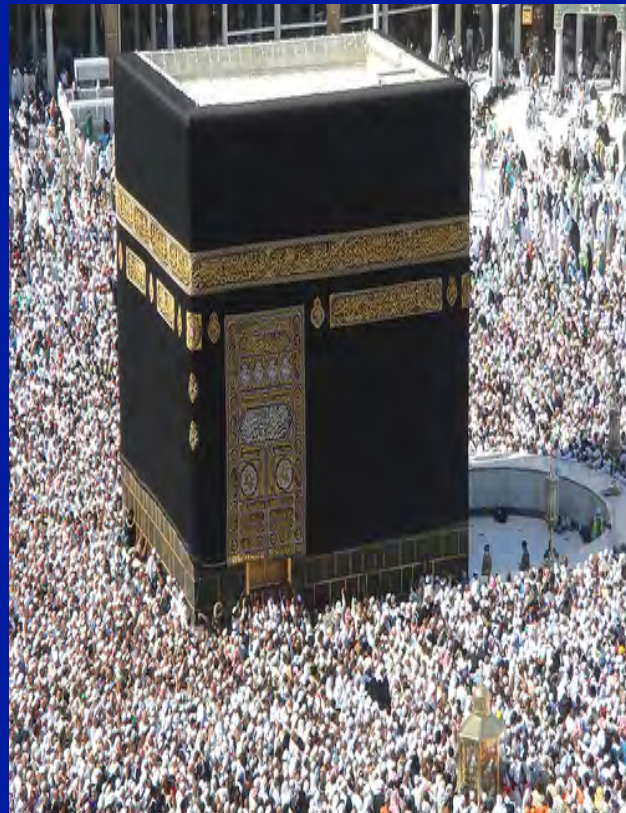
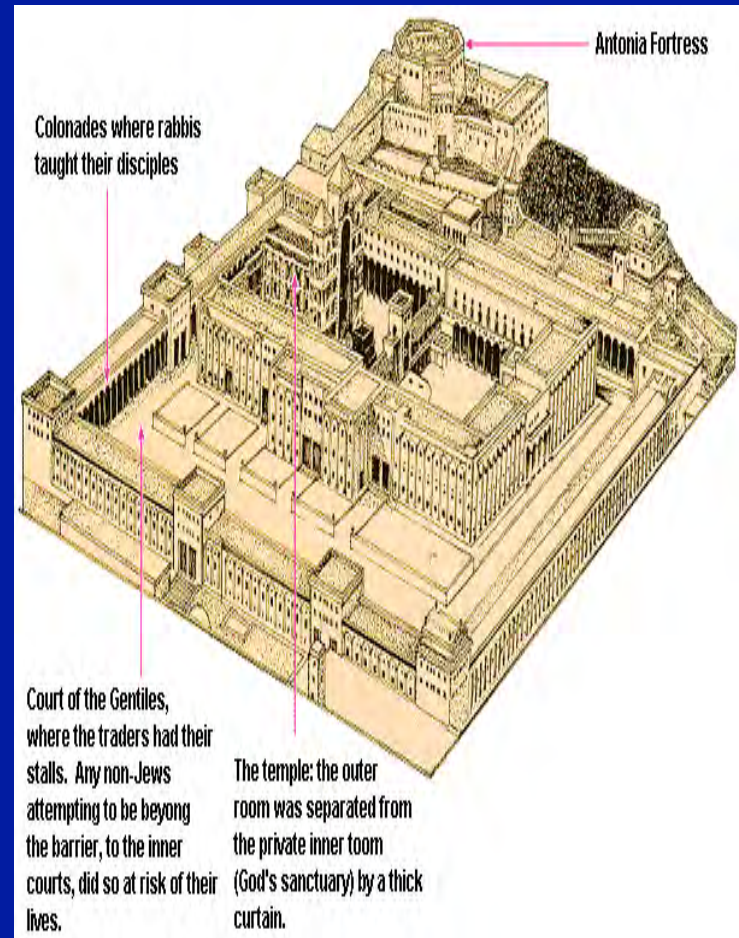




# The Jews, Arabs and Islam



# Pentwater Bible Church

Israel; The Arabs and Islam  
THE YOM KIPPUR WAR, INTIFADA & PEACE PROCESS  
May 23, 2012  
Daniel E. Woodhead

## THE OCTOBER WAR 1973

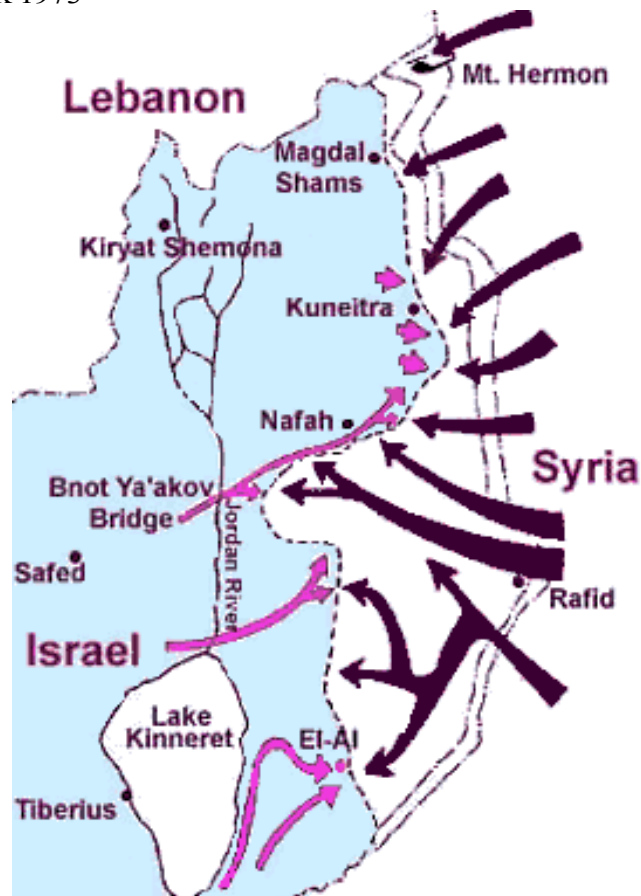
In order to deceive the Israelis, Egypt embarked on frequent false mobilizations of forces prior to the actual attack on October 6th. Syria, keen to recover the Golan Heights, joined with Egypt in preparations for the surprise attack. Other Muslim states contributed troops and financial support. Egypt's steps did not alarm Israeli intelligence leaders as they strongly adhered to what later became known as *The Conception* – their assessment that Egypt would not embark on a war against Israel until it had obtained advanced fighter-bombers and Scuds. The October War began shortly after midday on Saturday, October 6, 1973, when Egypt and Syria launched a concerted surprise military attack on Israel. They had chosen to attack on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, a day when most Israelis were in synagogues praying and fasting. Caught by surprise Israel suffered severe losses in human life and equipment. Due to the advantage of surprise, Egypt succeeded in crossing the Suez Canal on October 7th and Syrian forces advanced on the Golan Heights.

## EGYPTIAN ATTACK 1973



Just before 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6, 1973, 222 warplanes took off from seven airfields and flew low on bombing missions against Israeli military targets in the Sinai

#### THE SYRIAN ATTACK 1973



In the meantime, 60 warplanes took off from several air bases in Syria to bomb Israeli targets on the Golan Heights and guns opened a fierce and intense barrage.

#### THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

Some important facts about the Golan Heights: The Golan Heights overlook and therefore militarily control, Israel's villages and cities in the plains and elevations in the north. The heights are roughly the size of the borough of Queens in New York. The width of the whole area is about 15 1/2 miles at its widest point. The Heights control the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee), Israel's only lake and foremost water resource.



By October 10th, however, after heavy losses, Israeli forces succeeded in reversing the tide of battle in the North and during the next three days, Israeli forces advanced 10 km beyond the 1967 cease- fire lines into Syrian territory. On the Egyptian front, Israeli forces succeeded in crossing the Canal on the 14th and surrounded the Egyptian Third Army. Fighting continued despite a cease-fire agreement on October 22nd, which almost brought the USSR and the US to confrontation. Finally, on Oct. 26th a US-Soviet sponsored Security Council resolution called for all parties to accept a cease-fire. Following an Egyptian refusal to accept the cease-fire and a Soviet airlift to the Muslim states, the United States sent an airlift to Israel enabling a recovery from earlier setbacks. Saudi Arabia then led the Arab world in an oil embargo imposed on the United States and other western nations.

Talks between Egypt and Israel, with the active participation of US Secretary of State Kissinger, continued for two months and concentrated on (1) Israeli withdrawal to post-Six Day War lines, (2) the problem of the encircled Third Army, and (3) the exchange of prisoners. Israel agreed to withdraw to 20 km from the Canal. The size of both armies was reduced, and a Disengagement Agreement was signed between Israel and Egypt on January 18, 1974. The negotiations with Syria took much longer and mutual fire continued throughout the spring of 1974. In the final agreement, signed on May 31, 1974, Israel returned parts of the Syrian town of Quneitra. A UN buffer zone was established and as in the case of the Israel-Egypt agreement, a US Memorandum of Understanding was given to Israel.

## POST 1973 INTIFADA

In the years following the 1973 war, Israel's enemies realized that they could not defeat Israel on the battlefield. Churchill realized this many years earlier as he wrote of the Jews military superiority when he was Britain's Prime Minister in a memo to General Ismay on January 25, 1944.<sup>1</sup> Therefore they turned to diplomatic warfare and sought to weaken Israel's international diplomatic position. Due to pressure from the Muslim world, most African and third world countries broke diplomatic relations with Israel. In 1975, the Soviet-Muslim-Third World bloc at the United Nations succeeded in passing the infamous "Zionism equals racism" General Assembly resolution. This was an attempt to delegitimize the right of the Jewish people to return to their ancestral homeland. The resolution was not revoked until December 1991. S.A.A. Maududi a Muslim wrote the following words in *Jihad in Islam* in 1991.

Islam wishes to destroy all States and Governments anywhere on the face of the earth, which is opposed to the ideology and program of Islam. Islam requires the earth - not just a portion, but the whole planet." And that God's Law (Shariah) should be enforced in the world "by force of arms." Truth cannot be confined within geographical borders. "The allegiance of a Muslim does not rest on his domicile in the country which is his, but on the faith to which he belongs ... wherever there is the rule of Islam, there is his own country (in other words a Caliphate).<sup>2</sup>

In review, the great expansion of Islam in the short time after its inception was mostly because of the military efforts of the new faith. Their conversion "by the sword" had great success on their expansion efforts. They had almost unbridled success until Charles Martel stopped them in 732 A.D., just one hundred years after the death of Mohammed. His victory over Abd-ar-Rahman at the battle of Tours stopped Muslim expansion into Europe.<sup>3</sup> A great many verses of the Koran<sup>4</sup> enjoin on Muslims to take up arms against polytheists, unbelievers and hypocrites. The words used in expressing this commandment are "Qital" (slaying, warfare) and "Jihad" (going forth to fight in the holy war). Jihad in its original meaning is striving with the dedication of maximum effort to the holy undertaking of fighting against all who do not convert to Islam. There is no substance in the argument which is sometimes advanced that Jihad should be understood in the sense of moral endeavor and self-discipline in the cause of service to Islam, and only secondarily in that of holy war. The verses quoted below will show that the

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<sup>1</sup> Churchill, Winston, S. *Closing the Ring: The Second World War*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1953. Reprint Norwalk, CT: The Easton Press, 1989. 689

<sup>2</sup> Maududi, S.A.A. *Jihad in Islam*, Lahore 1991 (accessed July 20, 2008)  
<http://www.peacefaq.com/jihad.html>; Internet

<sup>3</sup> Britannica, *Encyclopedia A New survey of Universal Knowledge*, Published by William Benton Chicago, London, Toronto & Geneva 1962 Vol IV pg 293

<sup>4</sup> Atberry, R.J. *The Koran Interpreted*, Published by Simon & Schuster, New York, NY 1955, throughout book

emphasis is distinctly on warring against *non-believers* in order to propagate Islam and command to fight will receive a promise of rewards:

“Who is he that will loan to God a beautiful loan which God will double to their credit and multiply many times?” (Sura II.245-246). “Allah has given those that fight with their goods and their persons a higher rank than those who stay at home. He has promised all a good reward, but far richer is the recompense of those who fight for Him; rank of His own bestowal, forgiveness and mercy” (Sura IV. 97). “Those who believe, suffer exile and strive with might and main in God's cause with their goods and their persons have the highest rank in the sight of God” (Sura IX.20). 'Those who...fought in the path of God have the hope of the mercy of God...' (Sura II.215). Those who fall on the battlefield in the course of holy war become martyrs. “Those that...fought and died for My cause shall be forgiven their sins and admitted to gardens watered by running streams...” (Sura III.194). “Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead; they are alive and well provided for by their Lord” (Sura III.163 and Sura II.149). “As for those who are slain in the cause of Allah, He will not allow their works to perish...He will admit them to the Paradise He has made known to them” (Sura XLVII.5).

Other verses show God's displeasure with those who shirk their duty of fighting. “And how should you not fight in the cause of Allah and for the helpless...?” (Sura IV.77). Except for a few verses which are revealed with reference to particular events such as the battles of Badr and Uhud, all the texts concerning Qital and Jihad have the same point; the obligation to engage in holy warfare is meant to persist, in the words of the Koran cited above, until God's (Islam's view) religion reigns supreme. Therefore, it follows that the prescriptions concerning holy war place the Islamic community in a situation of constant hostility towards the non-Moslem world. Jihad began with Mohammad and it is still being carried out through the Intifada, which continues to this day. In short Jihad is a state of permanent war and it does not have the possibility of true peace.<sup>5</sup>

The term Intifada is an Arabic name for “shaking off.” It refers to an uprising in the so-called Palestinian territories starting in 1987.<sup>6</sup> It involves demonstrations, strikes, riots and general violence performed in both the Gaza Strip (ancient Philistia) and the West Bank (Ancient Judea & Samaria). There are three principal groups behind the Intifada; Islamic Jihad, The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Hamas. Hamas and Islamic Jihad both call for an independent State for the Palestinians within the borders of Israel. PLO's goal is to organize terrorist attacks on Israel. These three groups have been the seedbeds of violence directed against the Israelis since they were established. The violence will continue until the Lord removes the Muslim nations from the earth along with the Germans and the Russians when He brings the coalition invasion against Israel led by Gog of Russia.

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<sup>5</sup> Ye'or, Bat. *The Dhimmi: Jews and Christians Under Islam*. Cranbury, NJ: Associated University Press, 1985. 46

<sup>6</sup> Price, Randall. *Unholy War; America, Israel and Radical Islam*. Eugene, OR. Harvest House 2001. 66

## ARIEL SHARON GIVES UP LAND FOR PEACE



During the Intifada, the United States, European Union, Russia, and the United Nations—collaborated to end the violence that had plagued Israel since May 15, 1948. They suggested the formation of an independent state, which would grant the Palestinians their own land, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Palestinians would agree to renounce violence and make democratic reforms; Israel would recognize the Palestinian government and halt construction on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. US President George W. Bush allotted three years for the road map, hoping to achieve final peace by 2005. The plan had three stages, each of which had a specific timetable.

Israel had demanded Yasser Arafat's removal, knowing he was untrustworthy. While then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon moved slowly toward agreement, and his cabinet was the first to recognize a need for a Palestinian state, he refused to freeze settlement construction, stating that Israel needed those towns to account for "natural growth" among the inhabitants.

In June 2003, Bush visited the region. After he left, Hamas launched attacks against Israeli citizens, to which Israel responded with force, and the escalation of violence seemed to stop the peace negotiations. A tentative cease-fire was reached between the Palestinian Authority and four major Palestinian terror groups: Islamic Jihad, Hamas, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Arafat's Fatah movement. Israel started withdrawing troops from the Gaza Strip. Sharon and Palestinian president Abbas met for the first time ever and declared their commitment to the peace process. By August of that same year, Hamas had stepped up its suicide and bus bombings, and Israel did not pull out its troops or stop construction in the settlements.

In April 2004, Bush sent a letter to Sharon, which implicitly gave support for Israel on two crucial issues: settlement construction and refusing unlimited Palestinian right of return. In June, Ariel Sharon, in a "land for peace" offer, proposed a unilateral Israeli departure from the Gaza Strip, declaring his intent to remove all Jewish

settlements from the Gaza Strip, and a smaller number from a portion of the West Bank. Many in Israel were opposed to the disengagement, and surprised that the idea came from Sharon's government. Former General Ariel Sharon, a hawkish politician, had run on a platform of a unified land. Now, Sharon's supporters felt betrayed, since the man they had elected to keep all of Israel under Israeli control had done just the opposite. Sharon claimed the disengagement would give Israel the diplomatic upper hand. The government also voted to monetarily compensate the families that would lose their homes. In July, Sharon closed the bloc of settlements in the Gaza Strip. Though entry was forbidden, many Israelis sneaked in illegally, trying to bolster the residents and protest the pullout.

The announcement of the disengagement elicited strong protests from many in the Israeli community. A rally at the Western Wall in August 2005, a few days before the disengagement was to start, attracted more than 250,000 Jews. Gaza residents were given time to pack their things, and the IDF soldiers offered their assistance in packing and moving. Some settlers went on their own accord, while some had to be dragged out under protest. The soldiers were placed in the terrible position of having to evict their own countrymen. Despite the protests, though, there was overall less violence between settlers and IDF than expected. The IDF also prepared a battalion of psychologists and social workers to help the settlers, especially the children, deal with the trauma. When the residents were finally evacuated on August 22, the thirty-eight year long Israeli presence in the Gaza Strip had ended.

In the end, twenty-one settlements in Gaza and four settlements in the West Bank were evacuated. The aftermath of the evacuation was a debacle—many residents were homeless, living in hotels up until Passover of the following year. In addition, the settlers became mired in bureaucratic red tape when they tried to claim their compensation money from the government. Many were unable to find employment, having worked in the agricultural sector for so many years and unqualified for jobs in industry. Shortly after the evacuation Sharon suffering a stroke on January 4, 2006 and has been in a permanent vegetative state since. God always gets what He wants and will judge those who try and remove His chosen from His Land.

The situation in the Gaza Strip, now under Palestinian control, deteriorated. Political disorder and economic downturn led to many Palestinians fleeing Gaza (to Egypt, for example) for a more stable environment. Fighting between Hamas and Fatah escalated, and by June 2007, Hamas had taken over the government in Gaza. Hamas created a police state, centralizing power, ousting Fatah officials, and shutting down newspapers. The Christian citizens in Gaza were harassed and assaulted, and rocket attacks on Israel increased exponentially. Eventually, Israel was forced to respond with Operation Cast Lead, a three-week campaign in Gaza that lasted from December 2008 January 2009 and is still causing global controversy regarding Israel's alleged use of excessive force.

It is widely acknowledged that the Road Map to peace actually led nowhere. There will be no peace until the Prince of Peace returns at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Next session: The Muslim Nations Led By Russia Invade Israel (Future)

Please **Call or e-mail with any questions or comments.**

[Daniel.Woodhead@pentwaterbiblechurch.com](mailto:Daniel.Woodhead@pentwaterbiblechurch.com) Toll Free 877-706-2479