

Islam

Daniel 2:37-45

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1/19/2020



Provocative Question: Does Islam have a role in Bible prophecy?

Why don't we hear more about Islam in church?

- It is not directly mentioned in Scripture.
- It is not politically correct to malign minority worldviews.
- Church avoid anything that smacks of prophecy.

Why is it important to recognize the role of Islam in the return of Christ?

- It is part of watching for the Lord's return.
- Truth resonates with people and God can use that to lead people to the One who personifies Truth.

What has caused Islam to become more prominent today than a few decades ago?

- Islam has emerged in prominence as Jihadists work to realize their vision of the world being united under their religion.
- The Bible tells us there will be a global religion of the Antichrist and we can see the stage being set for this in Islam.
- The amazing growth in influence of Islam is a critical sign of the times. Those professing Islam comprise about 22% of the global population and is growing while those professing Christianity is about 32% and dropping.
- Islam wasn't really on the radar screen in the United States until 9/11/2001. Since then, it has caused the U.S. to spend its blood and treasure to keep terror groups from being a bigger problem than they are.

Is Islam really a religion of peace?

- Most Muslims are cultural and not religious considering Jihad to be only a spiritual struggle.
- However, those who truly embrace Islam and follow what the Quran actually says are compelled to kill infidels for Allah...

"Fight and slay the pagans (infidels) wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem of war" (Sura 9:5).

"Let not the unbelievers think they will ever get away... strike terror into the enemy of God and your enemy... rouse the faithful to arms!" (Sura 8:59).

- Islam also teaches that the only way a follower can know he is going to paradise is to die in the process of killing infidels. That is why Islam is the perfect religion to motivate suicide murdering terrorists.
- Islam is really a very bloody religion. The word "Islam" means "submission." If the Sharia Law of the Quran is resisted, a bloody penalty is called for: *"Their punishment is execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from the opposite sides, or exile from the land"* (Sura 5:33).

How is the increased activity of Islamic jihadists contributing to the globalization of the nations?

The nations have had to work together more in order to combat terrorism.

How does the Islamist's beliefs about the end times fit into what the Bible says will happen?

- Muslims expect their messiah, al Mahdi (meaning "one of the moon"), to return in the midst of turmoil between nations to unite the world under Islam. This al Mahdi will be assisted by the return of the "prophet" Jesus who will convince Christians that the Bible was corrupted and they should follow al Mahdi.
- There are striking parallels between al Mahdi and the Beast of Revelation as well as the Islamic prophet Jesus and the False Prophet of Revelation.
- So, it is easy to see how the worldwide religion of the Antichrist is some amalgamation of Islam and apostate Christianity.

How else might we know that Islam will be a major factor in the end times?

Because of the judgment God declares on so many Islamic nations in Scripture. Over and over again, God proclaims *"the burden against"* nations that are now Islamic: Egypt (Isaiah 19), Babylon (Isaiah 13), Edom (Isaiah 21:11), Arabia (Isaiah 21:13) and Syria (Isaiah 17).

What indications are there that Islam had demonic origins?

- An angel dictated the Quran to Mohammad. *“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed”* (Galatians 1:8).
- Islam is an end times doctrine of demons which is designed to lead people away from the God of the Bible (1 Timothy 4:1).
- Islam has been used by Satan to deceive and control people on a large scale: *“For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light”* (2 Corinthians 11:14).
- It is thus interesting to note that the Quran refers to Allah, the god of Islam, as *“the great deceiver”* (Surah 3:54).
- Islam is very works-based requiring their followers to earn salvation by observing the “Five Pillars of the Faith” though dying while waging Jihad is the only certain way to heaven.
- Islam is the only religion that institutionalizes killing as a way to force converts.
The time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service (John 16:2)

What does the Islamic concept of "taqiyya" which encourages Muslims to be deceptive to further their religious cause tell us about the origins of Islam?

The devil... is a liar and the father of it (John 8:44)

It is part of the Islamic culture to lie about their religion to outsiders. It boggles the mind how people taught to hide the truth can believe their religion is from God and reveals its demonic origins.

What can we learn about Islam from the symbols they use?

The crescent moon – they worship a god of human creation derived from Bel, the moon god Babylonians worshipped which had a crescent moon as an emblem. In pre-Islamic Arabia, Allah was recognized as a moon god before Muhammad declared he was the only god.

Star & Crescent Moon – Islam began as an eastern religion and the east is where the morning begins, hence the “morning star.” It is interesting to note that Satan is also called Lucifer which means “morning star” or “son of the morning star.”

Green – Muhammad instituted green as the color of Islam because he described paradise as being filled with green and the people there would wear green garments of fine silk. Thus the dominate color on most of the flags of Islamic countries is green.

Sword – symbols of swords are on many Islamic flags. It has been a long tradition within Islam to kill with the sword, even in these modern times. Indeed, the Muslims’ favorite way to kill infidels is to behead them with a sword.

Is there any significance of the fourth horse of the Apocalypse (Revelation 6:2-8) being green?

(Most English Bible translations as being pale, but the original Greek word is “*chloros*” which is translated “green” wherever else it is used.)

The colors of the four horses of the Apocalypse are significant and there is no such thing as a green horse.
white horse – carries a leader appearing to be a “good” guy (the Antichrist)

red horse – represents a lot of blood shed due to war

black horse – represents a scarcity of basic necessities

green horse – a key to the religion that inspires all the killing

What other indications are there that the Fourth Horse of the Apocalypse could refer to Islam?

Revelation 6:8-9 – *So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.*

Swords, the favorite tool of Islamic execution will play a significant role during the Tribulation...

Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God (Revelation 20:4)

Hunger – Have you ever considered why most famines occur where Islamists are active? It isn’t a matter of there being enough food in the world to feed the hungry; it is a problem of distribution. And Islamists use this as a way to control people and to kill their political enemies.

Beasts of the earth – Islamic Jihadists are always pursuing more ways to make a bigger impact with their terrorism. So that is why they covet getting their hands on weapons of mass destruction. The poor man’s WMD is a biological weapon using bacteria or viruses that are very small
“beasts of the earth.”

What were the seven empires that lay the foundation for the coming Antichrist?

There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition (Revelation 17:10-11)

When this was written, the Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, and Greeks had fallen. Rome was the one that “is” and they morphed into the Byzantine Empire which was the Eastern leg of the Roman Empire. The one that would come best describes the Ottoman Empire as the seventh empire ruling over Jerusalem. The eighth kingdom ruling over Jerusalem will be a derivative of the seven empires that preceded it.

Daniel 2:37-45

³⁷ You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;
³⁸ and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. ³⁹ But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰ And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. ⁴¹ Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. ⁴² And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. ⁴³ As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. ⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. ⁴⁵ Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

What do the materials in Nebuchadnezzar's statue dream represent?

These are the Gentile empires that would rule over Israel until the Messiah returns.

- Gold – Babylonian Empire
- Silver – Medes & Persians
- Bronze – Greek Empire
- Iron – Roman Empire
- Iron & Clay – Government of the Antichrist

What characteristics are seen in the succession of kingdoms?

The succeeding kingdom is inferior to the previous one.

How is increasing inferiority seen in these kingdoms?

As the materials in the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream got progressively less valuable, each succeeding government gets weaker. There is inherent weakness in democracies as opposed to monarchies. They went from an absolute monarchy to an increasing sharing of power with others including their citizens.

How did each of these kingdoms come into power?

By military conquest

Why is the government of the Antichrist often called the revived Roman Empire?

The continuity of the iron

What would the clay represent?

The Ottoman Empire took over the Byzantine leg of the Roman Empire by military conquest. This was the same for each of the kingdoms that have ruled over Jerusalem. There were also many times in the history of the Ottoman Empire that they were allied with the remnants of the Roman Empire. Throughout their history, the land ruled by the Ottomans and Rome jockeyed back and fourth from the time the Ottomans came on the scene up until Israel regained authority over Jerusalem in 1967. Israel let the Islamists hold onto the Temple Mount so technically the heart of Jerusalem is still being “trampled by Gentiles” (Luke 21:24).

Who is the “they” in Daniel 2:43?

As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

- These could be a reference to fallen angels mixing it up with human government since they are apparently not of the “seed of men.”
- But these are not represented by the clay because that would be a category error and it doesn't fit what has happened in history with Gentile kingdoms ruling over Jerusalem.

How is it that the iron and clay kingdoms do not adhere to one another?

- The rule of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem have vacillated between the Revived Roman and Ottoman empires “until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” (Luke 21:24).
These cultures not being able to mix will cause there to be conflict between the forces of Islam and Western Civilization until Christ returns to end all wars.
- While Islamists have enclaves in Western nations and visa versa, there is virtually no assimilation either way.

Verse 44, what will supersede the kingdom of the Antichrist?

The kingdom of Christ on earth (aka the Millennial Kingdom) which will precede the eternal state as a continuation of the kingdom of Christ on earth.

What is the significance of the stone not cut with human hands?

This represents the government of God which will destroy human government and replace it with Himself.

How is it likely that the Antichrist will be Islamic?

After the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary (Daniel 9:26)

In context, the “prince who is to come” refers to the Antichrist and he is of the people who destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 70 A.D. History tells us that the Roman army did this; Josephus said it was the Fretensis (10th) legion that destroyed the temple. While the Roman 10th legion had Roman leadership, it was made up of soldiers from what is now Syria and Turkey. So this should lead us to expect the Antichrist to come from this region which may mean he’d be Muslim.

Antiochus Epiphanies slaughtered a pig to Zeus on the temple altar in 167 BC... How does this indicate that the Antichrist is likely to be Islamic?

They shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation (Daniel 11:31)

Antiochus Epiphanies is a type of the Antichrist. It is interesting to note that Antiochus Epiphanies came from the Seleucid division of the Grecian Empire that was stationed in today's Turkey, Syria and Iran.

How do the characteristics of the Antichrist described in Daniel 7:25 reinforce the idea that the Antichrist could be Islamic?

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 (Daniel 7:25)

A major characteristic of Islamic nations is the implementation of Sharia Law which foreshadows what that Antichrist will do. The Antichrist will change laws that have been derived from a biblical worldview. And this is what Sharia Law does. So it is likely that the Antichrist will implement some derivative of Sharia Law.

How is the spirit of Antichrist seen in Sharia Law?

Its includes a death penalty for blasphemy which is defined as mocking Islam and its prophet Mohammad. Islamic nations also change their calendar from one based on the birth of Christ to the Islamic calendar which began when Muhammad emigrated from Mecca to Medina. We can expect the Antichrist to throw out anything inspired by Christ.

What hope is there for Muslims?

I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions (Joel 2:28)

While missionaries are forbidden in many Islamic nations, this has not kept God from revealing Himself to people in

those nations. Revelation 5:9 tells us that God will save people from all nations. He prefers to bless His followers by involving them in the process but when Satan’s followers keep that from happening, God’s will is still done; “I will do all My pleasure” (Isaiah 46:10). There are many testimonies on You Tube and other places of people from Islamic nations who came to Christ as a result of a direct revelation from Him. Jesus Himself appeared to them in a dream or a vision and they responded to Him even under penalty of death in those countries. God is reaping a great harvest from every nation!