
LAST DAYS PROPHECY SEMINAR

LESSON ONE: “Is the Bible Silent about the Islamic Nation?”

(NOTE: We refer to the Islamic religion as the “Islamic Nation” just as Christians are often referred to as the “Christian Kingdom.”)

A whole chapter of the book of Revelations is devoted to describing the judgment of Mystery Babylon, the Great Whore (Revelation 18). Why? Because “...*all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her...*” (verse 3). In other words, Babylon is the target of great judgment because of her great influence on the whole world. And, indeed, she has played a tremendous role in confusing the Gospel of Jesus Christ almost to the point of being unrecognizable today.

With this understanding in mind, we are challenged to investigate what the Bible says about the Islamic Nation. Is it possible that the world’s second largest religion—consisting of some 1.5 billion people—goes unmentioned in God’s Word? Is God silent about a world-wide pagan religion—that has corrupted multiplied millions of primarily Arab people—and their role in the Last Days? It’s an interesting question that demands an answer.

The purpose of this paper is to examine what God’s Word says about the Islamic Nation. If we can identify their role in the Scriptures, we can be better watchmen in these Last Days.

(NOTE: Islam is referred to as the second largest religion behind the 2.2 billion Christians worldwide which consists of 1.3 billion Catholics and 900 million Protestants.)

1. **Jacob and Esau: The Story of Two Nations**

The church has historically taught that the story of how Jacob and Esau represented two nations was just a confirmation of the Jew-Gentile program defined by Isaac and Ishmael earlier in the book of Genesis.

In retrospect, we failed to realize that the story of Jacob and Esau was not just confirmation of an established fact, it was indeed a revelation of a nation that would be in opposition to Israel both historically and prophetically. The church believes this particular Gentile nation was a type of—and later became—the Islamic Nation that we know and see today.

2. **The prophecy about Jacob and Esau.**

A. Genesis 25:23-26

[23] “*And the LORD said to her: “**Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger.**”*

[24] *So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb.*

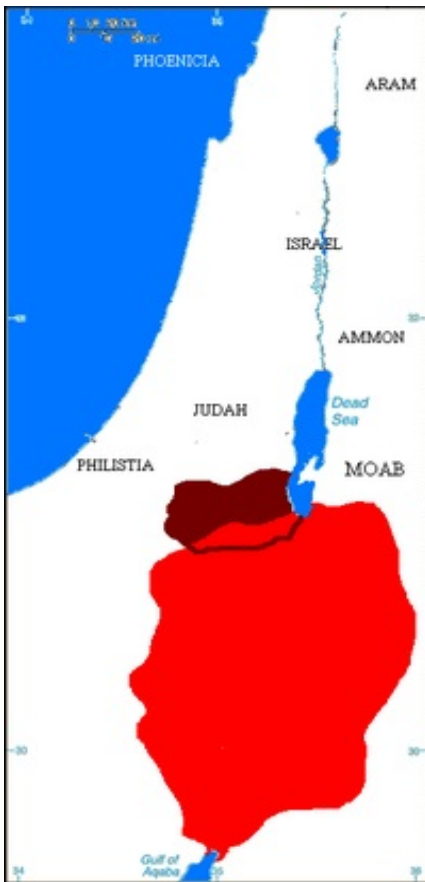
[25] *And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they*

called his name Esau.

[26] *Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them."*

B. Jacob represented and became the nation of Israel, but what nation did Esau represent and become?

- 1) Genesis 32:28, "**Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel;** for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."
- 2) Whatever nation Esau represented, it is clear that God was against Esau.
 - a. Malachi 1:2,3, "*I have love you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "**Yet Jacob I have loved; [3] But Esau I have hated,** and laid waste his mountains and his heritage for the jackals of the wilderness."*



C. Esau was the firstborn, therefore he was entitled to Isaac's blessing; however, Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a plate of food.

- 1) Genesis 25:33,34, "**Then Jacob said, 'Swear to me this day.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. [34] And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.**"
 - a. The word *despised* literally means *to disesteem, disdain, show contempt for*. To "esteem" means *to respect and admire*, so to "disesteem" means *failure to respect or admire*.
- 2) This is where Esau sealed his future and the future of his descendants.
- 3) This is Isaac's prophecy concerning Esau: "*Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above. **By your sword you shall live,** and you shall serve your brother; and it shall come to pass, when you become restless, that you shall break his yoke from your neck" (Genesis 27:39,40).*
- 4) The first thing that Esau did after receiving Isaac's blessing was to promise to kill Jacob (Genesis 27:41).
- 5) The church believes Esau's prophetic future was different from Ishmael's prophetic future.
 - a. Isn't it amazing that the descendants of Esau—the Arabs/Muslims—still live by the sword even to this day?

D. What did God say about Esau?

- 1) God gave Mount Seir to Esau as a place to live.
 - a. Deuteronomy 2:5, "*Do not meddle with them, for I will not give you any of their land, no, not so much as one footstep, because **I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession.**"*
- 2) God promises judgement on Esau.

- a. Jeremiah 49:10, *"But I have made Esau bare; I have uncovered his secret places, and he shall not be able to hide himself. **His descendants are plundered, his brethren and his neighbors, and he is no more.**"*
 - b. Obadiah 1:9,18, *"Then your mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end **that everyone from the mountains of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.**" [18] *The house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame; **but the house of Esau shall be stubble.** They shall kindle them and devour them, and **no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau.**"**
- 3) While God promises to bless Ishmael, there are no promises in God's Word about blessings on Esau.
- a. In fact, God says that He hates Esau.
 - b. Malachi 1:2,3,4,
 - [2] *"I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved;*
 - [3] ***but Esau I have hated,** and laid waste his mountains **and his heritage** for the jackals of the wilderness."*
 - [4] *Even though Edom has said, "We have been impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places," Thus says the LORD of hosts: "They may build, but I will throw down; They shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, and **the people against whom the LORD will have indignation forever.**"*
 - c. This same passage is referenced in Romans 9:13.
- 4) Esau's hatred of Jacob/Israel has defiled many.
- a. Hebrews 12:15-17
 - [15] *"Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, **and by this many become defiled;***
 - [16] *lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.*
 - [17] *For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, **he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.**"*
 - b. Because of this intense hatred and bitterness, the nation of Esau sought revenge.
 - c. Ezekiel 25:12, *"Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because of what **Edom did against the house of Judah by taking vengeance,** and has greatly offended by avenging itself on them."*

5 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NATION OF ESAU

1. God says that He hates Esau and his descendants. Remember, Esau represents a nation.

A. Why would God hate a nation?

- 1) Could it be that the nation 1) rejected/despised their Godly birthright, 2) has a hatred for Israel, 3) desires to kill Israel, and 4) serves other gods, a violation of God's first commandment?
- 2) Genesis 12:3, [God speaking to Abraham] *"I will bless those who bless you; **And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"*
- 3) Here's how God described Esau and his descendants.
 - a. First, we must establish that Esau, Edom, Mount Seir and Idumea all refer to Esau and his descendants.
 - Genesis 36:8, *"So Esau dwelt in Mount Seir. Esau is Edom."*
 - When God refers to Edom or Mount Seir in the scriptures, He is referring to Esau and his descendants often in a particular region (the mountain range of Seir).
 - Ezekiel 35:15, *"As thou didst rejoice at the inheritance of the house of Israel, because it was desolate, so will I do unto thee: thou shalt be desolate, **O Mount Seir, and all Idumea**, even all of it: and they shall know that I am the LORD."*
 - The name *Idumea* literally means *red, Edom, the elder twin brother of Jacob, hence the region occupied by him.*
 - In translations other than KJV it is often translated as Edom or Esau.

2. The nation of Esau will hate and desire to kill Israel.

A. The first thing that Esau did after he received his "blessing/prophecy" from his father Isaac, was to make a threat concerning Jacob.

- 1) Genesis 27:41, *"So **Esau hated Jacob** because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, *"The days of mourning for my father are at hand; **then I will kill my brother Jacob.**"**
- 2) If we remember that God said Esau represented a nation, we must acknowledge that the nation of Esau will hate Israel and desire to kill Israel.

3. The nation of Esau will have an ancient hatred of Israel. They also will have been at war with Israel and killed them by the sword at some time.

A. God gives us additional descriptions of the nation of Esau in Ezekiel 35,36.

1) Ezekiel 35:1-7

[1] *"Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,*

[2] *"Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir and prophesy against it,*

[3] *"and say to it, **"Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O Mount Seir, I am against you; I will stretch out My hand against you, and make you most desolate;***

[4] *I shall lay your cities waste, and you shall be desolate. Then you shall know that I am the LORD."*

- [5] *“Because you have had **an ancient hatred, and have shed the blood of the children of Israel by the power of the sword** at the time of their calamity, when their iniquity came to an end,*
- [6] *“therefore, as I live,” says the Lord GOD, “I will prepare you for blood, and blood shall pursue you; since you have not hated blood, therefore blood shall pursue you.*
- [7] *“Thus I will make Mount Seir most desolate, and cut off from it the one who leaves and the one who returns.”*

4. The nation of Esau took possession of Israel for themselves, in other words, they claim rightful ownership/possession of Israel. They deny Israel’s right to exist (based on the concept that they were cheated out of their legitimate birthright).

A. Ezekiel 35:10,11,15

- [10] *“**Because you have said, ‘These two nations shall be mine, and we will possess them,’** although the LORD was there,*
- [11] *“therefore, as I live,” says the Lord GOD, “I will do according to your anger and according to the envy which you showed in your hatred against them; and I will make Myself known among them when I judge you.*
- [15] *“As you rejoiced because the inheritance of the house of Israel was desolate, so I will do to you; you shall be desolate, O Mount Seir, **as well as all of Edom—all of it!** Then they shall know that I am the LORD.”*

B. Ezekiel 36:5

- [5] *“Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Surely I have spoken in My burning jealousy against the rest of the nations and **against all Edom, who gave My land to themselves as a possession,** with whole hearted joy and spiteful minds, in order to plunder its open country.”*

PASS OUT ARTICLE: “Iran’s Ahmadinejad: No Place for Israel in Region”

5. The nation of Esau consists of the nations that surround Israel geographically.

- A. Ezekiel 36:7, *“Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “I have raised My hand in an oath that surely **the nations that are around you** shall bear their own shame.”*
- B. Ezekiel 36:3a, *“Therefore prophesy, and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Because they have made you desolate **and swallowed you up on every side,** so that you became the possession of the rest of the nations...”*

SUMMARY OF THE NATION OF ESAU:

1. God hates them and their descendants.
2. They hate and desire to kill all of Israel.
3. They have an ancient, well-established hatred toward Israel and have killed them by the sword.
4. They took physical possession of Israel and still claim to have a rightful ownership of Israel to this day.
5. They consist of the nations that surround Israel geographically.

REFER TO MAP ON PAGE 1 – What nations surround Israel geographically?

1. Who is the Nation of Esau?

- A. It is none other than the Islamic Nation.
- 1) The Islamic Nation claims to trace its roots back to Abraham and Ishmael.
 - 2) They feel that they were cheated out of their blessing/inheritance through deception (a reference to the Jacob and Esau birthright deception story).
 - 3) They have a well-established hatred of Israel which has endured for thousands of years and they have killed the Israelites by the sword.
 - 4) Muslims at one time took possession of Israel and claimed it for their own...a claim they still adhere to today. In fact, Muslims (the Palestinians) still occupy parts of Israel right now!
 - 5) The nations that surround Israel today are predominately Muslim.
- B. What other "nation" can answer "yes" to all of these characteristics/qualifications?

REFER TO PAGE 22 – "Iran's leader predicts Israel's destruction"

2. The nation of Esau's ancient hatred of Israel.

A. While Esau and his brother Jacob eventually made up and were at peace, the descendants of Esau remained staunch enemies of the nation of Israel.

- 1) Psalm 137:7 (Living Bible), "O Jehovah, do not forget what these Edomites did on that day when the armies of Babylon captured Jerusalem. **"Raze her to the ground!" they yelled.**"

B. The descendants of Esau were the first nation to attack the Israelites after their exodus from Egypt.

- 1) Exodus 17:1,8,13-16
 - [1] "Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink.
 - [8] **Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.**
 - [13] So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.
 - [14] Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven."
 - [15] And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-My-Banner;
 - [16] for he said, **"Because the LORD has sworn: the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.**
- 2) Amalek was the grandson of Esau.
 - a. Genesis 36:9,10a,12a
 - [9] "And this is the genealogy of Esau the father of the Edomites in Mount Seir.
 - [10] These were the names of **Esau's sons: Eliphaz...**
 - [12] "Now Timna was the concubine of Eliphaz, Esau's son, and she bore **Amalek to Eliphaz....**"

C. Later, when Moses asked the King of Edom for permission to cross his land (in their trek to Canaan), the king refused passage to the Israelites.

1) Numbers 20:1,14,17,18,20,21

[1] *“Then the children of Israel, the whole congregation, came into the Wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh; and Miriam died there and was buried there.*

[14] *Now Moses sent messengers from Kadesh **to the king of Edom. “Thus says your brother Israel:** ‘You know all the hardship that has befallen us,*

[17] *‘Please let us pass through your country. We will not pass through fields or vineyards, nor will we drink water from wells; we will go along the King’s Highway; we will not turn aside to the right hand or to the left until we have passed through your territory.’”*

[18] ***Then Edom said to him, “You shall not pass through my land, lest I come out against you with the sword.”***

[20] *Then he said, “You shall not pass through.” So Edom came out against them with many men and with a strong hand.*

[21] *Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his territory; so Israel turned away from him.”*

D. The nation of Esau and Israel shared a long history of battles and wars after Israel entered the Promised Land.

1) The books of Numbers, I & II Kings, I & II Samuel, and I & II Chronicles list the many battles and invasions between the two.

2) The nation of Esau also played a role in the fall of Solomon.

a. This is what the Bible says about Solomon:

1. I Kings 4:34, **“And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.”**

2. I Kings 5:5, **“And behold, I will propose to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spoke to my father David, saying, “Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, **he shall build the house for My name.**”**

3. I Kings 10:23,24, **“So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. [24] **Now all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to** hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.”**

b. The demise of Solomon.

1. I Kings 11:1,7,8, **“But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, **Edomites**, Sidonians, and Hittites...[7] Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. [8] **And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.**”**

2. I Kings 11:14, **“Now the LORD raised up an adversary against Solomon, **Hadad the Edomite; he was a descendant of the king of Edom.**”**

- 3) Eventually, the Israelites even served the gods of the nation of Esau at times.
 - a. II Chronicles 25:14, “Now it was so, after Amaziah [king of Judah] came from the slaughter of the Edomites, that **he brought the gods of the people of Seir, set them up to be his gods, and bowed down before them and burned incense to them.**”

E. In approximately 483 BC, we find the story of Esther. Haman, the man who schemed to have all of the Jews killed, was a descendant of Esau.

- 1) Esther 3:1,6,13

[1] “After these things King Ahasuerus promoted **Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite,** and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him.

[6] ...Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai.

[13] And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king’s provinces, **to destroy, to kill, to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, in one day,** on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions.”

- 2) Agag was the king of the Amalekites (the grandson of Esau).

- a. I Samuel 15:8, “He also took **Agag king of the Amalekites** alive...”

- b. When the Bible called Haman “the Agagite”, that simply means “a descendant of Agag”.

F. Herod the Great, the “Jewish” King who attempted to kill Jesus the Messiah at His birth, was a descendant of Esau.

- 1) Matthew 2:1-3,13

[1] “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

[2] saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

[3] When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

[13] Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; **for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.**”

- 2) According to history, Herod was the son of Antipater (pronunciation: An-tip-a-ter) II the Idumean (pronunciation: I-du-me-an).

- a. “Antipater II the Idumean (d. 43 BC) was the founder of the Herodian Dynasty and the father of Herod the Great...**A native of Idumea, southeast of Judea between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba, and which during the time of the Hebrew Bible had been known as the land of Edom.**...His genealogy was more a matter of public relations than confirmed history: although a spurious identification lists Antipater as descending from the Jewish remnant that returned from the Babylonian Captivity, **it is more likely he was an Edomite.** The Idumeans had been forcibly converted to Judaism by the Sadducee-influenced Hasmonean leader John Hyrcanus.

Forcible conversion was not recognized by Pharisaic tradition, so even though Antipater and Herod the Great may have considered themselves of the Jewish faith, they were not considered Jewish by the observant and nationalist Jews of Judea, and were resented for their Edomite ancestry, their Hellenized culture, and their collusion with the Roman invaders.” (“Antipater the Idumean” Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia; bold emphasis mine)

G. Edom, Moab, and Ammon were nations that shared common borders and worshiped pagan gods (remember that Moab and Ammon were cousins/half-brothers). They were the enemies of Israel and they are often linked together in the Scriptures as co-conspirators.

- 1) We have already established that the King of Edom refused passage to the Israelites, but so did the King of Moab.
 - a. Judges 11:17, *“Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, “Please let me pass through your land.” But the king of Edom would not heed. **And in like manner they sent to the king of Moab, but he would not consent.** So Israel remained in Kadesh.”*
- 2) God prophesied against Edom and Moab as the Israelites prepared to take possession of the Promised Land.
 - a. Exodus 15:15, *“Then **the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling will take hold of them;** all the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away.”*
- 3) King Saul fought against Edom and Moab.
 - a. I Samuel 14:47a, *“So Saul established his sovereignty over Israel, **and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, against the people of Ammon, against Edom...**”*
- 4) Edom, Moab, and Ammon joined forces to attack Israel.
 - a. II Chronicles 20:22, *“Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against **the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah;** and they were defeated.”*
- 5) God often lumps Edom, Moab, and Ammon together with regards to His coming judgment upon them.
 - a. Jeremiah 25:15,16,21, *“For thus says the LORD God of Israel to me: “Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it. [16] And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them...[21] **Edom, Moab, and the people of Ammon.**”*
 - b. Ezekiel 25:8,11, *“Thus says the Lord GOD: “**Because Moab and Seir say,** ‘Look! The house of Judah is like all the nations,’...[11] “And I will execute judgments upon Moab, and they shall know that I am the LORD.”*
- 6) Mount Seir is also a reference to the mountain range that runs from the Dead Sea down to the Gulf of Aqaba (the Red Sea).
 - a. This mountain range encompasses the nations of Ammon, Moab, and Edom.
 - b. That’s why God says in Ezekiel 25:3, *“...Behold, O Mount Seir, I am against you...”* He is not just referring to one nation, but to all of the pagan nations in that region.

3. Jacob and Esau do not represent the Jew and Gentile nations as Isaac and Ishmael do.

A. It must be established that the two nations represented by Jacob and Esau are not simply a duplication of the example of Isaac and Ishmael.

1) While Jacob may represent Israel, Esau does not represent all of the Gentiles.

B. In the story of Isaac and Ishmael, God promises blessings on both of the sons of Abraham.

1) This is what God said about Isaac in Genesis 17:19:

[19] *“Then God said: “No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name **Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant,** and with his descendants after him.”*

2) God also promised to make a nation of Ishmael and bless them in Genesis 17:20:

[20] *“**And as for Ishmael,** I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. **He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.**”*

C. There is no where in the Scriptures where God promises any blessings on Esau.

1) We’ve already established that God hates the nation of Esau (Malachi 1:2,3) and promises judgment upon them.

2) There are five particular characteristics of the nation of Esau that do not apply to all Gentiles.

D. In Obadiah 1:18b God says, “...And no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau.”

1) We know that the Scriptures do not support the theory that all Gentiles will be destroyed.

2) We recognize that God has a Last Day’s program that includes the Gentiles coming to Christ and even being a part of His chosen people.

3) So we must determine that “the house of Esau” is referring to a particular group of Gentile people or nation, not a broad reference to all Gentiles.

E. Just as the nation of Israel transformed, so has the nation of Esau.

1) We all recognize that the requirements to be part of God’s Israel has changed.

a. When God changed Jacob’s name to Israel—remember that Jacob and Esau represented two nations—the requirements to be a part of that nation were quite simple: you had to be born into it and undergo the rite of circumcision.

b. We recognize that the requirements changed after Jesus Christ came on the scene.

1. Galatians 6:15,16, *“**For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything,** but a new creation [16] And as many walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, **and upon the Israel of God.**”*

2. Romans 9:6-9, *“But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. **For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,** [7] nor are they all children*

*because they are the seed of Abraham; but, **“In Isaac your seed shall be called.”** [8] **That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God;** but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.”*

3. Galatians 3:26-29, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. [27] For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [28] **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** [29] And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”
- 2) Just as Jacob became Israel, and the nation of Israel has evolved and changed over the course of time, so has the nation of Esau.
 - a. God tells us that Esau became a nation. In order to be part of Esau’s nation, you had to be born into it.
 - b. Now, however, the requirements to be a part of Esau’s nation have evolved as well.
 - c. What defines whether or not you are part of Esau’s nation?
 1. Whether or not the 5 scriptural characteristics apply to you.
 2. It is no longer a requirement that you be a natural-born descendant of Esau.
 - d. The Islamic Faith (in its current form) did not exist until approximately 600 AD when the Prophet Muhammad started—or in our opinion *transformed*—the religion.
 1. We say “transformed” because we believe Muhammad simply took an existing pagan religion—the worship of Hubal and 360 other idols—and redefined it into the Islamic Faith.
 2. The church contends that the worship of Allah (whose origin can be traced back to the Baals of the Old Testament) is simply a continuation of the pagan religions that Esau and his descendants practiced throughout the centuries.
 - e. How can we say that with confidence?
 1. Just as God’s Israel today is defined by their actions, so is the nation of Esau.
 2. The Muslims can still be accurately defined by the 5 scriptural characteristics we find in God’s Word.

4. The Islamic Nation

A. Terminology:

- 1) Islam – The name of the religion started by Muhammad around 600 AD.
- 2) Muslim – A follower of Islam.
- 3) Muhammad – The founder of Islam (570-632 AD).
- 4) Allah – The one-and-only god of Islam.
- 5) Koran – Religious text of Islam. Believed to be revealed from Allah to Muhammad orally.
- 6) Kaaba (Arabic for “cube”) – The most sacred site for Muslims. It is located in Mecca, Saudi Arabia and according to tradition was built by Adam, rebuilt by Abraham, and later the descendants of Noah after the flood.
 - Muslims are required (if they are able) to make a pilgrimage to the Kaaba once in their lifetime. Muslims face the Kaaba when they pray.
 - Outside the Kaaba is The Black Stone. Legend has it that it was once white

but has become black because of the sins of the people.

- B. Allah is the name of the only god in Islam. Allah is a pre-Islamic name coming from the compound Arabic word Al-ilah which means “the god.”
- C. Allah was being worshiped at the Kaaba in Mecca by Arabs prior to the time of Muhammad.
 - 1) It was formerly the name of the chief god among the numerous 360 idols found in the Kaaba before Muhammad made them into monotheists.
 - 2) Historians have shown that the moon god called “Hubal” was the god to whom Arabs prayed at the Kaaba and they used the name “Allah” when they prayed. Hubal is “Ha-Baal” (i.e. “the baal”).
- D. According to the *Encyclopedia of Religion*, Allah corresponded to the Babylonian god Baal, and Arabs knew him long before Muhammad worshiped him as the supreme god.

5. Who is Baal?

(NOTE: It is extremely challenging to research specific pagan gods because they are nothing more than fictitious false gods that have never uttered a single word or decree. It’s actually quite comical to try and establish “facts” about something that has never even existed!)

A. Baal was a pagan god worshiped by the people of Moab. Who is Moab?

- 1) Moab was born as a result of an incestuous relationship between Lot and his firstborn daughter.
- 2) Genesis 19:35-38
 - [35] *“Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.*
 - [36] *Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father.*
 - [37] *The **firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day.***
 - [38] *And the younger, she also bore a son and **called his name Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of Ammon to this day.**”*

B. At one point in history, Moab ruled over Israel for 18 years.

- 1) Judges 3:12-14
 - [12] *“And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD.*
 - [13] *Then he gathered to himself the people of Ammon and Amalek, went and defeated Israel, and took possession of the City of Palms.*
 - [14] ***So the children of Israel served Eglon king of Moab eighteen years.**”*

C. The people of Moab worshiped Baal.

- 1) Numbers 25:1-3
 - [1] *“Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab.*
 - [2] *They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.*
 - [3] ***So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.**”*

D. Israel is punished for worshipping Baal.

- 1) God was angry because of Israel's worship of Baal and He sent a plague among them (Numbers 25:3).
- 2) Numbers 25:9, *"And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand."*

E. Baal is Hubal.

- 1) Who is Hubal?
 - a. **"Hubal. An idol, god of the moon. It was set up in the Kabah and became the principle idol of the pagan Meccans."** (Cyril Glasse, *The Concise Encyclopedia of Islam* [Harper & Row: San Francisco, 1989], p. 160; underline emphasis mine)
 - b. **"...the principle gods at Mecca were Hubal (god of the moon) and the female goddesses."** (Ibid., p. 179)
 - c. Some contend that Hubal is actually the Arabic form of the Hebrew "Ha Baal" or "the Baal".
- 2) Speaking of the Kaaba, Barnaby Rogerson writes:
*"Inside this holy of holies are stored all manner of sacred objects and images. These are said to include an icon of the Virgin Mary with the Christ Child and a portrait of the Prophet Abraham. **But the shrine is dominated by a representation of the war god Baal Hubal**, who watches over the city's political destiny..."* (Rogerson, *The Prophet Muhammad – A Biography* [HiddenSpring, An Imprint of Pauline Press, Mahwah, NJ 2003], p. 15; underline emphasis mine).
- 3) Noted Christian Apologist John Gilchrist states:
*"In the sixth century after Christ, Mecca was hardly known to the outside world but it was the commercial and religious center of Arabia. Although the Arabs were a divided people, broken up into various tribes who were constantly at war with each other, the fairs at the city served to attract many of them and whatever unity existed among them was generated and expressed through these annual get-togethers. The focal point of attention was the Ka'aba (Arabic for "cube"), **a shrine in the center of the city containing over three hundred idols, chief of whom was the god Hubal (a probable derivation from the ancient high-god Ba'al, so often spoken of as the chief object of worship of the pagan nations around Israel in the Bible)**..."* (John Gilchrist, *Muhammad and the Religion of Islam*, p. 11; online edition).
- 4) *"Khuza 'ah thus shared the guilt of Jurhum. They were also to blame in other respects: a chieftain of theirs, **on his way back from a journey to Syria, had asked the Moabites to give him one of their idols. They gave him Hubal, which he brought back to the Sanctuary, setting it up within the Ka'bah itself; and it became the chief idol of Mecca**"* (Martin Ling, *Muhammad: His Life Based on the Earliest Sources* [Inner Traditions International, LTD. One Park Street, Rochester Vermont 05767, 1983], p. 5).

- 5) *"Ibn Hisham states that a learned man told him that **Amr b. Luhayy once left Mecca for Syria on business and reached Ma'ab [possibly the Moabites] in the Balqa' region...**Amr witnessed them worshipping idols, so he asked them why. They replied that if they asked the idols for rain it came, or for victory they won it...Amr then asked them to give him an idol he could take to Arab lands where it could be worshiped, **and they gave him one named Hubal. This he brought to Mecca and set on a pedestal and ordered the people to worship and venerate it.**" (Ibn Kathir, *The Life of the Prophet Muhammad (Al-Sira al-Nabawiyya)*, Volume I, translated by professor Trevor Le Gassick, review by Dr. Ahmed Fareed [Garnet Publishing Limited, 8 Southern Court, South Street Reading RG1 4Qs, UK; The Center for Muslim Contribution to Civilization, 1998], p. 42)*

F. Hubal was the god of the Quraysh tribe from which Muhammad belonged to.

- 1) Ibn Al-Kalbi in his *Book of Idols* notes:
*"...the Quraysh had also several idols in and around the Ka'bah. **The greatest of these was Hubal...**"*
- 2) *The Oxford Dictionary of Islam* (Oxford University Press, 2003) **says that Hubal was the patron deity of Muhammad's particular tribe:**
*"Hubal – A pre-Islamic deity represented by an idol in Kaaba that was destroyed by Muhammad when he conquered Mecca in 630. **Patron of the Quraysh, leading tribe of Mecca.**" (p.117; underlined emphasis ours)*

G. Hubal was the chief deity of the Quraysh. Later, Allah was the chief deity of the Quraysh. Therefore, Hubal was Allah in pre-Islamic times.

- 1) *"Allah (allah, al-ilah, the god) was the principal, though not the only, deity of Makkah. The name is an ancient one. It occurs in two South Arabic inscriptions...**in the Lihyanite inscriptions of the fifth century B.C. Lihyan, which evidently got the god from Syria, was the first center of the worship of this deity in Arabia. The name occurs as Hallah in the Safa inscriptions five centuries before Islam and also in a pre-Islamic Christian Arabic inscription found in ummal-al-Jimal, Syria, and ascribed to the sixth century.** The name of Muhammad's father was 'Abd-Allah ('Abdullah, the slave or worshiper of Allah). The esteem in which Allah was held by the pre-Islamic Makkans as the creator and supreme provider...Evidently he was the tribal deity of the Quraysh." (Ibn Kathir, *The Life of the Prophet Muhammad (Al-Sira al-Nabawiyya)*, Volume I, translated by professor Trevor Le Gassick, review by Dr. Ahmed Fareed [Garnet Publishing Limited, 8 Southern Court, South Street Reading RG1 4Qs, UK; The Center for Muslim Contribution to Civilization, 1998], pp. 100-101)*
- 2) *"**Islam owes the term "Allah" to the heathen Arabs.** We have evidence that it entered into numerous personal names in Northern Arabia and among the Nabatians...Wellhausen also cites pre-Islamic literature where Allah is mentioned as a great deity. We also have the testimony of the Koran itself where he is recognized as a giver of rain, a creator, and so on; the Meccans only crime was to worship other gods beside him. Eventually Allah was only applied to the Supreme Deity. **In any case it is an extremely important fact***

that Muhammad did not find it necessary to introduce an altogether novel deity, but contented himself with ridding the heathen Allah of his companions subjecting him to a kind of dogmatic purification..." (Ibn Warraq, *Why I Am Not A Muslim* [Prometheus Books, Amherst NY, 1995] pp. 39-40, 42 bold emphasis mine)

H. If Allah is Hubal, and Hubal is Baal, then Allah is Baal.

- 1) Many scriptures in the Old Testament are devoted to God's hatred and disgust for the pagan god Baal.
- 2) It was the worship of Baal (among other pagan gods) that brought God's wrath upon Israel.
 - a. God killed 24,000 Israelites after they worshiped Baal in Numbers 25.
- 3) So, are the Scriptures silent about Allah and the Islamic faith? Absolutely not.
 - a. Islam is nothing more than a pagan religion which worships a pagan god with a long history extending into Biblical times.

6. CONCLUSION

When Al-Qaeda attacked the USA on September 11, 2001, the world as we know it changed. While many different reasons for the attack were discussed and proposed by our government and the media, The Church of God recognized that this was a prophetic event (God's sword in the land) which signaled the time in which we live (the Last Days) and the beginning of God's judgment on Babylon.

It was also stated and acknowledged in the church that this attack was a continuance of a Holy War between the god of the Muslims, Allah, and Yahweh, the God of Israel. Muslim's hatred of all things Christian fueled this unprovoked attack on the United States: The primary country in the world that is based on Godly principles and was indeed founded to champion religious freedom for its citizens.

This is not a new war. It is simply a continuation of the fight for dominion between false gods and the one true God, Yahweh. In fact, the 9/11 attacks are merely an extension of the ongoing conflict which Elijah refereed between Baal and the God of Israel found in I Kings 16,17,18. Satan, through whatever false god is currently available, is still determined to promote himself above everything in heaven and earth.

In Genesis 25:23 God makes an absolute statement regarding the twin boys that were in Rebekah's womb: *"Two nations are in your womb..."* While most Bible scholars agree, and the Bible states emphatically, that Jacob became and represented the nation of Israel, the identity of the nation of Esau has not been universally agreed upon. The church does not believe that the story of Jacob and Esau is merely a duplication of the Isaac and Ishmael story—a revelation of the Jewish and Gentile nations. We believe that the nation of Esau was a type of—and eventually became—the Islamic Nation.

The church does not believe that the Word of God is silent regarding the Islamic Nation which consists of some 1.5 billion Muslims worldwide. Its roots can be traced back to Esau with its ancient hatred and proposed annihilation of the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. Even today, the Islamic Nation still fits the Biblical descriptions given by God for the nation that Esau represented: 1) God hates them (because of their pagan god/religion), 2) they hate and desire to kill Israel, 3) they have an ancient, well-established hatred of Israel, 4) they took possession of Israel for themselves and they claim a legitimate right to the land (consider the claim of the Palestinians), and 5) the Islamic Nation consists primarily of the nations that surround Israel. What other modern-day nation fits this description?

The Islamic nation is a pagan religion with a false god, Allah, whose origins can be traced back to Baal. It is nothing more than the continuation of a false religion but with a particular twist. What's peculiar about the Islamic Nation? Its pronounced hatred of Israel and even the modern-day Christian faith. According to Islam, all non-Muslims are referred to as "infidels" (*def. a person who has no religion*) and are subject to death. God's Word is adamant that strict judgment will come upon the house of Esau including the Islamic Nation. Isaiah 34:5, *"For My sword shall be bathed in heaven; indeed it shall come down on Edom, and on the people of My curse, for judgment."*

As Christians, we need to be aware of what the Bible says about the Islamic Nation, and watch and pray without ceasing for God's will to be accomplished in these Last Days.

YAHOO! NEWS

Iran's leader predicts Israel's destruction AP Associated Press

57 mins ago

January 27, 2010

TEHRAN, Iran – Iran's supreme leader predicted the destruction of Israel in comments posted on his Web site on Wednesday, in some of his strongest remarks in years about the Jewish state.

In the past, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has called Israel a "cancerous tumor" that must be wiped from the map, but the new comments mark the first time in years he has openly speculated about Israel's demise.

"Definitely, the day will come when nations of the region will witness the destruction of the Zionist regime," Khamenei was quoted as saying. "How soon or late (Israel's demise) will happen depends on how Islamic countries and Muslim nations approach the issue." He did not elaborate.

Khamenei, who made the comments during a meeting with the Mauritanian president on Tuesday, also accused Israel of trying to destroy the Palestinians "through continued pressure, blockades and genocide." He said the Jewish state will not succeed.

Khamenei's comments come as the world marks International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Wednesday, the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi-run Auschwitz death camp.

Iran does not recognize Israel, and the two countries have been bitter enemies since Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979, and current Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called for Israel's destruction.

Tehran is accused of supporting Lebanon's Shiite Muslim militant group, Hezbollah, which fought Israel until it withdrew its soldiers from southern Lebanon in 2000. Hezbollah continues to launch occasional attacks against Israeli troops in a disputed strip of land on Lebanon's southern border. Iran also backs Hamas, the Islamic militant group that controls the Gaza Strip.

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