

Chapter 9 The Revived and Last Caliphate

Introduction.

Indonesian news sources, *The Times of India* reporting. August 12, 2007.

JAKARTA: *More than 70,000 members and supporters of the hardline Hizbut Tahrir Muslim group on Sunday held a massive gathering at a sports stadium in the Indonesian capital. Almost all but one seated area of the stadium was packed with members and supporters of Hizbut Tahrir, . . . The event, touted by the group's spokesman, Muhammad Ismail Yusanto, as an international conference entitled, "It is Now Time for the Caliphate to Reign," is hearing several speakers, including foreign invitees. Hizbut Tahrir advocates the return of a caliphate -- Islamic rule -- to govern the world.*¹

Did you catch the last line? “. . . *the return of the caliphate - Islamic rule - to govern the world.*”

The Bible says that in the Last Days a kingdom will arise that will dominate the entire world. We have interpreted that kingdom to be spiritual in nature, and satan will use it to “cloak” his war against God. In our last chapter, we identified Shi`ah Islam's coming al-Mahdi as the prophesied Antichrist of the Last Days. Al-Mahdi met the four-fold requirement of Revelation 17:8, 11, as the “eighth head” of the scarlet beast. We also introduced the concept that, as eighth head of the scarlet beast (Antichrist), al-Mahdi will lead Islam in its subjection of the world. This chapter will give us the Bible's chapter and verse to support that conclusion. As we move into these next chapters, we will begin the process of refining the time period that we are talking about in the Last Days. The Last Days will conclude with a seven year period known as the “Tribulation,” just prior to the return of Jesus Christ. This period will be a time of great distress the Bible describes as having “never occurred since there was a nation until that time” (Daniel 12:1).

The Caliphate of Islam - a brief review. When we use the word “caliphate,” we are talking about a united Islamic community (*umma*) led by a single religious, political, and military head referred to as “caliph” (or sultan, emir, king²), and governed according to *sharia* (the law of Islam as revealed in the Qur'an). The caliph's “kingdom,” is the entire “community” of Islam, and the kingdom he rules is referred to as the “caliphate.” The last caliphate of Islam was the Ottoman caliphate (modern day Turkey, until 1923) which repealed *sharia*, as well as eliminated the office and role of “caliph.”

The Contemporary Relevance of the Revival or Return of the Islamic Caliphate. Consider what the contemporary experts have said relative to the importance of a revived caliphate of Islam:

Dr. Bruce Lawrence, Professor of Religion at Duke University,³ in his compilation of the statements of Osama bin Laden, makes the following statements:

*“For many radical Islamist movements who identify the root cause of the Muslim world's problems as a decline in spirituality and religious observance, the restoration of the Caliphate is a priority.”*⁴

“Since the abolition of the Ottoman Caliphate, no country has replaced Turkey as the Muslim world’s center. According to Sayyid Qutb [the late Egyptian intellectual whose philosophy is thought to be the foundation of Islamic belief of Al Qaeda⁵], in order to bring about a new Caliphate governed by God’s law there must be a revival in one Muslim country, enabling it to attain that status. When the Taliban captured Kabul in 1996, Afghanistan became an official Islamic state, or emirate, ruled by shari’a, and in the view of bin Laden and others, the strongest candidate for a new Caliphate.”⁶

Dr. Timothy R. Furnish adds,

“In recent years, there has been a growing debate among Islamists about the need to restore the caliphate. One international Islamist movement, Hizb at-Tahrir (“the Liberation Party”), has kept this idea alive intellectually for over fifty years by publishing tracts on the subject. Members of the party, and those Islamists influenced by them, argue that a prerequisite for the empowerment of the Muslims is the restoration of the caliphate in some “liberated” part of the Muslims’ world. This pure Islamic state, under a caliph, would then turn into a base for further expansion.”⁷

Now we will look at what the Bible predicts about a revived kingdom of the beast.

The last kingdom of the beast - and the last caliphate of Islam. Once again, it is to Revelation 17 and the scarlet beast that we must focus on. The Apostle John is carried away into a desert wilderness where he sees a “woman” riding a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns (17:3). We will discuss who the woman is in a following chapter; for now, we must look at the scarlet beast. Here is the passage:

Revelation 17:10 *“and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. 11 “And the beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.”*

We have already interpreted the “eighth head” of the scarlet beast to be al-Mahdi of Shi`ah Islam. Notice, however, Revelation 17:11 has a second metaphor that must be interpreted as well: the text states, *“and the beast . . . is one of the seven. . .”* What is “one of the seven”?

The Characteristics of the Heads of the Scarlet Beast. Here is the text we will look at next: Revelation 17:10 *“and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.”*

Here are the characteristics that Revelation 17:10 requires to be met for the seven heads (“kings”) of the beast:

1. Five have “fallen;”
2. One “is”;
3. One “has not yet come,” but when he comes “it will remain a little while.”

Return to our earlier chapter where we interpreted the seven heads of the beast from the sea to be the seven caliphal periods, beginning with Muhammad, followed by six caliphates and six caliphal periods of Islam:

Heads	Regime that Claimed the Caliphate of Islam	Regime Period	Caliphate
#1	The Quraysh - Muhammad (and the four Rightly Guided Caliphs, Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali);	621 - 661AD	NA
#2	Umayyads	661 - 749 AD	1 st
#3	Abbasids	749 - 932	2 nd
#4	Buyids in Baghdad Fatimids in Egypt	932 -1055 909 - 1171	3 rd
#5	Seljuk Turks in Baghdad Ayyubids in Egypt	1055 -1258 1169 - 1260	4 th
#6	Mongols in Baghdad Mamluks in Egypt and Syria	1258 -1350 1260 - 1517	5 th
#7	Ottomans	1342 - 1923 until the 8 th	6 th
#8	Last Caliphate, led by al-Mahdi	7 Years	7 th

There are five “fallen” heads (out of the seven heads) of the scarlet beast. Revelation 17:10 tells us that five of the heads are *fallen*. “Fallen,” in the original Greek, has the meaning of a *violent overthrow* rather than having simply ended or having been replaced by majority vote or similar event.⁸ The word “fallen” translates from the Greek, “*epesan*,” (from verb “*pipto*”) and is defined by A T Robertson as follows:

*“The five are fallen (hoi pente epesan). Second aorist active indicative of “pipto” with the -an ending. Common for the downfall of kings (Ezekiel 29:5; Ezekiel 30:6; Isaiah 21:9, etc.). See 2 Samuel 3:38.”*⁹ (Emphasis added)

Vincent’s word studies adds:

*“Lit., fell. Constantly used in the Septuagint of the violent fall or overthrow of kings or kingdoms. See Ezekiel 29:5; 30:6; Isaiah 21:9; Jeremiah 50:15; 51:8. Word Studies in the New Testament.”*¹⁰ (Emphasis added)

The text is describing the five “fallen” regimes of Islam beginning with the Umayyads and continuing through the Mongols (1258 - 1350), and the five caliphal periods of time that each regime was in dominion. Each of these Islamic dynasties was *overthrown* by a successor Islamic regime, and each regime was, or shortly thereafter, became Islamic. We will discuss

the 6th regime, the Ottomans, next; but *they were not overthrown as the preceding five were*. The five “fallen” Islamic regimes and their respective five caliphate periods are reflected in our table, beginning with the Umayyads through the Mongols. They are numbered heads #2 - #6. The first head of the beast symbolizes the “Rightly Guided Caliphs,” including Muhammad followed by his first four successors who were appointed by the Companions upon the death of each caliph. As we stated in our preceding chapter, the first head is not numbered because the *first caliphate in Islamic history begins after the divide of Islam between Sunnis and Shi`ahs at the Battle of Karbala, 680 AD*.

The point? *Islam has five “fallen” historical regimes over five historical caliphal periods of time. The scarlet beast has five “fallen” heads and each fallen head represents one of these five fallen caliphates.*

The head that “is” – the 7th head of the scarlet beast and sixth dynasty period. The Ottomans, the sixth regime of Islam, are not included in the “five fallen” heads because *they are not a fallen regime*. The Ottoman Empire was located in modern day Turkey. The Turks repealed Islamic law and abolished the Islamic state and the caliphate in 1923. The Ottomans were the caliphate of Islam for the longest period of time, almost 600 years, whereupon Turkey became a self-governing Republic with the repeal of sharia in 1923. *The Turks never came under the “dominion” of a successor nation or people group, Islamic or otherwise.*

Up until the Turks abolished the caliphate, we could interpret them as the head that “is.” Thereafter, Islam had no caliph or caliphate. Yet, Islam still existed in spite of the absence of a caliph or caliphate. It still exists as a religion and an empire, although a “caliph-less” one. While in this “caliph-less” state, Islam “is.” The time will come when Islam will once again be represented by a caliph, governed by *sharia*, and a united umma, but until that event occurs, Islam simply exists. During this period, Islam is like a bear in hibernation. It is still alive, but it is “dormant,” waiting for the time the caliphate will be revived.

Consider the following description of a similar waiting period within Shi`ah Islam for their Mahdi. The report comes from Amir Taheri, former executive editor of *Kayhan*, Iran's largest daily newspaper, who describes Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, president of Iran, and his quest for the coming of al-Mahdi.

“From childhood, Shi`ah boys are told to cultivate two qualities. The first is “entezar,” the capacity patiently to wait for the Imam to return. The second is “taajil,” the actions needed to hasten the return. For the Imam's return will coincide with an apocalyptic battle between the forces of evil and righteousness, with evil ultimately routed..”¹¹ (Emphasis added)

Thus, at the present time in human history, Islam “is.” It exists without a caliph and during a period of its history where “waiting” best describes its spiritual and political state. We need only read the daily newspapers to be made aware that it is “waking up” from its “sleep.” As we will see in our next chapter, the “tonic” for its revival was a 20th century discovery in the desert sands of Saudi Arabia. Petroleum brought the Muslim lands of the Mideast from near poverty to the richest nations, per capita, in the world. It is out of this economic windfall that Islam has, and will be, reborn to complete its worldwide jihad.

The head that “has not yet come must remain a little while.” Revelation 17:10 tells us the

scarlet beast, as a united empire, “has not yet come.” Thus, this will be a future regime that has yet to unite. This future regime will exist for only a short period of time. The short period of time for this future regime is defined for us by scripture – *seven years*, the period referred to as the Tribulation period. This kingdom will be the last kingdom and the kingdom present upon the return of Jesus Christ and of judgment day for the beast (Daniel 7:21-22, 26-27). Thus, it is the seventh and last caliphal period of the beast.

The Meaning of “One of the Seven.” Here is a summary of the characteristics that must be met to identify the second metaphorical prophecy of the scarlet beast, i.e., “one of the seven.” Each characteristic is like a clue to a riddle, and all must be met in order to solve the riddle. Furthermore, they can only be met at a precise time in human history. Until this time is “now,” the clues are unable to be properly applied because the future events cannot be interpreted since all we have is a metaphor. The interpreter cannot possibly apply them without a modern day application. Therefore, until the time is right, the clues are meaningless. The time is “now.” Look at each characteristic with Islam in mind and with the “pieces of the puzzle” that we have already laid in Islam:

1. The revived caliphate has “not yet come” (17:10). The Turks repealed the caliphate. There is no present caliphate of Islam. Thus, to humanity *at this precise time*, a revived caliphate is a future event, it has “not yet come.” When this revived caliphate comes, it will remain for a “little while,” i.e., seven years.
2. This revived caliphate will be the final caliphal period of Islam, beginning with the first regime, the Umayyads, who led Islam for the period of time, 661 - 749 AD. After Muhammad and the Rightly Guided Caliphs, there were six regimes and six caliphal periods. Five of the regimes were defeated by a successor Islamic regime – they are the “five fallen” empires. With the repeal of Sharia by the Turks, the sixth head, represents Islam that continues to “exist” in spite of the absence of a caliphate of Islam in the world. This is the sixth head that “is.” The revived caliphate is the future caliphate that will one day be “revived” for a “little while.” The Bible counts this last regime as the seventh head of the scarlet beast.
3. As stated in the prior chapter, this last regime will ultimately be led by the Antichrist, al-Mahdi, who “was,” “is not,” and “will come.” 17:8. *Thus, the Antichrist/false prophet will be the eighth leader or “eighth head” in the seventh caliphal period of Islam.*

Islam’s Dominion at the End of the Last Days. If the scarlet beast (as 8th head) symbolizes the Antichrist, al-Mahdi, and also symbolizes a revived caliphate (the seventh caliphate in the seventh caliphate period of Islam), are there other Bible passages which support a joining of Islamic forces with al-Mahdi in his holy war? Do these passages prophesy a coming successful domination by Islam of world forces?

Here are the Bible’s passages that prophesy of a coming domination of the world by a “beast”:

Daniel 7:23 *“Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms, and it will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.”* (Emphasis added)

Daniel 7:25 *‘And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law, and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.’* (Emphasis added)

Revelation 13:7 *“And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.” And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.” (Emphasis added)*

Revelation 13:15 *“And there was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast might even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.”¹⁶ (Emphasis added)*

Sounds like dominion of the entire world to me.

Does the Bible Prophecy of the World Converting to Islam? In the Last Days, there will be two religions – Islam, and the Christians who refuse to bow to Allah (*“everyone whose name has not been written . . . in the Lamb’s book of life”*):

Revelation 13:7 *“And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.”⁸ And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.”*

Daniel 7:25 *“And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.”*

Daniel 7:25 states that the saints will be “worn down,” translated from an Aramaic word meaning “to wear away” or “to wear out,” as one would “wear out a garment.”¹² Thus, the meaning of the word is that Christians (the “saints”) will be slowly impacted to the point of deep misery, but short of death.

Revelation 13:17 describes an economic impact upon the saints: *“and he provides that no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.”* The “mark of the beast” is symbolic for those who have converted to the religion of the beast, i.e., Islam. The entire world will have done this except for Christians (and Jews who will convert to Christianity upon the return of Jesus): Revelation 13:8 *“And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.”*

This time of great tribulation will be such that an apostasy will occur within Christianity; and those who are not truly “followers” will leave the faith to follow Islam. The Apostle Paul prophesies of this coming apostasy as follows:

2 Thessalonians 2: 3 *“Let no one in any way deceive you, for it [the return of Christ] will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.” (Emphasis added)*

We have already identified the “man of lawlessness” as the Antichrist, the last false prophet, al-Mahdi. The “apostasy” appears to describe those within the Christian faith (who were never actually converted to Christ) who turn to Islam in order to preserve their lives. Thus, Christians will be *worn down* by the economic, societal, and religious pressures exerted upon them by Islam (Daniel 7:25); but those who “overcome” will not convert. Their oppression seems to be limited to 3 ½ years:

Daniel 7:25 *“And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.”*

Revelation 13:5 “There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.”

Is this 3 ½ years the first half of the 7 or the last half of the 7. As we will see in a later chapter, it is the first 3 ½ years, the “time of the wrath of satan.”

What about those who do not “worship” the “beast”? Suppose someone does not convert to Islam? Suppose they are an atheist and just don’t believe in the whole “god-thing” in the first place. Revelation 13:15 tells us what will happen to them: *“And there was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast might even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.”*

If you wonder how likely this prophecy is to be fulfilled, consider this verse from the Qur’an:

“It is not for any Prophet to have prisoners until he make wide slaughter in the land..”
Qur’an 8:67 (Arberry, Arthur J., trans.)¹³

In other words, enough people will have to be killed to ensure that those remaining will submit to Islam if for no other reason than fear of being next in line to be killed.

Perhaps your question is this: What motivation does the “whole world” have to “worship the beast”? The sword can be used only so many times till it loses its “effectiveness.” Look at this passage and see if you see an extra motivation that the beast will have:

Revelation 13:16 *“And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand, or on their forehead, 17 and he provides that no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.”*

In other words, unless you have are identified with the “mark of the beast,” that is, unless you have converted to Islam, *you will not be able to buy or sell.* The “mark of the beast” and the “number of his name” is a metaphor that means an individual has submitted to the beast, in this case, Allah, and Islam. You won’t be able to buy food, clothing, provide shelter to your family or even get paid for the work you do or the products you sell. To put it bluntly, you will be “under siege.” A siege is a method of warfare whereby the enemy defeats his foe by cutting off all supplies, including food, water and subsistence. In this passage, unless you submit to Allah, you will be “under siege.” How will this “siege” take place? See the next chapter!

Muslim Prophecy about the role of “Jesus” (“Isa”) in Islam’s World Conversion. Both Sunni and Shi`ah prophecies of the Mahdi include prophecies about the return of “Jesus.” Dr. Sachedina describes Jesus’ return as coming sometime after the Mahdi has emerged and includes Jesus’ worship of the Mahdi, his killing of al-Dajjal (Islam’s “Antichrist”), his removal of crosses from Christian churches, and then his forcing of Jews and Christians to believe in the Mahdi or be killed :

He [Jesus] will descend in the Holy Land at a place called Afiq with a spear in his hand; he will kill with it al-Dajjal [the Antichrist of Islamic eschatology] and go to Jerusalem at the time of the morning prayer. The Imam [the Mahdi] will seek to yield his place to him, but Jesus will refuse and will worship behind him according to the Shari’a of Muhammad. Thereafter he [Jesus] will kill the swine, break the cross, and kill all the Christians who do not believe in him [the Mahdi]. Once al-Dajjal is killed, all the Peoples of the Book [i.e. Jews and Christians] will believe in him [the Mahdi] and will form one single umma of those who submit to the will of God. Jesus will establish the rule of justice and will remain for forty years, after which he will die. His funeral will take place in Medina, where he will be buried beside Muhammad, in a place between Abu Bakr and Umar.¹⁴

Muhammad is buried in Medina.¹⁵

But don’t forget that the “Jesus” of Islamic prophecy is not the same “Jesus” as known by Christians. A summary of the Islamic view is below:

“In general, the relevant Islamic traditions hold that the prophet Jesus will return by descending from heaven, likely onto a mosque in Damascus. This is the earthly Jesus returning, however, not the crucified and risen Christ of the Christian churches. In Islamic teachings, Allah does not suffer his prophets to die an ignominious death such as crucifixion, and before his death on the cross—or perhaps even before he was actually nailed to it—Jesus was taken up bodily to heaven and someone made to resemble him (most likely Judas Iscariot, his betrayer) died on the cross in his place. Jesus will be of medium height, “ruddy” in coloration, with hair that flows down his head as if he had just bathed. He will proclaim the rightness of Islam and the wrongheadedness of his putative followers who blasphemously deified him, and then he will go on to smash all the world’s crosses, kill all the pigs, and call all Ahl al-Katab, or “People of the Book” – Jews and Christians, fellow monotheists—to join the one true religion, Islam.”¹⁶

World Conquest According to Islamic Prophecy. In our opening chapters, we outlined the importance to all Muslims of eventual world conquest of the non-Muslim world.¹⁷ Muslims believe that al-Mahdi will be that leader who will succeed in establishing a world Islamic state. A Shi`ah tradition reports Muhammad as having stated to his son-in-law, Ali,

“There will be twelve Guides (Imams) after me, the first of whom is you, O’ Ali, and the last one will be the ‘Support’ (Al-Mahdi / Al-Qa’im), who with the grace of Allah, will gain victory over the whole east and west of the world.”¹⁸

“The followers of all other religions will embrace Islam and profess faith in one God, just as He has said in the Qur’an . . . Consequently, there will be no place on earth where testimony, “I bear witness that there is no god but [Allah],” and “I bear witness that

Muhammad is the Apostle of [Allah],” will not be heard. The faith that will be presented by the Qa’im will be the pure religion of Muhammad, Islam without any omission or innovation.

. . .¹⁹

Perhaps a quote taken from a Youtube video might make the prophecies of Islam a little more “current” and relevant. The individual on the video is an “Abu Hafs Al Misry, Rahimahullah.” He speaks from Khurasan (on the western border of Afghanistan; the eastern border of Iran). As he speaks, an armed gunmen can be seen behind him and to his side. Other male Muslim voices can be heard on the tape shouting agreement with his words. The translation of his speech follows (as taken from the translation content included with the video):

“We gather here from all over the world and we train from here and we prepare ourselves here and we unify all the Islamic groups here. Why? Because Allah, the Glorified, wants something from here. . . The liberation of Palestine is from here. The liberation of the Arabian Peninsula is from here. And the return of Muslim countries under the Islamic umbrella and the Islamic rule is from here. So be firm oh slaves of Allah. And spread the glad tidings and unite your efforts and join the blessed caravan. Join so that you, Oh Mujahid brother, will be a soldier and perform jihad in the path of Allah, and return again the spread of Islam all over the world. We must once again return as the leadership of humanity. This is our duty. Yes, this is our duty to return as leadership of humanity to the way of Allah, the Glorified. . . We praise Allah the Glorified for these blessed plans.”²⁰

Conclusion. The Bible prophecies of a false religion that the entire world, other than those whose names are in the Lamb’s book of life, will submit and convert to. But this will not be the End; only the beginning of the End. Satan’s strategy will ultimately fail but not until the world is purified of its evil and sin in the Tribulation, and satan, the beast, and the antichrist/false prophet are judged in the Lake of Fire.

Summary of Key Points in Chapter 9	
Point 1	Islam is presently without a “caliph” and without a “caliphate.” Many Muslims advocate the “return of the caliphate,” i.e., Islamic rule, before being able to successfully govern the entire world under its banner.
Point 2	The scarlet beast is prophesied to be “one of seven” kingdoms of the beast. These seven kingdoms include: 1) five that are “fallen”; 2) One that “is”; 3) One that “has not yet come,” and when it comes, “it will remain a little while.” Revelation 17:10-11
Point 3	Islam fulfills the criteria of the scarlet beast’s seven heads as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>5 fallen regimes:</i> Islam has five “fallen” historical regimes beginning with the Umayyads and ending with the Mongols. • <i>Islam “is.”</i> Islam has existed in a “caliphless” state since 1923 when the Ottomans repealed <i>sharia</i> and removed the office of “caliph” as leader of the Islamic state. During this period, Islam still exists. Therefore, Islam “is.” • <i>The seventh and last caliphate of Islam.</i> Islam’s “revived caliphate” will be its seventh of seven “caliphal periods.” This revived caliphate will “rise up” in the future (during its seventh “caliphate period”) and be led by its 8th “head,” al-Mahdi.
Point 4	The Bible prophesies of a future kingdom that will dominate the entire world. Only those whose names are in the “book of life” since the foundation of the world will not worship the beast. Islam meets the Bible’s prophetic criteria. In addition, from within Islam’s own prophecies, it is prophesied to one day have dominion over the entire world.

Chapter 9 - Endnotes

- 1 <http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/msid-2275183,prtpage-1.cms> (accessed August 14, 2007).
- 2 Bernard Lewis, *The Political Language of Islam*, for a complete discussion of this topic.
- 3 Available at, http://www.thenation.com/directory/bios/bruce_lawrence (accessed September 6, 2007).
- 4 Bruce Lawrence, p. 121, note 25.
- 5 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sayyid_Qutb (accessed August 20, 2007).
- 6 Bruce Lawrence, p. 42, note 25.
- 7 <http://www.meforum.org/article/159> (accessed August 14, 2007).
- 8 **Word Biblical Commentary, Revelation Vol 52c, electronic version, Thomas Nelson Publishers.**
- 9 Robertson, A.M., D.D., LL.D., Litt. D., Archibald Thomas. *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1930. WORDsearch CROSS e-book.
- 10 Vincent, Marvin R., *Word Studies in the New Testament*. New York: Scribners, 1887. WORDsearch CROSS e-book.
- 11 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2006/04/16/do1609.xml> (accessed February 6, 2008).
- 12 Stephen R. Miller, p. 214.
- 13 Arberry, Arthur J., trans. "THE SPOILS." In *The Koran Interpreted. Oxford Islamic Studies Online*, <http://www.oxfordislamicstudies.com/article/book/islam-9780192835017/islam-9780192835017-chapter-8?astart=68&asize=20> (accessed May 26, 2010).
- 14 Abdulaziz Abdulhussein Sachedina, *Islamic Messianism, The Idea of the Mahdi in Twelver Shi'ism*, p. 171-172.
- 15 Schubel, Vernon James . "Relics." In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World. Oxford Islamic Studies Online*, <http://www.oxfordislamicstudies.com/article/opr/t236/e0676> (accessed May 26, 2010).
- 16 Timothy R. Furnish, *Holiest Wars, Islamic Mahdis, Their Jihads, and Osama bin Laden*, p. 18.
- 17 Bernard Lewis, *The Political Language of Islam*, p. 72-73.
- 18 <http://www.shia.org/mehdi.html> (accessed July 16, 2008).
- 19 Sachedina, p. 174.
- 20 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BGIOWcXYNc> (accessed September 3, 2007).