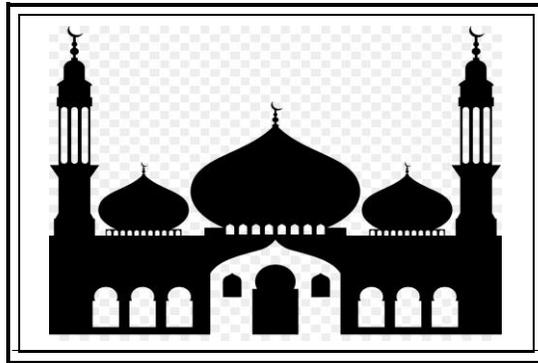


LINKS TO ISLAM IN BIBLE PROPHECY



TIM BUCK

FOTET.ORG

FOCUS
ON THE END TIMES

Links To Islam In Bible Prophecy

Tim Buck

People are often surprised when they learn there is an Islamic connection to end times prophecy and that Islamic teaching so closely patterns the agenda of Antichrist.

This overview will discuss the connections to Islam in Bible prophecy.

I. False Religion is Demonic

The things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. (1 Cor. 10:19-21)

When we talk about false religions like Islam, it's important to keep in mind the insight from the Apostle Paul in the above verse who explained the source of all false religions and religious idolatry is Satan and his demons - "*they sacrifice to demons and not to God*". Satan is the prince of darkness and rules this world system by deception with the aid of his demons. To participate in idolatrous acts of worship to the false god Allah or to follow any false religion outside the truth of the Bible, is to participate with Satan and his demons.

Quran: Book of Plagiarism

Satan's power of deception is on full display in the Quran and within the religion of Islam and no wonder, "*Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light*" (2 Cor. 11:4). Much of the information in the Quran is hijacked from the Bible then twisted to meet the nefarious purposes of Satan. The Quran contains dozens of Bible stories and over 50 Bible characters who are lifted from the Bible and twisted to fit Islam with the most popular one being Jesus. A false Jesus. A Jesus who hates Jews! In the Quran, all the great Bible characters like Jesus are worshippers of Allah and always are portrayed as loyal Muslims.

The blasphemous aspect of stealing righteous characters out of the Bible to fit unrighteous characters in Islam is pointed out in **Revelation 13:6** as one of the signs of Antichrist's religion,

The beast blasphemed God, His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

This unique prophecy shows that Antichrist's religious system will be noted for blaspheming the saints now living in heaven - a very apt description of Islam.

II. Satan's Special Purposes for Creating the Religion of Islam

A. To create a religious system attractive to Arabs, Ishmael's descendants, that played off their natural hatred of the Jews that could grow large enough to defeat Israel.

B. To develop an authoritative source (Quran) that could compete with and replace the Bible that teaches a radical, political, religious system with the mission of killing Jews, Christians, and infidels until the world submits to Islamic rule. Islam is the only religion on earth whose framework is **BUILT ON AN ACCOMPANYING POLITICAL FOUNDATION** with the stated goal of annihilating the Jewish people. This is a hallmark of Satan's strategy from the beginning who believes destroying Israel leads to the defeat of Jesus at His Second Coming.

C. To deceive mankind by **RECONSTRUCTING SALVATION AWAY FROM JESUS** and the Cross to Muhammad and Allah/Satan. To accomplish this devious task, the Quran presents an entirely different Jesus who is renamed ISA. He is a weak, do-nothing character with less importance than Moses who has nothing to do with the salvation of mankind. His main role will be to accompany the Mahdi, Islam's messiah, when he returns in the last days to assist him in defeating the Christians and Jews before establishing a global Caliphate.

D. To deceive mankind with Islamic prophecies that **PARALLEL END TIME EVENTS** prophesied in the Bible. Muslims are required to "**believe in the last day**" which means adhering to certain Islamic prophecies about the last days.

The reason for this is for Satan to be able to deceive and manipulate Muslims into believing Allah wants them to destroy Israel and defeat Jesus in the last days. This is Satan's priority in order for the great deceiver to be able to rule the world from Jerusalem.

PRIORITY OF BELIEVING THE 'LAST DAY' IN ISLAMIC BELIEF

The Quran mentions five things that a Muslim must believe in order to be a Muslim. These five things have, as a result, become a creed of sorts within Islam. From the Quran we read:

It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces to the East and the West; but righteous is he who believeth in Allah *and the Last Day* and the angels and the Scripture and the prophets.

- Sura 2:177

Notice the high priority of believing in the Last Day. It ranks second after belief in Allah:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Belief in Allah | 4. Belief in the scripture |
| 2. Belief in the Last Day | 5. Belief in the prophets |
| 3. Belief in angels | |

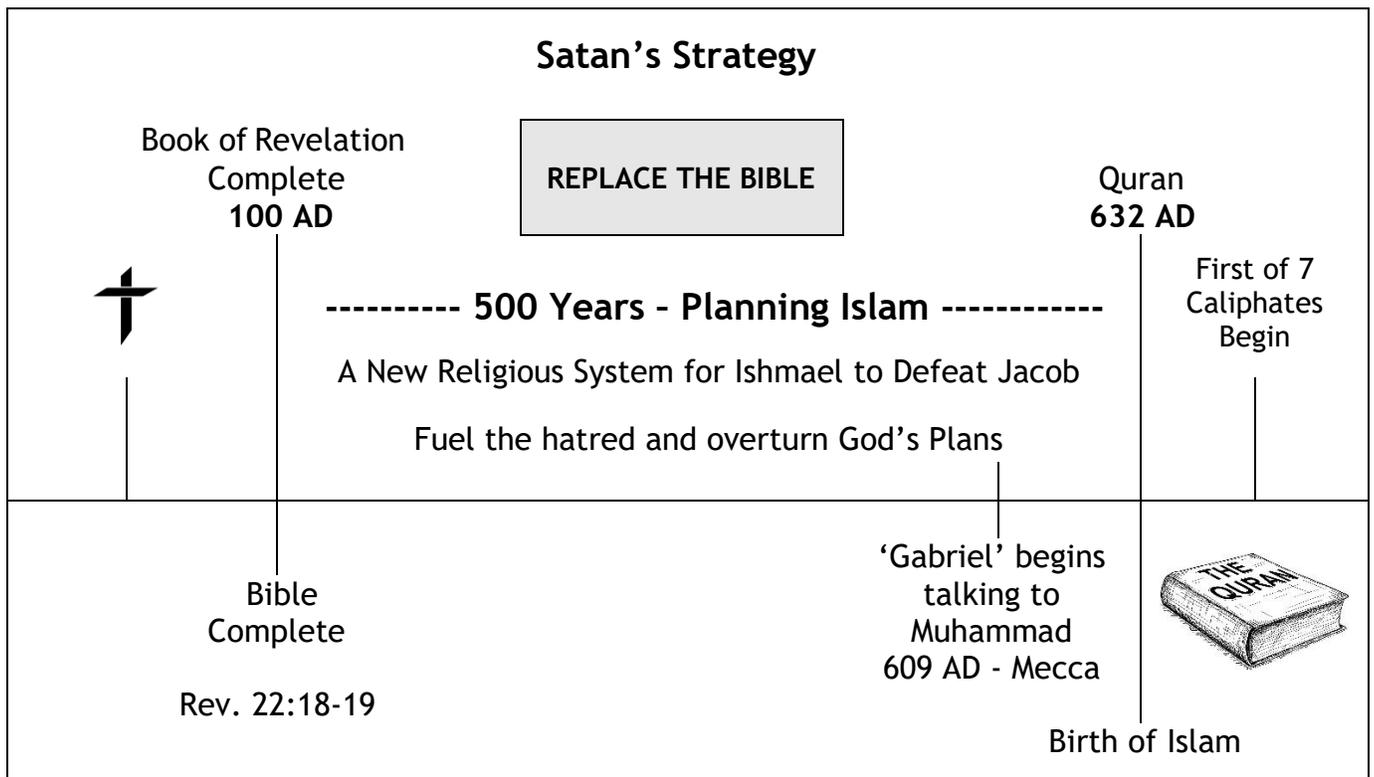
DECEIVING MUSLIMS FOR AN END-TIME SET UP

The religion of Islam has an end-time belief system that mysteriously parallels Bible prophecy. Muslims are required to believe in and adhere to Islamic end-time expectations known as the ‘**Last Day**’. I find that interesting! Muslims are required to accept the Islamic teaching on the end times. Satan’s teachings! Why do you suppose the version of last-day events is so important? The deceiver is setting them up!

Satan is counting on his Muslim army to anticipate the crucial events of the end times that parallel the Bible to assist him in defeating God. It’s as if the enemy has designed a ‘special-forces’ religious team to combat the biblical account of last-day events as his primary weapon for destroying Israel and defeating Christ at His Second Coming.

Unfortunately, while end-time belief plays a prominent role in the New Testament and in the life of the early church, today belief in the last days has become essentially optional or generally ignored by most Christians and churches. While the church sleeps, Islam is ready!

FROM THE CHART BELOW we see it took Satan 500 years after the Apostle John finished writing the Book of Revelation to be able to master the last days to devise a plan that would overcome the outcome in his favor. Central to his plan was leveraging the natural hatred between the Arab line of Ishmael and the Jewish people, **“you have had an everlasting hatred, and have shed the blood of Israel by the sword”** (Gen. 24:60; Ezek. 35:5).



III. Key Points Muslims Believe About the Last Day



A. The last days of human history **HAVE ARRIVED**.

B. The arrival and appearance of the Hidden Imam, Islam's last-day messiah, also known as the Mahdi or the **Twelfth Imam**, is imminent. He was the **twelfth descendent of Muhammad** and because all other descendants were killed off, Allah hid him away in 874 A.D. until his time to return to rule earth in the last days.

C. When Imam al-Mahdi appears, he will conquer and rule the entire earth.

D. The prophet 'Jesus' will also return to earth and become a loyal servant as the Hidden Imam's **Lieutenant**. (NOTE: This version of the Muslim 'Jesus' is an Islamic figure that closely aligns with the activity of the False Prophet in Revelation 13:11-18).

E. The prophet 'Jesus' will **RETURN WITH A DISGUISED NAME OF ISA** and declare he is a loyal Muslim. He will aggressively lead a campaign of the destruction of churches and religious facilities and require all Jews, Christians, and other "infidels" to convert to Islam or be executed at once.

F. The arrival of the Mahdi and the full establishment of the global Caliphate **CAN BE HASTENED** if Muslims work hard today to annihilate the 'Little Satan,' Israel, and the 'Great Satan,' the United States of America. The foreign policy of Iran is based on the notion that nuclear weapons can be used to hasten the arrival of the Mahdi.

G. **The Middle East nations from Turkey to Pakistan** will play a prophetic role in the establishment of the Caliphate. Therefore, the people must be prepared and must have in place the necessary weapons and alliances. The rewards of the faithful will be great. But for any who prove lazy and slothful, the fires of eternal judgment await.

IV. The Theology of the ‘Antichrist Spirit’ of Islam

The religion of Islam, more than any other religion, philosophy, or belief system, **fulfills the description of the antichrist spirit outlined in First John**. It makes one of its highest priorities the denial of the Bible and the fundamental doctrines of Christianity. In fact, we can fairly claim that Islam is Satan’s direct response against those essential Christian doctrines. In Islam, Jesus is merely another prophet in a very long line of prophets, however, his most important mission will be when he returns, not to redeem Israel, but to lead the Islamic armies to kill the Jewish people along with all the Christians.

The Apostle John informs us that in the last hour, a man is coming who will fully personify the antichrist spirit and deny the essential biblical doctrines regarding who Jesus is and what He came to do.

A. The Antichrist Spirit in First John

Each time the Apostle John describes Antichrist it is in reference to a particular spirit. The spirit is defined by its denial of some very specific aspects of biblical theology about Jesus’ nature and His relationship to the Father. By doing so, Satan wants to sideline Jesus and also teach that the doctrine of the trinity is blasphemy.

Every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard is coming and even now is in the world. **(1 John 4:3)**

Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ (Jesus is not God). Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son (rejects the trinity). No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. **(1 John 2:22-23)**

Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. **(2 Jn. 7)**

From these verses, we learn that Antichrist has a spirit that is identified as a “liar” and a “deceiver” who specifically **denies the following four major doctrines** about the God of the Bible:

1. ISLAM DENIES THE SONSHIP OF CHRIST

The religion of Islam has as one of its foundational beliefs a direct denial of Jesus as God's Son and the doctrine of the incarnation that Jesus is God who came in the flesh (Jn. 1:14).

This Denial is Found Throughout the Quran:

In blasphemy are those that say that God is Christ the son of Mary. (Sura 5:17)

They say: "God hath begotten a son!"—Glory be to Him! He is self-sufficient! His are all things in the heavens and on earth! No warrant have ye for this! Say ye about Allah what ye know not? (Sura 10:68)

They said, "The Most Gracious has begotten a son"! You have uttered a gross blasphemy. The heavens are about to shatter, the earth is about to tear asunder, and the mountains are about to crumble. Because they claim that the Most Gracious has begotten a son. It is not befitting the Most Gracious that He should beget a son. (Sura 19:88-92)

The Christians call Christ the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouth; [in this] they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. Allah's curse be on them: how they are deluded away from the Truth! (Sura 9:30)

The Quran pronounces a curse on those who believe that Jesus is God's Son. People who say such things utter "gross blasphemies" and are branded unbelievers & infidels. Without question then, in this regard, Islam is the antichrist religious system.

Islam attempts to create an acceptable form of monotheistic worship yet it not only leaves out the most essential aspects of salvation through Christ, but it also directly confronts these things and calls them the highest forms of blasphemy.

"Far be it from God that he should have a son!"

These words encircle the inside and outside of the golden Dome of the Rock on the very Temple Mount in Jerusalem—the very location where for centuries God's people, the Jews, worshipped in their Temple awaiting their Messiah. This is also where Jesus, the Son of God and the Jewish Messiah will someday rule over the earth. Islam has built a monument of utter defiance to this future reality.

2. ISLAM DENIES THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD

According to Islamic doctrine, if Allah is compared to anything on the earth, this belittles him. As such, the Qur'an teaches that Allah is not a father (one who begetteth) and is certainly not a son (one who is begotten):

Say: He is Allah, the One! Allah, the eternally Besought of all! He begetteth not nor was begotten. And there is none comparable unto Him. —Surah 112:1-4

Islam actually misunderstands the terms father and son with respect to Christian doctrine. The Bible doesn't use the term "begotten", "father", or "son" in a way that infers sexual reproduction, but rather it infers special relationship. Thus when the Apostle John speaks of Jesus as "the only begotten of the Father" (John 1:14), he is conveying the unique deity of Jesus. Likewise, when Paul refers to Jesus as "the firstborn over all creation" (Col. 1:15) he is emphasizing Messiah's preeminence as the Creator of all things.

Although Islam misunderstands what the Bible teaches concerning the fatherhood of God and the sonship of Jesus, in denying these things, Islam denies the most foundational doctrines of the Christian faith and affirms what John the Apostle refers to as the doctrines of the Antichrist. This fact is undeniable.

But beyond denying the Sonship of Christ and the fatherhood of God, Islam also very directly, and quite aggressively, denies the Trinity.

3. ISLAM DENIES THE TRINITY

Islam applies the same claim of blasphemy to those who believe in the Trinity:

They do blaspheme who say: Allah is one of three in a Trinity: for there is no god except One Allah. If they desist not from their word [of blasphemy], verily a grievous penalty will befall the blasphemers among them. **(Sura 5:73)**

1 John 2:22-23, says the Antichrist spirit denies the relationship of the Father to the Son. Thus, one of the beliefs of Antichrist's religious system is the rejection of the biblical doctrine of the Trinity. Rome believes in the trinity, Mecca does not. Thus belief in the Trinity is also defined as blasphemy. But what is the "grievous penalty" that shall befall Christians who believe such things? Well, Muslims expect their version of Jesus to return and kill the "Trinitarian Christians."

4. ISLAM DENIES THE CROSS

The Quran does not stop at denying that Jesus is the Son of God or that the Godhead exists as a Trinity. With tears in his eyes, Paul the Apostle warned the Thessalonians that, “*many live as enemies of the cross of Christ*” (Philippians 3:18).

It should not come as a surprise, then, that Islam also denies the most central event of all of redemptive history: the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

They (Jews) said in boast, We killed the Messiah, Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah; But they killed him not, nor crucified him, but only a likeness was shown to them and those who differ are full of doubts, for of a surety they killed him not but so it was made to appear to them it was him, for of a surety they killed him not. For Allah raised him up to himself.

Sura 4:157-8

Here we see the Islamic belief that Jesus was rescued from the cross at the last minute by Allah who replaced Jesus with a look-alike. Jesus is now in paradise with Allah and along with the Mahdi, the two are in waiting to return together in the last days to establish the global Caliphate under Sharia Law.

Jesus will return and convert Christians to Islam at his Second Coming:

The People of the Book will assuredly believe in him (Muslim Jesus) before his death (still future), and on the Day of Judgment he will be a witness to them.

Sura 4:159

The Bizarre Message Preached by the Muslim Jesus

At His 2nd Coming, Islamic tradition says that when Jesus returns as a Muslim along with the Mahdi, instead of teaching the gospel, his fourfold message will confess the following:

I never said I was God's Son

I never said I would die on a cross

I never said I would raise from the dead

I am a follower of Allah so convert to Islam or be killed

Allah, the god of the Quran is not the God of the bible and the salvation message of the Bible through the shed blood of Jesus is not found in the Quran. Unfortunately for Muslims they worship a false god who has rejected the biblical teaching on salvation. One must believe the whole gospel through Jesus Christ for Salvation - **Rom. 10:9**

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

These precious gospel tenants that are clearly spelled out by the Apostle Paul in Romans are purposely removed from the Quran - **1 Cor. 15:1-4**

- Death
- Burial
- Resurrection

Islam very specifically denies the doctrines that the Apostle John says Antichrist will deny.

What could be clearer?

No other religion so closely aligns with the theology of Antichrist given us in scripture as precisely as Islam. And the Quran does not merely deny these doctrines but expresses utter disdain for them, actually cursing Christians who believe these things, accusing them of gross blasphemy.

According to the Apostle Paul, it's not Bible believing Christians who believe the gospel of Jesus Christ that should be cursed but the religion of Islam and any other false religion that preaches a false gospel:

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse.

Galatians 1:8-9

V. Vatican?  Or Mecca?  Which Paradigm Best Fits?

Many good Bible teachers today still teach a “Roman,” end-time paradigm as opposed to a Middle Eastern Paradigm of Bible prophecy. They believe that somehow the EU along with the Vatican and the Pope will give rise to Antichrist. But an honest analysis of Antichrist’s theology in First John makes this inconsistent. Since Catholicism is part of the Christian faith it believes in a trinity and it also confesses that Jesus is God’s Son who died on the cross for our sins. The theology of Antichrist denies and rejects Christian doctrine completely!

Therefore Rome and the Vatican are disqualified as the religion to give rise to Antichrist as many teach. Nor would it be accurate to accuse the Vatican of being the most blasphemous religion on earth which is a prominent description used in the Bible for the religious system of Antichrist. Scripture repeatedly highlights the blasphemy of Antichrist, the BEAST and the False Prophet saying Antichrist’s fanatical religion is full of blasphemy (Rev. 13:1,5,6; 17:3,).

Why does the Bible describe Islam as being full of blasphemy? The reason is Islam’s required daily prayer called the Shahada that is repeated by millions of Muslims every day all over the world. It is the Muslim prayer of blasphemy that says, “*There is no god but Allah.*” This is the most blasphemous religious statement of any religion on earth and a total denial of the God of the Bible and Jesus Christ His Son! Here again we see that Mecca, the capitol city of Islam, precisely meets the biblical criteria that describes the religious system of Antichrist.

VI. Middle East Geography: The Central Focus of Bible Prophecy

IT IS TELLING THAT THE ONLY RELIGION SATAN ALLOWS IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS ISLAM!

This is done, of course, to assure the enemy that the nations surrounding Israel will be fully under his control!

A. The Temple Mount

Satan has successfully deceived Muslims to do his work of surrounding the nation of Israel, putting on pressure to divide the State of Israel and to enable Islam to remain in control of the Temple Mount.

The Temple Mount is a prime example of how Satan has deceived Muslims to do his bidding. Controlling the Temple Mount is vital to Satan’s plan to rule the world from God’s throne in Jerusalem.

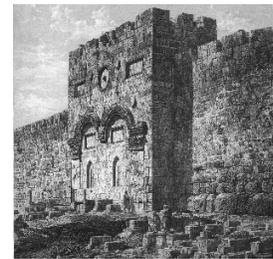
One of the most iconic images of the Middle East is undoubtedly the **Dome of the Rock** shimmering in the setting sun of Jerusalem. Sitting atop the Temple Mount, the highest point in old Jerusalem, the Dome of the Rock's golden-color Dome and Turkish tiles dominates the cityscape of Old Jerusalem and in the 7th century served as a testament to the power of Islam. It is believed to be the location where Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac (Ishmael in Muslim tradition).



Dome of the Rock

Fittingly, once again we see Satan using the religion of Islam to capture the Temple Mount, his most prized possession, by constructing an octagon shaped cage around the rock that is now called the "Dome of the Rock". The Domed cage was put over the Rock around 700 AD. Thus Mt. Moriah fell into the hands of the religion of Islam 1400 years ago!

In addition, the enemy has used Islam to close and seal the **Eastern Gate** on the Temple Mount. Hearing that Jewish tradition anticipated the Jewish Messiah would enter Jerusalem through the Eastern Gate, in 1541 the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman sealed the famed double doors of the Eastern gate shut with 16' of concrete in order to prevent Jesus from entering. The Turkish invaders also then planted a Muslim cemetery in front of the gate to keep Jews away, as it is considered unclean for a Jew to enter a Muslim cemetery!



Eastern Gate

B. A Middle East Empire

Antichrist's future empire is a Middle East Empire. It is defined in Revelation 13 as having the combined territory of Daniels's 3 ancient empires: Seleucid [Grecian], Persia and Babylon (compare Dan. 7:3-6 and Rev. 13:2). Those 3 empires comprise the geographic territory listed in the map below in white. That very area is precisely the location of Antichrist's future Empire - (Rev. 13:2)

The beast resembled a leopard (Greek, Seleucid Empire: Turkey thru Pakistan), had feet like a bear (Persian Empire - Iran) and a mouth like a lion (Babylonian Empire - Iraq).

THE BEAST



C. Middle East Wars of Antichrist

Both the prophetic books of Daniel and Revelation discuss the Middle East wars of Antichrist during the Tribulation period. These wars are conducted in the area of the “Euphrates corridor” (Rev. 9:14, 16:12) as well as among Israel’s Muslim neighbors like Jordan (Dan. 11:41) and in the Muslim countries of North Africa (Dan. 11:42-43 Egypt/Libya).



The Bible is an Israel-centric book so it stands to reason that the chief enemies of the chosen people would be Middle Eastern nations focused on those countries surrounding the modern State of Israel today.

D. Muslim Nations Surrounding Israel

Israel’s Muslim neighbors are specifically and repeatedly prophesied to be the primary enemies of Israel in the last days. It’s Israel’s neighbors who God charges as wanting to steal the Holy land and make it their own Land.

In the process, their hatred and slander of the chosen people prompts God’s warnings of their coming judgment:



*No longer will the people of Israel have **malicious neighbors** who are painful briars and sharp thorns. They will know that I am the Sovereign Lord. Ezek. 28:24*

*This is what the Lord says: Because **they ravaged and crushed you from every side** you’ve become the possession of the rest of the nations and the object of people’s malicious talk and slander. Therefore, I swear with uplifted hand that the **nations around you** will also suffer scorn. Then the nations which are left **all around you** shall know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. Ezek. 36:3,7,36*

*Hasten and come, all you **surrounding nations**, and gather yourselves there. Bring down, O Lord, Your mighty ones. Let the nations be aroused and come to the valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will judge all the **surrounding nations**. Joel 3:11-12*

*Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to **all the surrounding peoples**, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And they shall devour all the **surrounding peoples** on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place—Jerusalem. And the wealth of **all the surrounding nations** shall be gathered in great abundance. Zech. 12:2,6,14*

E. The Nations Judged at the Second Coming

Throughout scripture, whenever nations are specifically named and highlighted for judgment at Christ's Second Coming, only Middle Eastern, Islamic nations surrounding Israel are singled out by name as worthy of divine retribution.

Deliverers will go up on Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will be the LORD's. (Ob. 1:21)

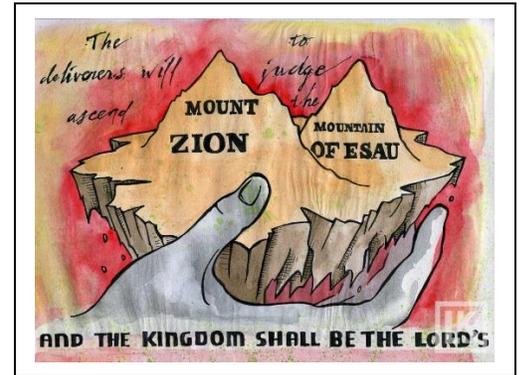


Chart of Islamic Nations Judged at the Second Coming

| Passage | Nation(s) |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Numbers 24:14, 17-20 | The Lord crushes Moab, Edom, Seir and Sheth |
| Isaiah 25:8-11 | The sovereign Lord will crush Moab |
| Ezek. 25:12-17; Obadiah 1:17-20 | Judgment against Edom |
| Ezekiel 30:1-5 | The Day of the Lord against Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Arabia, Turkey, North Africa |
| Zephaniah 2:3-5,12,13 | The Lord's anger against Israel's neighbors: Gaza, Canaanites, Philistines, Assyria, Cush (Today = Palestinians, Lebanon, Sudan and Iraq) |
| Joel 3:1-4 | Judgment on Lebanon & Gaza for dividing the land |
| Isa. 34:5-9 | With blood on His garments, the Lord has a sacrifice in Bozrah and Edom (Jordan) |
| Isa. 63:1-4; Rev. 19:11-16 | Treading Edom in the winepress of God |

In the context of the Day of the Lord and Christ's return, the nations specified for judgment are all Muslim-majority nations. Repeatedly, names are given like Moab, Edom, Babylon, Arabia, Persia, Lebanon, Gaza, Assyria, Egypt, Sudan, and Turkey that puts Islam at the forefront of God's judgment.

No European countries are ever named or ever appear in the context of end-time, Bible prophecy.

VII. The Fanatical Nature and Mission of Antichrist's Empire Aligns with Islam

Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, even if they are of the People of the Book (Jews and Christians), until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.

- Surah 9:29

And when the Word is fulfilled against them (the unjust) We shall produce from the earth a beast to face them: he will speak to them for that mankind did not believe with assurance in our Signs.

- Surah 27:82

Correctly identifying Antichrist's religious system is one of the most important factors to interpreting Bible prophecy.

If you assume, for instance, that Antichrist is an atheist, or a Catholic or a one-world globalist, your interpretations will force scripture to fit your predetermined ideology. I've found that it's not difficult to interpret some prophecy as pointing to any one of those 3 concepts. However, I've also found that only the religion of Islam aligns with every aspect of Bible prophecy. So it's crucial to get the identification of Antichrist's religious system and background correct.

We know that what drives Antichrist is a fanatical religious system because scripture clearly says he is driven by his god:

He (Antichrist) will honor a god of fortresses (war/Jihad); a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. 39 He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him.

Daniel 11:38-39

Another helpful key is learning to recognize the religious tone of Antichrist's empire. It's easy to miss this aspect if you're not looking for it. Observing the numerous religious phrases when the beast and Antichrist are addressed can begin to help see that, under the surface, God is revealing the religious nature of the coming Islamic Empire. The beast demands to be worshipped!

Revelation 13 is the most exhaustive chapter in the Bible outlining the empire of Antichrist with the empire portrayed as a beast. It's our opinion that the beast is the revived Ottoman Caliphate led by Turkey. The Ottoman Caliphate ruled Islam for 500 years before being defeated by America and the ally's in WWI. The Caliphate will be revived before the appearance of Antichrist and initially ruled by ten Muslim nations for a short period.

Once the Islamic Empire is revived and established and when the time is right according to Satan's plans, Antichrist will rise and take full control (Daniel 7:24) of the empire. Since the beast is essentially the return of the powerful Islamic Empire, Revelation 13 is understandably laced with blasphemous religious terminology.

A HELPFUL PRACTICE IN STUDYING THIS ISSUE is to simply go to Revelation 13:1-8 and underline the religious phrases you find! The same exercise could be done by going through Daniel 7.

| Religious Terms - Revelation 13 | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| • Blasphemous | Vs. 1 |
| • Worship the dragon | Vs. 4a |
| • Worship the beast | Vs. 4b |
| • Speaking blasphemy | Vs. 5-6 |
| • War against Christians | Vs. 7 |
| • Unbelievers worship the Beast | Vs. 8 |

In addition to the many religious descriptions there are other features about Antichrist and his religious empire described in the Bible. As you read through the list below ask yourself what religious system do you feel best fits all these elements?

For example, let's take a look at just one of the points below and ask this question. What is the only religion in the world today that actively persecutes and seeks to kill Christians and Jews? What religion motivates Antichrist to kill these two specific groups?

Is it Hinduism? Buddhists? Mormons? Catholics? Protestants? Mennonites? **How about Islam?**

- Beheading Rev. 20:4
- Forced conversions Rev. 13:15-17
- Rape of captives Zech. 14:2
- Hatred of Israel Ezekiel 36:3-7; Rev. 12:13,17
- Filled with Blasphemy Dan. 11:36; Rev. 13:1,5-6; 17:3
- Killing Christians Rev. 13:7; 17:6,14
- Demands to be worshipped Rev. 13:4, 8
- Worships a god of war (Jihad) Dan. 11:38-39
- A Political/Religious Government Rev. 17:18
- Wants Jerusalem for their Capitol Dan. 11:45
- Controls 25% of earth's population Rev. 6:8

VIII. Gog and Magog - Muslim Armies Invade Israel and March on Jerusalem

The nations listed in Ezekiel 38-39 in the Battle of Gog and Magog (Armageddon) reveals that Turkey, the former head of the Ottoman Caliphate for 500 years, is the leader of a massive coalition of Muslim nations against Israel:

| Muslim Coalition - Ezekiel 38:1-6 | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------------------|
| • | Gog | Antichrist |
| • | Magog | Turkey |
| • | Persia | Iran } All Muslim Army |
| • | Cush | Sudan |
| • | Put | Libya |

IX. The Mahdi: Islam’s Awaited Messiah

The most anticipated prophecy that Muslims await is the coming of a man known as “the Mahdi.”

In the simplest of terms, the Mahdi is Islam’s messiah or savior. The “rising” of the Mahdi is to the majority of Muslims what the return of Jesus is to Christians. While Christians await the return of Jesus the Messiah to fulfill all of God’s prophetic promises to the people of God, Muslims await the appearance of the Mahdi to fulfill these purposes. Thus it is fair to say that “Jews are waiting for the Messiah, Christians are waiting for Jesus, and Muslims are waiting for both the Mahdi and Jesus.

Throughout the Islamic world today there is a call for the restoration of the Islamic caliphate. The caliph (khalifa) in Islam may be viewed somewhat as the Pope of the Muslims. Muslims view the caliph as the vice regent for Allah on the earth. It is important to understand that when Muslims call for the restoration of the caliphate, it is ultimately the Mahdi that they call for, for the Mahdi is the awaited final caliph of Islam. Muslims everywhere will be obligated to follow the Mahdi. As he relates to Bible prophecy, the Mahdi is the coming Antichrist.

Muslim's believe the Mahdi to be a future Muslim world leader who will not only rule over the Islamic world, but the non-Muslim world as well. The Mahdi is said to lead a world revolution that will establish a new Islamic world order throughout the entire earth.

Here we see the diabolical influence of Satan preparing his Muslim followers to recognize the relationship of the Mahdi (Antichrist) to the timing of a 7-year peace agreement with Israel (Aaron). Sound familiar? The prophet Daniel says the same thing and associates the arrival of Antichrist with a 7-year covenant he makes with Israel that begins the 7-year Tribulation period (Daniel 9:27).

X. COMPARING THE BIBLICAL ANTICHRIST AND THE MAHDI

The story of the Mahdi is purposely crafted to pattern the Biblical account of Antichrist. There are dozens of examples of this and just too many parallels for it to be a coincidence. To describe this phenomenon, I like to use the term 'anti-parallelism'. It suggests that the parallels have OPPOSITE PURPOSES. The Quran is full of anti-parallelism in correlation to the Bible, and the coming of the Mahdi is the pinnacle of this demonic methodology.

ANTICHRIST AS A POWERFUL POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADER

From the Bible, we learn that, in the last days, the Antichrist will emerge as a man who will lead a very powerful world empire, the likes of which history has yet to produce. His powerful leadership role is first described in the Prophet Daniel. (Dan. 7:19-20; 11:36-39)

THE MAHDI AS POWERFUL RULER

The Mahdi, like Antichrist, is also prophesied to be a political and military world leader unparalleled by any other throughout world history. The Mahdi is said to "fight against the forces of evil, lead a world revolution, and set up a new world order based on justice, righteousness, and virtue." In the last days, according to Islamic tradition, the Mahdi is said to preside over the entire earth as the final caliph of Islam and Islam will be victorious over all religions.

ANTICHRIST AS A SPIRITUAL LEADER

The Bible establishes the fact that Antichrist will be a spiritual leader whose authority will be acknowledged worldwide. After examining his role as a religious leader, many Bible prophecy teachers have talked about the coming of the “one world religion” but I believe that view is inaccurate and can be corrected through a more in-depth analysis of Antichrist’s belief’s aligning with Islam.

In the Book of Revelation we read that the beast (revived Islamic Caliphate) will both inspire and demand worship. This worship will be directed at both Satan, referred to as “the dragon,” and Antichrist’s empire, referred to as the “beast”:

Men worshiped the dragon (Satan/Allah) because he had given authority to the beast (Islamic Empire), and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?”... All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world. (Revelation 13:4, 8)

THE MAHDI AS A SPIRITUAL LEADER

Likewise, it almost goes without saying, the Mahdi of Islam will be the leader of a worldwide worship movement, a worship movement that will seek to cause anyone who practices any religion other than Islam to renounce his faith and worship Allah, the god of Islam. The Mahdi will govern the people to follow the Prophet and establish Islam on Earth.

ANTICHRIST’S TARGETED CAMPAIGN AGAINST JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

The Bible is very clear that Satan, through Antichrist, will specifically target Jews and then Christians for death. In Revelation 12-13 we read another prophetic passage of Scripture rich with symbolic language. Initially it is slightly difficult to understand, but after the symbols are explained, it becomes very clear: A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. (Revelation 12:1)

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. (Revelation 12:1-6, 9, 13-14, 17) We see that Satan is “enraged at the woman” (Israel) and “went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”

Israel’s “other offspring” are those Christians who indeed “obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.” This makes specific reference to Satan making a direct target of both Jews and Christians.

THE MAHDI'S TARGETED CAMPAIGN AGAINST JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

Interestingly enough, Islamic tradition speaks much of the Mahdi's special calling to convert Christians and Jews to Islam yet speaks very little specifically of conversions from other faiths. It seems as though converting Christians and Jews to Islam will be the primary evangelistic thrust of the Mahdi. The following quote from Ayatollah Ibrahim Amini clearly articulates this vision: "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."

And we cannot forget the infamous hadith that has become a favorite of many Muslim anti-Semites. Again, note that it is speaking specifically about "the last hour":

"The last hour would not come unless the Muslims will fight against the Jews and the Muslims would kill them until the Jews would hide themselves behind a stone or a tree and a stone or a tree would say: Muslim, or the servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me; come and kill him; but the tree Gharqad would not say, for it is the tree of the Jews."

A MILITARY ATTACK AGAINST ISRAEL AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JERUSALEM AND THE TEMPLE MOUNT AS THE SEAT OF AUTHORITY

The Bible teaches that Antichrist, with his multi-nation coalition, will attack Israel, and specifically Jerusalem, to conquer it.

I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people [who submit to Antichrist's rule] will not be taken from the city. (Zechariah 14:2) According to the Bible, after this attack, Antichrist will set up his "throne" in "God's Temple." The Apostle Paul lays this out quite clearly:

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. (2 Thess. 2:4)

THE MAHDI'S ATTACK OF JERUSALEM AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ISLAMIC CALIPHATE FROM JERUSALEM

One of the great themes of prophecy is the battle over Jerusalem. Satan will use the Mahdi to lay claim to God's city and move Antichrist to capture the eastern half of Jerusalem in the middle of the Tribulation (Zech. 14:1-3; Matt. 24:15-16).

In their book *Al Mahdi and the End Time*, authors Muhammad ibn Izzat and Muhammad Arif write:

“Jerusalem will be the location of the rightly guided caliphate and the center of Islamic rule, which will be headed by Imam al-Mahdi... This will abolish the leadership of the Jews.”

How interesting that Muslims believe the Mahdi will rule from Jerusalem. Followers of Islam are being deceived by Satan to such an extent they will accept everything Antichrist does to be the activities of their messiah! The followers of Allah may feel the Mahdi is their messiah but we know him as Antichrist.

Likewise the Mahdi is said to attack Jerusalem and reconquer it for Islam in order to establish Islamic rule over the earth from Jerusalem:

“Armies carrying black flags will come from Khurasan [Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan]. No power will be able to stop them and they will finally reach the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem where they will erect their flags. Jerusalem will be the location of the final caliphate and the center of Islamic rule, which will be headed by Imam al-Mahdi.”

The military campaign against Jerusalem and the establishment of the Islamic caliphate there likewise will not result in a benevolent rule over the Jews by the Mahdi. They will abolish the leadership of the Jews and put an end to their domination over the Holy Land.

While the similarities between the Antichrist and the Mahdi that we have already discussed are astonishing, I believe that the specificity of this next parallel is the most revealing.

ANTICHRIST’S SEVEN-YEAR TREATY WITH ISRAEL

After rising to power, and as a prelude to his invasion of Israel, Antichrist is said to initiate a treaty with the nation of Israel for seven years:

He (Antichrist) will confirm a covenant with many for 7 years. In the middle of the “seven” he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. (Daniel 9:27)

In context, this verse shows us that Antichrist will establish a “covenant” with Israel for seven years, giving Israel a false sense of security. The agreement also allows the Jews to rebuild their Temple. The most amazing aspect of this treaty that the Mahdi makes with Israel is its 7-year timeframe.

THE MAHDI'S SEVEN-YEAR TREATY

The Mahdi is said to initiate a last day peace agreement with Israel. The specific timeframe given for the treaty is the same as Antichrist's peace treaty—seven years! Citing hadiths that speak of the Mahdi's emergence and rule, Muhammad Ali ibn Zubair relates this prophecy:

The Prophet said: "There will be four peace agreements between you and the Romans. The fourth will be mediated through a person who will be from the progeny of Aaron [the brother of Moses] and will be upheld for seven years." The people asked, "O Prophet Muhammad, who will be the imam [leader] of the people at that time?" The Prophet said: "He (Mahdi) will be from my progeny and will be exactly forty years of age."

Through this deceptive prophecy, we see Satan's plan to have Muslims anticipate that the arrival of the Mahdi can be associated with a seven-year agreement with Israel. Thus any Muslims not on board yet with the Mahdi and his Caliphate will begin to join ranks as they hear of the peace agreement made by their long-awaited messiah! It's the sign they've been waiting for to be assured of following the Mahdi no matter the cost. This will soon lead the followers of Antichrist to take the "mark of the beast" in order to profess their loyalty to the Caliphate but once taken, it also will assure their judgment by God almighty.

If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, ¹⁰ they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.

Revelation 14:9-11

THE MAHDI SPIRIT OF IRAN

The leaders of Iran are fanatical in their expectation of the coming Mahdi in the last days. It is also the basis of Tehran's foreign and military policies. Because of this it is impossible to overemphasize the Iranian regime's visceral commitment to their nuclear program.

In Iran today, the Imam Mahdi is invoked in every public gathering, both civil and military, and they readily admit he is the singular inspiration for every policy, every tactic, every mission. Accordingly, in Iran the Mahdi is nothing less than the regime's reason for its existence and, as such, its singular motivation to wipe out Israel in the future.

In the words of Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei, "The Iranian nation enjoys a great privilege today: the atmosphere of the country is an atmosphere of Imam Mahdi." Khamenei states, "many of our great scholars have personally met with this Imam during his occultation (in hiding); many have made a pledge to him in person."

THE MAHDI GOES TO JERUSALEM

Believers who study Bible prophecy should find it significant that the ultimate mission of the Mahdi is to rule the world from Jerusalem. Of course, according to the Bible, the apocalyptic battle for Jerusalem is the Battle of Armageddon and is the single greatest event of end-time prophecy. Islam and Christianity are on an unavoidable collision course with Jerusalem the prize. According to Bible prophecy, Satan will use Antichrist to lay claim to God's city in the middle of the Tribulation (Zech. 14:1-3; Matt. 24:15-16).

In the book *Mahdi and the End Time*, authors Muhammad Izzat and Muhammad Arif write:

“Jerusalem will be the location of the rightly guided caliphate and the center of Islamic rule, which will be headed by Imam al-Mahdi... This will abolish the leadership of the Jews.”

How interesting that Muslims believe the Mahdi will rule from Jerusalem! Followers of Islam are being deceived by Satan to such an extent they will accept everything Antichrist does to be the activities of their messiah! The followers of Allah may feel the Mahdi is their messiah but we know him as Antichrist.

He (Antichrist) will pitch his royal tents (his capitol) between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain (Temple Mount). Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him. (Daniel 11:45)

CONCLUSION

So in conclusion, we see that the most unique and distinguishing aspects of Antichrist's person, mission and actions are matched in amazing degree by the descriptions of the Mahdi as found in Islam. Satan has deceived Muslims to be looking for and anticipating their messiah the Mahdi. He has accomplished his deception through the teachings of the Quran and through Islamic traditions that are not part of the Quran which he can change and adopt as the situation arises.

The enemy now has one-quarter of the world awaiting the arrival of Antichrist who they think is their coming messiah. When the Rapture occurs and Antichrist begins to rise, the Islamic world will be ecstatic to accept the Mahdi, the Twelfth Imam, as their long-awaited messiah.

It is more than a coincidence that Islamic prophecies so closely align with the description of end-time events prophesied in the Bible. Tragically, the apocalyptic battle that Muslims are longing for, and the messiah-figure they eagerly await are the Battle of Armageddon which will be led by Antichrist. As Satan's progeny, this cunningly deceptive, false messiah will seek to usurp the title and authority that rightfully belongs to our Lord.

In that day, the King of kings will descend from heaven to crush Satan's seed, establish His Kingdom, and rule the earth from Jerusalem.