

Islam - the Cloak of Antichrist in Last Days' Bible Prophecy

Introduction

September 6, 2008

The headlines were riveting! *Boston Globe* reporting, *Bloomberg News*, March 12, 2007,

"Halliburton Co., the world's second-largest oilfield-services provider, will move chief executive David Lesar to a new corporate headquarters in Dubai to help the company expand in the Middle East and Asia. . ."

Why would Halliburton Co, the international, multi-billion dollar, energy services giant, move its corporate headquarters from Houston, Texas, to Dubai? Nowadays, a multinational corporation can be managed from almost any city in the world. Its one thing to open a corporate office in Dubai, but to move the company headquarters there? *But then, if you think about it, . . .* This once rugged, barren, Middle Eastern region, happens to be the basin for the world's largest petroleum reserves; and, in just the last fifty or so years, it has been transformed from a desert wasteland to the modern world's financial Mecca. *No wonder Halliburton chose it for its corporate headquarters!*

There is something else this little corner of the world is known for - *it is also the birth place of the world's three major religions – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.* And, not too far from Dubai, Halliburton's new headquarter's location, is Mecca, Islam's holiest city, where Muslims believe Abraham placed Ishmael on an altar as a sacrifice to Allah - only to be saved by Abraham's obedience, and a ram caught in the thicket. This same area is the political and religious hotbed of the modern day. Our news every day is filled with the chaos and bloodshed of Iraq, Iran, the Gaza Strip, or the religious turmoil surrounding Jerusalem, her Temple Mount, and the people of Israel. This hasn't just happened in the last 100 years or so as the world became dependent on Mideast crude. It has been that way since the beginning of time; *and, it will be that way 'till the end of time.*

How is it possible that a book, the Bible, written thousands of years ago could begin with a story on the origin of humanity, Adam and Eve, whose "Garden of Eden" just happens to be located in the very center of the modern world's largest oil deposits? How is it possible that the birthplace of the world's three major religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, could be birthed in this very same region hundreds of years before it became the modern world's religion and financial centerpiece? *Seems a little too coincidental to me; unless, the Bible is true.*

Let me show you a Bible passage that was penned no less than 2,500 years ago, well before Christianity or Islam came into existence, and certainly before Middle East crude was discovered:

*Ezekiel 5: 5 "Thus says the Lord God, 'This is Jerusalem; I have set her at the center of the nations, with lands around her.'"*¹

Jerusalem. Prophesied to be the *center of the nations* over 2,500 years ago! This prophecy is being fulfilled in the modern day! What does this say to you? What does it say about the accuracy of the Bible and the prophecies it contains? Here is what it says to me: *The Bible's prophecies are true;* and, that is why this book is important. *It interprets the Bible's prophecies of how it will all end!*

I am the senior pastor of a small (but ever growing!) church; an "in the trenches pastor" as someone has put it. The study of Last Days has been a passion of mine for years. Yet, recently, God has *revealed* some new things to me; things about the times that we are in, and how our times are written about in the Bible. It is not that I am engrossed in daily prayer and meditations waiting for my next "vision." Rather, beginning with the events of 9/11, I have sought

to understand Islam – its history and basic teachings, to better articulate to my congregation the meaning of current events from a spiritual perspective. In the process, I have had moments when a “light” was turned on – perhaps, as I prepared for a Bible study or sermon; or listened to the evening news; and then, my mind was reminded of a Bible prophecy of the Last Days.

I shall never forget the week I was preparing to teach a Bible study on 2 Thessalonians 2. I was trying to understand how the passage could ever be fulfilled since the passage talks about the “*man of lawlessness [the Antichrist] . . . who takes his seat in the temple of God displaying himself as being God.*” How could this be fulfilled in the near future since all that remains of the 1st century Jerusalem Temple is an outer wall used for prayer? What is the likelihood of Israel rebuilding the Temple in the near future? Near to impossible, given the present political and religious climate. I took a break from my studies to glance at a book I had no recollection of ordering, about a topic that had little interest to me – Biblical archaeology. I thumbed through the pages and found my eyes focusing on a black and white picture - actually more a pen and ink. The description under the pen and ink read, “*The location of the Holy of Holies in the Temple, showing possible sites for the Ark, within the modern Dome of the Rock.*”² As I looked further, I came to another picture, this one of what appeared to be a large, bare rock *within* the Dome of the Rock. A rectangular shape drawn as a dotted line was superimposed on the large rock. The shape had a description – “*The Foundation Stone,*” i.e., the foundation for the actual Ark of the Covenant in the 1st Century AD Temple period.”³

I was awestruck. I read the articles associated with the pictures. The Dome of the Rock, the Muslim religious shrine built to honor Muhammad’s “night journey” and Islam’s victory over Christendom in 638AD, was constructed over top of the previous location of the Holy of Holies. The Dome, in fact, “*took its seat*” in the very location God had “taken His seat.” It was at that moment I had one of those “*aha*” moments; moments when you know that God has just “spoken” to you. From that moment on, my research took on a different emphasis – about Islam, and whether or not it is present in Bible prophecies of the Last Days. *My journey had begun . . .*

Here is how this book plays itself out. First, it will focus on the Bible’s prophecies of the “Last Days.” For purposes of this writing, the “Last Days” will generally refer to that period beginning with the time of Jesus Christ in the 1st century AD and concluding with the time of Christ’s return (Hebrews 1:1-2; Luke 21:24; Acts 17:30-31; 1 Peter 1:20). Second, prophecy in the Bible is written in figurative language; what is often called, “metaphor.” That is, animals (often with many heads and horns) are depicted in the Bible as figurative of a “leader” or the “kingdom” they governed. The role of the interpreter is to “identify” the leader and/or his kingdom using the characteristics given in the metaphor. The difficulty is that there are many passages that describe the Last Days and many characteristics given in each metaphor; and, no one metaphor has all the “identifiers.” The only way we can properly identify the leader and his kingdom is to solve each metaphor, one by one, using the prior metaphors as confirmation of the next. So, the process, itself, is often tedious and laborious; and by the time you get to the end of one prophecy, you have forgotten your interpretation of the prophecy, prior!

Think about it this way. End times prophecy is like a giant jig-saw puzzle; except, there is no “picture” on the box cover. Each piece of the puzzle can only be confirmed to be the “right piece” if it fits with the pieces around it, which then must fit with the pieces around them, and so on. Applying this to prophecy, one’s interpretation is best confirmed not just by the specific view of one passage, but by how this passage fits with the whole of one’s interpretation of prophecy. In other words, *all the pieces must fit.*

Let me give you a few of the “puzzle pieces” that I will lay in this book. The Bible reveals the waging of “holy war” by the forces of darkness against the Light. Satan is the prince of darkness and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the Light. Satan wages his war through others; and, he is always in disguise. Specifically, in the Last Days, he

will wage his war through a false religion, Islam, against Jews, Christians, and ultimately, the world as we know it. Islam will be interpreted to be the kingdom of the Last Days prophesied in the Bible to be at enmity with God. Allah will be interpreted as the "beast" (Revelation 13:1-10), the head of this false religion. Shia Islam's prophesied "al-Mahdi" will be interpreted as the coming Antichrist. The Bible prophesies that this false religion will one day dominate the entire world and that the entire world will worship the "beast," except those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life since the foundation of the world. Finally, satan will play his masquerade so completely that even those through whom he wages his war will be *unaware that they are his cloak*.

When I first began this journey, I did not begin with Islam in mind; rather, I began with a *blank slate*. As I continued my journey, my *eyes were opened to see what had been hidden before*. For many who read this book, what my *eyes have been opened to see* will be offensive to you. That is not my purpose or my intention. My intention is to accurately interpret Bible prophecy. An interpreter is like a translator of foreign languages. He interprets from one language to another so that all can understand the thought of the originator. So it is with this writing. The Originator is God; and, He has chosen to communicate in metaphor. As one of His many messengers, I have translated his metaphors into their literal meaning.

It is what it is.

It is my prayer that God will accomplish His work in this writing; and, that He will open the eyes of His Saints to what is about to take place. It is God who said through the prophet, Daniel:

^{NAS} **Daniel 12:4** "*But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase. . . 9 And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time."*

The end time is now. . . .

Introduction - Endnotes

- 1 NAS translation, The Lockman Foundation, 1960 and later years. All scripture quotations will be taken from the NAS translation unless otherwise indicated. Where underscores are added to scripture, they have been supplied by this author for clarity to the reader.
- 2 Randall Price, *The Stones Cry Out*, (Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1997), page 213.
- 3 Ibid, page 216.