My arms will judge the peoples;  
The coastlands will wait upon Me,  
And on My arm they will trust. (Isaiah 51:4-5)

Most of the scriptures above are prophecies related to Jesus bringing justice.

More on the good news of the coming Kingdom of God can be found in the free booklet, online in over 1,500 languages at [ccog.org](http://ccog.org) titled: *The Gospel of the Kingdom of God*.

### **An Islamic Misunderstanding About Jesus**

While the group that called itself the Islamic State does not represent most of Islam, notice something it had in a magazine article titled *Why We Hate You & Why We Fight You*:

We hate you, first and foremost, because you are disbelievers; you reject the oneness of Allah – whether you realize it or not – by making partners for Him in worship, you blaspheme against Him, claiming that He has a son, you fabricate lies against His prophets and messengers, and you indulge in all manner of devilish practices.<sup>218</sup>

Getting past the hate comments, the reality is that the prophets DID teach that God would have a son. Notice what the prophet Isaiah was inspired to write:

<sup>6</sup> For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

Notice what the Psalmist prophesied:

<sup>6</sup> "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." <sup>7</sup> "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. (Psalm 2:6-7)



So, the Hebrew scriptures clearly prophesied that God would beget a Son.

Jesus was begotten to be the Christ:

<sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Muslims are supposed to believe the Old and New Testaments—though many claim that they were altered. **Yet, there would be no reason that the Jews would have altered a prophecy in Isaiah to point to a Son being born who is called the “Mighty God” as that would support views of Christians.** Nor would they have altered the Psalms for the same basic reason.

The Islamic State was wrong: it is NOT a lie to point to Jesus as the Son of God, and His arrival was prophesied. More on that can be found in the free book, available online at ccog.org, titled: *Proof Jesus is the Messiah*.

## 8. There is a Long Term Plan

As mentioned earlier, many Muslim nations will be among the first that will recognize and turn against the coming Beast and Antichrist power.

But, the Bible as well as the Quran point to the Muslim confederation will be defeated by the European/Roman Beast power.

Hopefully, Muslims who had the discernment to see the demonic aspects of the European/Roman Beast power, will also be willing to accept the truth about the divinity of Jesus as well as the reliability of the Bible over the Quran. That is part of why this book was written.

The Bible shows that after various plagues and disasters, the European Beast power will be defeated by a Eurasian power, led by Russia (details are in free book, available online at ccog.org, titled: *Lost Tribes and Prophecies: What will happen to Australia, the British Isles, Canada, Europe, New Zealand and the United States of America?*).

Jesus said that world will get to the point of near total destruction:

<sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. <sup>22</sup> And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (Matthew 24:21-22)

Yes, those days will be shortened and Jesus will return at the end of that time (Matthew 24:29-31) to establish the 1000-year long millennial Kingdom of God (Revelation 11:15, 20:4-6). The true saints will rise when Jesus returns—this is the first resurrection (Revelation 20:5). God's kingdom will bring peace and prosperity. Many people on the earth will then convert and follow the true and proper faith.

After the thousand years is up, the Bible says that there will be a second resurrection for "the rest of the dead" who were not part of the first resurrection (Revelation 20:5,11-12). That will be billions upon billions of people and will include billions of Muslims. Later will come what has been called the third resurrection (Revelation 20:13-15).

Three resurrections were taught by Judeo-Christians near the time that Muhammad was alive according to Greco-Roman Catholic scholars.<sup>219</sup> We in the *Continuing Church of God* still hold to the three future resurrections doctrine today.

Muslims and others may be surprised to realize that early Christians believed that God had a plan of salvation that was not limited to Christians of this age alone, but would also include others in the age to come.<sup>220</sup>

Church of God Christians who have held that belief since the beginning, believed that God's plan of salvation would include offering salvation to most Muslims after the what is called the second resurrection.

The Quran teaches:

When the Inevitable Event takes place, then no one can deny it has come. It will debase 'some' and elevate 'others'. When the earth will be violently shaken, and the mountains will be crushed to pieces, becoming scattered 'particles of' dust, you will 'all' be 'divided into' three groups: the people of the right, how 'blessed' will they be; the people of the left, how 'miserable' will they be; and the foremost 'in faith' will be the foremost 'in Paradise'. (Sura 56:1-10)

Jesus taught:

<sup>31</sup> When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the [c]holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: (Matthew 25:31-34)

As far as there being three groups as the Quran teaches, scripture supports that by having those in the first resurrection who are called "blessed and holy" (Revelation 20:6; which would be consistent with the foremost in Paradise from the Quran), a second resurrection which involves judgment (Revelation 20:11-12; which are subject to being blessed), and a later resurrection where many will be blessed as they are found in the 'Book of Life' whereas others "accursed" (Isaiah 65:20; Revelation 20:13-15).

## **Mercy**

Understanding a bit about the nature of God will help us better understand the mysteries of His plan.

The Bible teaches "God is love" (1 John 4:8,16), "God is Spirit" (John 4:24), "Yahweh is good" (Nahum 1:7, World English Bible), all-powerful (Jeremiah 32:17,27), all-knowing (Isaiah 46:9-10), and that He is eternal (Isaiah 57:15). Certainly, the Great Creator God is able to come with a loving plan that succeeds.

The Bible also teaches us:

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

**EVERYTHING THAT GOD DOES IS BECAUSE OF LOVE!**

Both the Bible and the Quran speak a lot about mercy. Here is two examples from each:

O My servants who have exceeded the limits against their souls! Do not lose hope in Allah's mercy, for Allah certainly forgives all sins. He is indeed the All-Forgiving, Most Merciful. (Sura 39:53)

Had they been patient until you could come out to them, it would have certainly been better for them. And Allah is All-Forgiving, Most Merciful. (Sura 49:5)

<sup>9</sup>"Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; (Deuteronomy 7:9)

<sup>22</sup> The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. (Lamentation 3:22, NLT)

However, the Bible and the Quran show different outcomes of mercy.

Contrary to the view of many Roman Catholics and Protestants, the Bible points to the vast majority of human kind being saved, whereas the Quran appears to point to only a minority of humans being saved.

Now, the Bible shows that those all not in the first resurrection, will be raised 1,000 years later (Revelation 20:5). All in the second resurrection will be judged before a great white throne (Revelation 20:11-12). While those so judged will be found guilty (as "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" per Romans 3:23), it will not be for eternal condemnation.

Why? Because, God will plead with His handiwork (Jeremiah 25:31), give people 100 years to live (Isaiah 65:20), and be merciful to those who respond to Him as scripture shows that, "Mercy triumphs over judgment" (James 2:13).

Is not that what mercy is for?

Regarding God pleading, consider the following:

<sup>25</sup> "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins. <sup>26</sup> Put Me in remembrance; Let us contend together; State your case, that you may be acquitted. (Isaiah 43:25-26)

In the next verse God states that those who preceded them sinned (Isaiah 43:27). God understands what has been going on here on the earth and has a plan to blot out the sins of the guilty who are willing to be acquitted.

God will actually plead with all humankind:

<sup>13</sup> The LORD stands up to plead, And stands to judge the people. (Isaiah 3:13)

<sup>31</sup> A noise will come to the ends of the earth--For the LORD has a controversy with the nations; **He will plead His case with all flesh.** He will give those who are wicked to the sword,' says the LORD." (Jeremiah 25:31)

Ezekiel 20:33-38 states:

<sup>33</sup> "As I live," says the Lord GOD, "surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you. <sup>34</sup> I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out. <sup>35</sup> And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. <sup>36</sup> Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you," says the Lord GOD. <sup>37</sup> I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; <sup>38</sup> I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

Yes, God will make Himself known and will bless those who accept Him and not rebel against Him.

Why?

All will receive a real opportunity for salvation.

This includes people who have died throughout history in remote parts of the world who never would have heard of Abraham, Moses, Jesus, etc. God is fair (Ezekiel 18:25) and not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35). As Abraham said:

<sup>25</sup> ... Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? (Genesis 18:25)

God will do right by making it as easy as possible for as many as who can be to be saved.

<sup>3</sup> For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

The New Testament and the Old Testament plainly teach:

<sup>6</sup> And all flesh shall see the salvation of God. (Luke 3:6, NKJV. Note this verse is translated precisely the same in the Roman Catholic Douay-Rheims Bible, DRB)

<sup>10</sup> ... And all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. (Isaiah 52:10; also the same in the DRB)

Some have called versions of this salvation opportunity teaching "the age to come" (cf. Matthew 12:32; Mark 10:30; Luke 18:30; Hebrews 6:5) or the Greek word

ἀποκαταστάσεως, transliterated as 'apokatastasis' (sometimes also spelled in English as 'apocatastasis').

Related to Jesus, the New Testament also teaches:

<sup>9</sup> ... He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, (Hebrews 5:9)

Yes, that includes the fact that God has a plan to offer salvation to all that ever lived through Jesus the Messiah. There are those who are called for salvation in this age, and all the rest will have their opportunity of salvation in the age to come. This was a belief of the original Christians.<sup>221</sup> And parts of it are consistent with some beliefs in Islam.

Jesus said:

<sup>29</sup> They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup> And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last. (Luke 13:29-30)

Yes, people from all parts of the world will be in the kingdom of God! The comment about some of the last being first in God's Kingdom is referring to the fact that some not part of the first resurrection will be above some who were called in this age and are in the first resurrection.

More on God's plan of salvation can be found in the free book, available online at ccog.org, titled *Universal OFFER of Salvation, Apokatastasis: Can God save the lost in an age to come? Hundreds of scriptures reveal God's plan of salvation.*

### **Why Creation? Why You?**

Some may wonder why God created anything.

God created what He did so that the universe would be better.

Why did God create people?

One biblical reason is to rule the universe in the future:

<sup>5</sup> For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.

<sup>6</sup> But one testified in a certain place, saying:

"What is man that You are mindful of him,

Or the son of man that You take care of him?

<sup>7</sup> You have made him a little lower than the angels;

You have crowned him with glory and honor,

And set him over the works of Your hands.

<sup>8</sup> You have put all things in subjection under his feet."

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. (Hebrews 2:5-8)

Ruling the universe under the Creator is one of the purposes of humanity.

Similar to the views of some Greco-Roman Catholics and Protestants, here is one Islamic view related to why God made people:

Our body, our spirit, our predisposition to worship God, and our light are gifts sent directly from God to serve as critical means toward our attaining human perfection. That perfection lies in cultivating those aspects of the spirit that transcend its animating qualities, actualizing our disposition to worship, and refining our light.<sup>222</sup>

Now while Jesus also pointed out that perfection should be the goal (Matthew 5:48), the above does not truly explain why God made humans. However, the following Islamic source gives more of a reason:

God created man to serve Him, meaning that men should believe in the One God and do good. This is the object of human life. God says, "I have not created men except that they should serve Me." (The Winds That Scatter, 51:56)<sup>223</sup>

While humans should do good, much of the rest of the above is similar to certain Protestant views as to why God made humans.

Understand that God did not create us because He is some ego-driven spiritual entity that needed people to serve Him.

But, yes, we are to do good.

The basic reason that God created people was so that they would be able to give love and increase the amount of love in the universe.

Why did God create YOU?

God created you so that after going through some or all of the tests and trials of this life that, if you will accept His offer of salvation, that you will be able to give love in a unique way to make eternity better for yourself and everyone else.

Why did God make everyone else?

God made everyone else so they help influence your character development in life in this age, but also so that everyone else who will accept His offer of salvation, will be able to give love in their unique ways in order to make eternity better for you and all of them personally.

One of the reasons we will be able to do this, is because we read in 'the Book':

<sup>14</sup> ... O Lord ... <sup>15</sup> As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness. (Psalm 17:15)

<sup>3</sup> Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. (Galatians 4:3-5)

Details on why doing good through giving love throughout eternity is the main part of God's plan is in the free booklet, online at [ccog.org](http://ccog.org) titled *The MYSTERY of GOD's PLAN: Why Did God Create Anything? Why Did God Make You?*



## 9. Concluding Comments

The Bible, the Quran, and even Greco-Roman Catholic private prophecies point to a time of wars and calamities, many of which look to occur within the next decade.

Yet, most who profess Christianity do not seem to know much about the Quran or Islamic prophecies.

Since over two billion people reportedly have ties to Islam, Islamic beliefs, including prophetic ones will impact the world. Even groups like Hamas and the 'Islamic State' have claimed to take steps based upon various prophetic beliefs.

While there is a convergence of many biblical, Greco-Roman Catholic, and Islamic prophecies, they also diverge in many ways. And although certain Islamic prophecies will be fulfilled as they align with biblical ones, many of those divergences from the Bible are of critical importance.

Those of us who rely on the Bible believe that in case of conflict, the biblical account should be trusted.

Hence, the biblical would thus suggest that many who follow Islam will one day realize that certain prophecies in hadiths as well as portions of the Quran will not turn out as they have believed.

Hopefully, at that time, they will be more open to understand the Bible as well as true and original Christianity.

### **Modern Muslims are Not Familiar with Original Christianity**

The Apostle Jude told Christians "to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

Muslims condemn people they consider Christians as idolaters:

Say: "People of the Book, do you blame us for any other cause than that we believe in God, and what has been sent down to us, and what was sent down before, and that most of you are ungodly?"

Say: "Shall I tell you of a recompense with God, worse than that? Whomsoever God has cursed, and with whom He is wroth, and made some of them apes and swine, and worshippers of idols – they are worse situated, and have gone further astray from the right way. (Sura 5:64-65)

Early Christians did NOT have idols or icons. Even the Church of Rome was opposed to them for quite some time. Actually, the Eastern Orthodox call their Seventh Ecumenical Council of 843 A,D, the "Triumph of Orthodoxy."<sup>224</sup> because they got the Church of Rome to agree with them on idols and icons. But, this is something that Church of God Christians did not accept then, and the CCOG does not accept now.

What most people, including Muslims, have seen claiming to be Christianity is a far cry from original, biblical Christianity.

Because of the use of crosses and the Crusades, Muslims, even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, sometimes refer to the Greco-Roman Catholics (as well as Protestants) as crusaders.

Yet, original Christians did not use crosses.

Furthermore, original Christians were not militaristic and do not kill for the military. This is clearly documented in the first two centuries of the church era (see also the free book, online at ccog.org, *Beliefs of the Original Catholic Church: Could a remnant group have continuing apostolic succession?*).

After the sun-god worshiping Emperor Constantine claimed to see an apparition with a cross as well as to have a dream, he ordered his soldiers to paint crosses on their shields for the Battle of Milvian Bridge in 312 A.D. After his side won, many who were militaristic claimed Christianity and many who claimed Christianity accepted militarization.

But that was NEVER PART OF THE ORIGINAL CHRISTIAN FAITH, nor was it endorsed by real Christians in the Church of God. To this day, the *Continuing Church of God* is not militaristic.

Also, what we tend to see today as Greco-Roman priests were also not part of the original faith. Even Roman Catholic sources admit that the garb, etc. their priests publicly wear did not come into "Catholic" use before the time of Constantine. Church of God leaders have never dressed like the Greco-Roman priests nor approved of their dress as Christian. Islam itself has condemnation for the greedy behavior of the Greco-Roman priests (Sura 9:32-34).

As far as the Greco-Roman trinity goes, it was formally accepted at the Council of Constantinople in 381 A.D. The Church of God was not part of that council nor did it endorse its conclusions, but instead held to the biblical position (Genesis 1:26; Ephesians 3:14-15; John 1:1,14).

Now according to Roman Catholic sources, no Bishop of Rome took the title "Pontifex Maximus" until the latter part of the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.<sup>225</sup> This had previously been a title for pagan emperors, hence it was not recognized as proper by the Church of God.

While the Bible does endorse the observance of various religious (cf. Leviticus 23) and secular holidays (John 10:22-23), early Christians did not observe days that came from paganism such as Valentines, Halloween, Christmas, and Easter Sunday. Those were added by Greco-Romans later and never endorsed by Church of God Christians.

While the CCOG does not observe Ramadan, it along with the Bible (Isaiah 58:6-7), agrees with Muslims who believe that one of the outcomes of fasting should be sharing food with the hungry.<sup>226</sup>

In summary, Muslims who have been turned off by what is commonly called Christianity, before completely discarding it, should consider from the beginning that real Christians:

- Were not militaristic.
- Did not have pagan idols or icons.
- Did not use crosses as a religious symbol or on military shields.
- Held the biblical position on the Godhead.
- Did not eat biblically-unclean meat.
- Did not pray to Mary or statues of her.
- Never have accepted that a Christian leader is a Pontifex Maximus.
- Had not accepted holidays such as Valentines, Easter, or Christmas.
- Believed they must submit to God (James 4:6-7)
- Never accepted improper additions to the Bible (like 1 John 5:7b-8a).
- Never truly had the type of priests that the Greco-Romans have.
- Believed that God's plan of salvation included those who were not Christians in this age.
- Also condemned the immorality of the West.
- Believed in helping the poor (e.g. Galatians 2:9-10) and hungry (cf. James 2:15-19).

The *Continuing* Church of God still holds to those original beliefs (though we consider Jesus our High Priest, Hebrews 3:1, otherwise we do not have men dressed as "priests," but we do have pastors and elders).

We also hold a few prophetic beliefs that have similarities to those held by Islam. Yet, presuming the differences turn out more like the CCOG teaches them than many in Islam currently believe, hopefully those in error will reconsider their beliefs.

Hopefully, those professing Islam will be more willing to look into real Christianity if they knew more about the history of the most faithful church. They, and others, can also check out the free book, online at [www.cco.org](http://www.cco.org): *Continuing History of the Church of God*.

Plus, hopefully all (Muslim or otherwise) will do that in what was brought to light in this book, as well as what they can learn also from the word of God.

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## ***Continuing Church of God***

The USA office of the *Continuing Church of God* is located at: 1036 W. Grand Avenue, Grover Beach, California, 93433 USA. We have supporters all around the world, and in all inhabited continents (all continents, except Antarctica).

### ***Continuing Church of God Website Information***

**CCOG.ORG** The main website for the *Continuing Church of God*, with links to literature in 100 languages.

**CCOG.ASIA** Asian-focused website, with multiple Asian languages.

**CCOG.IN** India-focused website, with some Indian languages.

**CCOG.EU** European-focused website, with multiple European languages.

**CCOG.NZ** Website targeted towards New Zealand.

**CCOGAFRICA.ORG** Website targeted towards Africa.

**CCOGCANADA.CA** Website targeted towards Canada.

**CDLIDD.ES** This is a totally Spanish language website.

**PNIND.PH** Philippines-focused website, with some Tagalog.

### **Radio & YouTube Video Channels**

**BIBLENEWSPROPHECY.NET** Bible News Prophecy online radio.

**Bible News Prophecy** channel. Sermonettes on YouTube, BitChute, Brighteon, & Rumble.

**CCOGAfrica** channel. YouTube and BitChute video messages from Africa.

**CCOG Animations** Animated messages on YouTube BitChute.

**ContinuingCOG & COGTube.** Sermons on YouTube and BitChute respectively.

### **News and History Websites**

**CHURCHHISTORYBOOK.COM** Church history website.

**COGWRITER.COM** News, history, and prophecy website

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