

ISLAM AND THE END TIMES

Series: JESUS vs JIHAD

“What Bible Prophecy says about World Events”

Bro. Mark Winn, Pastor, FBC Coahoma **3/13/16 pm**

As we have seen in a comparison of Islam and Christianity---there are widely differing views which result in Two Very different views of the end times.

1. Islamic Belief about the Afterlife

According to Islam

In Heaven---believers experience God’s favor and benevolence.

In Hell---Unbelievers experience God’s judgment and wrath.

Heaven---is an oasis-like paradise filled with rivers of milk, wine, clarified honey, and shade trees bearing all kinds of fruits.

Hell---sufferers will be made to drink boiling water, molten metal, and decaying filth.

Koran 11:106 *Those who are wretched shall be in the Fire: There will be for them therein (nothing but) the heaving of sighs and sobs*

This Islamic hell has seven (7) divisions (or Gates)—each with its particular purpose and terrors.

THE 7 GATES OF ISLAM’S HELL

“Indeed the hell fire is the dwelling place of them all. It has seven gates and within each gate there is an appropriate punishment for each inhabitant...” "The gates of Hell are structured one gate below the other descending, opposite the gates of paradise, which have one gate above the other ascending.

The First Gate: This gate is called **Jahannam**: where the idol-worshippers are to be sent on the Day of Judgement.

The Second Gate: This Gate is called **Ladha**: will be the home of those who are calling Prophet Musa (Moses) their God.

The Third Gate: This gate is called **Sagar**: this is where those who did not believe in Allah will be sent on the Day of Judgement.

The Fourth Gate: This gate is called Al **Hutamah**: This is where the religious hypocrites will spend eternity.

The Fifth Gate: This particular gate is called **Jaheem**: the shallowest level of Jahannam. It is reserved for those who believed in Allah and His Messenger, but who ignored His commands.

The Sixth Gate: This gate is called **Sa’eer**: is reserved for the worshippers of fire.

The Seventh Gate: This gate is called Al **Haawiyah**: will be the abode those who worship Isa (Jesus) as their God.

NOTE: There is some confusion as to the order of the gates

Many details of the Islamic heaven and hell stand in stark contrast with the teachings of the bible. The levels of Heaven represent closeness to God – the higher the level the closer to the understanding of Allah. In Heaven there will be no suffering, no pain, and no sickness.

DAY OF JUDGMENT---

L. Bevan Jones, author of "**The People of the Mosque**" describes the Muslim concept of the Day of Judgment" According to Muslim doctrine, the Last Day will not come until there is no one remaining who calls on Allah. Then the trumpet will sound, announcing the Day of Judgment, **which will unfold this way:**

1. At the first trumpet blast, everyone in heaven and earth will die except those God saves.
2. At the second trumpet blast, the dead will be resurrected.
3. After the resurrection, there will be a 40 year period when people will wander about the earth, naked, confused and sorrowful. They must await the reading of the books that have been kept by the recording angels. Each book will be given to its owner, delivered into the right hand of the righteous and into the left hand of the wicked.
4. Everyone's deeds will be weighed on Allah's scales of justice. (**Koran 21:47**). The scales weigh each one's good deeds and bad deeds, and the fate of each individual is determined. Good deeds are heavy; bad deeds are light. Those whose balance is light will lose their souls and go to hell. (**Koran 23:102-103; 101:6-11**) Prophets and angels are exempt from this trial and (according to some Islamic authorities) so are believers.
5. After one's deeds are weighed, the next step is to cross the bridge over hell.

Jones wrote: "*the prophet Muhammad is reported to have said: "There will be a bridge sharper than the edge of a sword, finer than a hair, suspended over hell"*

Some will pass over it in the twinkling of an eye, some like a flash of lightning, others with the speed of a swift horse. The angels will call out, "O Lord, save and protect!" Some Muslims will be saved, some will fall headlong into hell, and afterwards be released. The infidels will all fall into hell and remain there forever"

In Islam, the promise of eternal life is always linked to good works.

2. The Antichrist verse the Mahdi

The bible refers to a particular individual called "The Anti-Christ"

1 John 2:18, 22; 1 John 4:3; 2 John 1:7

Elsewhere in the Bible, the Anti-Christ is known by various names.

2 Thess 2:3,8, 4--- "the one who will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Revelation 13—gives us the most detailed description of the Anti-Christ.

Daniel 9:27 —Describes the abominable "works" of the Antichrist, but does not give him a name. **It is from the account of Daniel**—that Jesus refers to in His Olivet Discourse, when He answers the disciples question "What will be a sign of your coming and of the end of the age"?(**Matt. 24:3**)

He tells them--- **Matt. 24:15-21**

¹⁵ "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation, ¹⁶ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— ¹⁷ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁸ Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. ¹⁹ Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. ²⁰ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ²¹ Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. ²² For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

SO—WHO IS THIS ANTI-CHRIST—

- He will be a world leader of unparalleled political, military, and religious power.
- He will be charming, persuasive, and popular beyond belief.
- He will not be known to the world as the “Anti-Christ”—but by some attractive name and appealing title.
- He will be, as his name suggests “Antichrist”—the total opposite of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Everything Christ is---the Antichrist is not.
 - Everything Christ is not---the Antichrist will be.

NOW—HERE IS WHERE IT GETS INTERESTING:

- Islamic teachings about the “Last Days” predicts the rise of a powerful leader strikingly similar to the Christian Antichrist.---In Islam, this prophetic figure is called the “**Mahdi**”
- Muslims see the “Mahdi” as a savior who will lead a global revolution and establish a worldwide Islamic empire.
- The Mahdi, will rule the earth as the final Caliph of Islam (Remember—a caliph is both a political ruler and a spiritual representative of Allah on earth)
- The Mahdi (the prophesied redeemer and savior of Islamic eschatology) will appear on the scene at the same time as the return of Jesus.

As L. Bevan Jones notes: “The Mahdi is to be a man of war whose path will be red with the blood of unbelievers”

- Muslims revere Jesus (whom they call Isa) as the “**Massih**” or Messiah.
 - In Islamic eschatology, the Mahdi will arrive at the same time Isa (Jesus) returns.
 - Isa (Jesus) will descend to earth in Syria, east of Damascus, dressed in yellow robes, and will assist the Mahdi, who will rule over the earth for 7 years (or in some Islamic traditions, 9 or 19 years)
 - At the end of the Mahdi’s rule, there will be a Day of Judgement for the entire human race.
- **In Sunni Islam**, the Mahdi is the successor of Muhammad who will rise to rule the world and establish righteousness.
- **In Shia Islam**, the Mahdi is identified as “The Twelfth Imam”—Muhammad al-Mahdi, was born but disappeared, and will one day return and fill the world with justice and peace.

The parallels between the biblical “Antichrist” and “Mahdi” are chilling.

- Both are associated with the end times and the Judgment
- Both possess political, military and religious power
- Both head up a one-world religion
- The Mahdi, will force all non-Muslim people to convert to Islam
- The Antichrist and the Mahdi will establish Jerusalem as his capital---from which he will rule the earth.

Listen to two noted **Islamic scholars, Muhammad ibn Izzat, Muhammad Arif—they wrote:** “*The Mahdi will be victorious and eradicate those pigs and dogs and the Idols of this time so that there will once more be a caliphate based on prophet hood as the hadith states...*

Jerusalem will be the location of the rightly guided caliphate and the center of Islamic rule, which will be headed by Imam al-Mahdi...

That will abolish the leadership of the Jews...and put an end to the domination of the Satan’s who spit evil into people and cause corruption in the earth, making them slaves of false idols and ruling the world by laws other than the Sharia (Islamic Law) of the Lord of the worlds”

Though Muslims revere Jesus as a prophet, they deny that Jesus is the Son of God.

- Jews and Christians are, to Muslims fundamentalists, “pigs and dogs” who must either convert to Islam or be eliminated.
- Bible prophecy makes it clear that the Antichrist will target Jews and Christians for destruction, just as Islamic prophecy states that the Mahdi will wage war against Jews and Christians.
- Those who oppose the Antichrist’s worldwide religion will be executed.

Muslim scholar Imam Muhammad Baqir states clearly how the Mahdi will establish his one-world religion: “*There must be bloodshed and jihad to establish Imam Mahdi’s rule.*”

Ayatollah Ibrahim al Amini of the Religious Learning Center in Qom, agrees:

“The Mahdi will offer the religion of Islam to the Jews and Christians, if they accept it, they will be spared, otherwise they will be killed”

Radical Islamists believe the Mahdi will shed the blood of the “infidel pigs and dogs” and they look forward to the time with rejoicing.

Christians believe the Antichrist will shed the blood of God’s chosen people, God’s saints—and they feel sorrow and compassion for those who will have to endure those days.

Jesus himself said in Matt. 24:21-22, 25 (ESV)

²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. ²² And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short

²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand.

Daniel in the OT tells us (and Jesus affirms it) that the Antichrist will establish “*the abomination that causes desolation*” in the temple of Jerusalem (**Dan. 9:27**)

The Apostle Paul adds that the Antichrist “*will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God*” (**2 Thess 2:4**)

Some say:

Since the temple was destroyed in AD 70, as Jesus predicted, this has led some to suggest that the Jewish temple must be rebuilt on the Temple Mount before the Antichrist can be revealed to the world.

But, **Consider these:**

The Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque stand on the temple mount today.

One of the Islamic Hadiths records that the prophet Muhammad said:

"Armies carrying black flags will come from Khurasan (Iran and Afghanistan), no power will be able to stop them and they will finally reach "Eela" (the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem) where they will erect their flags"

In Islamic tradition, black banners symbolize violent conquest, and Muslims await the Mahdi's conquest of Jerusalem, when he established his reign from the temple site.

Daniel 9:27—tells us the Antichrist will establish a 7 yr covenant with Israel---but he will break the covenant after 3 ½ yrs, defiling the temple with "*an abomination that causes desolation*"

The Hadiths of Islam also speak of a 7 yr covenant that the Mahdi makes with Israel: *"The Prophet said: there will be a 4 peace agreements between you and the Romans. The 4th will be mediated through a person who will be from the progeny of Hadrat Aaron (Honorable Aaron, the brother of Moses) and will be upheld for 7 yrs."*

There can be no doubt Satan is preparing Muslims to accept the Mahdi as their leader—and the Mahdi is indistinguishable from the world leader we know as the Antichrist.

3. One Antichrist and many antichrists

1 John 2:18¹⁸ *Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.*

What does John Mean? --He is telling us:

1st—The Antichrist IS coming.

2nd—But also, there are many other antichrists.

John tells us that shortly before His return, the antichrist will arise during a time of global chaos and confusion, when the world is in political, social, financial, and ecological upheaval. The terrified people of the world, desperate for a strong leader, will turn to this man and give him control of the governments of the world.

Daniel tells us that the antichrist will speak "boastfully", (**Daniel 7:8**) yet it is clear that these will not be empty boasts.

- The antichrist will appear to possess superhuman brilliance.
- He'll be the ultimate smooth talker, the greatest con man who ever lived.
- He'll unite the nations under his rule.
- At first he will seem to be a wise and benevolent dictator, bringing peace, prosperity, and hope.
- But once he is firmly in control of the gears and levers of power, he will reveal his true intentions.

The way has been paved for such a leader.

Atheists, humanists, New Age mystics, Hindus, Buddhists, and Islamists have little in common with one another----but they all state that Jesus is not the only way to salvation.

There are even many self-styled "Christians" who deny the Lord's claim to be the only way to God.

In 2004, a rising young politician gave an interview to Chicago "Sun Times" columnist Cathleen Falsani---When Falsani asked "What do you believe", he replied:

"I am a Christian. So I have a deep faith. So I draw from the Christian faith.

On the other hand, I was born in Hawaii where obviously there are a lot of Eastern influences. I have lived in Indonesia, the largest Muslim country in the world, between the ages of 6 –10. My father was from Kenya, and although he was probably most accurately labeled an agnostic, his father was Muslim. And I'd say, probably, intellectually I've drawn as much from Judaism as any other faith."

Now—this sounds at first like a typical appeal-to-all-sides answer: But He goes on to explain why he calls himself a Christian.

"I'm rooted in the Christian tradition. I believe that there are many paths to the same place, and that is a belief that there is a higher power, a belief that we are connected as a people. That there are values that transcend race or culture, that move us forward, and there's an obligation for all of us individually as well as collectively to take responsibility to make those values lived"

WHO WAS THIS "Young Politician" _____

To transcend race, recognize that we are all connected in the human family, that all sounds good, but when ANYONE says: "There are many paths to the same place"

- He is not speaking as a Christian
- He is not speaking from a Christian perspective or tradition
- He is not speaking from Christian scriptures.

The statement "there are many paths to the same place" comes not from Christianity, but from the spirit of this age, the spirit of the Antichrist, which denies that Jesus is the way and the truth and life.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND ME-----I'm NOT saying that President Obama is the antichrist—I am saying **that His thinking reflects the anti-Christian spirit of this age,** which claims to affirm Jesus while denying His claim to be the only way to God the Father.

- The Christian message is not an inclusive message that embraces all religions
- The Christian message is not a message that there are many paths to the same place.

The Christian message is summed up in the brave words of Peter before the Sanhedrin:

"Jesus is the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:11-12)

4. The Big Lie

One of the great tragedies of the church today is that many professing Christians have bought the "Big Lie" that all religions lead to God.

Disturbing STATS---According to the Barna Group

- **25%** (1/4) of self-described "born again Christians" believe that all people will eventually be saved and accepted into heaven, even without faith in Jesus Christ.
- **26%** believe that religion doesn't matter because "all faiths teach the same lessons"
- **40%** say they believe "Christians and Muslims worship the same God"

I would ask those so-called “believers”:

- If people can be saved and accepted by God the Father apart from the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross---**THEN WHY WAS HE CRUCIFIED.**
- What does Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross mean if you can be saved without it?
- If there are many ways to heaven apart from Jesus—what does that make Jesus—who claimed to be “the only way”---Doesn’t that make Him a Liar?

I WANT ALL TO UNDERSTAND----

Satan has been preparing humanity for centuries now, to accept the “Big Lie”

“You don’t need Christ, you can be saved without Him, It doesn’t matter what you believe, just as long as you are sincere, there are many religions, many paths, but they all lead to the same God.

To be a genuine Christian:

- You must believe the claims of Christ
- You must confess that salvation comes by grace through faith in the crucified Christ.
- You must confess that it is only through Jesus, not any other means.
- You must believe that Jesus is the way, truth and life.

To profess otherwise –you are antichrist in your thinking.

Jesus warned:

“False messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (Matt. 24:24)

The Apostle Paul: 2 Thess 2:3-4

³ Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness^[a] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

With all the talk about different theories as to “the End Times”—it is easy to get confused---

But let me end with 4 undisputable facts:

- i. Only those who receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will be welcomed into heaven.
- ii. Jesus is coming back as He repeatedly promised.
- iii. There will be a judgment upon those who have rejected Jesus as the only way to heaven.
- iv. When Jesus appears, all true believers will go to be with Him.

There are many unanswered questions about the “End Times”---**BUT THE IMPORTANT ONE’S HAVE BEEN ANSWERED.**

John 8:31-32

...Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Definitions

1. **Ayatollah:** meaning holy man, claimed to be a linear descendant of Muhammad
2. **"Dabiq"** (da-bek) is a town in northern Syria, located northeast of Aleppo. It lies around 10km (six miles) from the Turkish border. The town is the site of the decisive battle of Marj Dabiq between the Ottoman Empire and the Mamluk Sultanate in 1516.
 1. In Islamic eschatology, it is believed that Dabiq is one of two possible locations for an epic battle between invading Christians and the defending Muslims which will result in a Muslim victory and mark the beginning of the end of the world. The Islamic State believes Dabiq is where an epic and decisive battle will take place with Christian forces of the west.^[2]
3. **The Dome of the Rock** The Koran states that Allah miraculously swept up Muhammad and took him on a journey by night, The journey ended with Muhammad ascending directly into heaven from the rock now located in the Dome of the Rock shrine. The Dome of the Rock was completed by Abd al-Malik on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem in AD 692. Most Bible scholars believe that the Dome of the Rock stands on the site of Solomon's original temple.
4. **"Hadith"** a collection of writings of Islam, held as second most holy next to Koran.
5. **Imams:** considered to be sinless and virtually infallible leaders in all spheres of life, including politics in Islam.
6. **Mahdi**—a messianic figure destined to lead the Muslims to victory before the end of the world.
7. **"Massih"** (or Messiah) How Muslims revere Jesus (whom they call Isa) as the "Massih".
8. **Salafi movement "Salfi Sect" or Salafist movement:** is an ultra-conservative orthodox movement within Sunni Islam that references the doctrine known as **Salafism**.
 1. The doctrine can be summed up as taking "a fundamentalist approach to Islam, emulating the Prophet Muhammad and his earliest followers—al-salaf al-salih, the 'pious forefathers'...They reject religious innovation, or bida, and support the implementation of sharia (Islamic law)."
9. **Shiite:** is a denomination of Islam which holds that the Islamic prophet Muhammad's proper successor as Caliph was his son-in-law and cousin Ali ibn Abi Talib.
10. **Sunni:** whose adherents believe that Muhammad's father-in-law Abu Bakr, not Ali ibn Abi Talib, was his proper successor.
11. **Temple Mount in Jerusalem--** the site of the First and Second Jewish Temples
12. **Twelver Shiite sect:** teaches that the 12th Imam----(Muhammad ibn Hasan al-Mahdi) went into hiding in the 9th century and will remain hidden until the Last Days, when he will be revealed as the "Mahdi"