

## ***Comparing Islamic Eschatology & Biblical Eschatology (Overview)***

### **I. Major Characters In Biblical Eschatology**

- a. Jesus, The Bridegroom King – The end of the age drama is centered on the glory of Jesus and the His leadership. The Bible discloses so many details about the end of the age (over 150 chapters) in order to highlight the perfection of Jesus’ leadership in this age and the age to come. The book of Revelation, which includes details related the end of the age, is called “The Revelation of Jesus”

***(Revelation 1:1 NASB) “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place...”***

***(Titus 2:13 NASB) “Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus”***

- b. Satan (The Dragon) – Satan is a fallen angelic being with an end time plan to take over the earth and have its inhabitants worship him. Satan will be cast down to earth at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. In desperation, Satan will give his authority to the beast (Antichrist), and empower him to grow in influence throughout the earth.

***(Revelation 12:9 NASB) “And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”***

***(Revelation 13:2 NASB) “And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne, and great authority.”***

- c. Antichrist (The Beast) – The Antichrist is one of the main antagonists at the end of the age. The Antichrist will be a demonically empowered political and military figure that will gain influence over many peoples from the nations and wage war against nations and build a demonic empire. He will hate and persecute the Jewish people, and Christians, leading to a dramatic rise in Martyrdom. He will claim to be greater than the God of the Bible and speaking blasphemies against Jesus and His followers.

***(Revelation 13:4-6 NASB) “They [the earth] worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?” 5 A mouth was given to him speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.”***

***(Daniel 7:25 NASB) “And he will speak 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 handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time.”***

- d. False Prophet (Another Beast) – The false prophet will be a religious leader that will perform “*great signs*” to deceive people into following the beast. He will be instrumental in the implementation of things like the “*mark of the beast*” and will be the Antichrist’s right hand man. The effective ministry of the false prophet will sweep across nations and give people two options: 1) worship the antichrist or 2) die.

***(Revelation 13:11-14 NASB) “Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon. 12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who live on it worship the first beast...13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of the sky to the earth in the presence of people. 14 And he deceives those who live on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast...”***

- a. Ten Nation Confederation (10 Horns) - The ten horns are ten kings that will emerge and side with the Beast at the end of the age. These ten kings will give their authority to the Beast.

***(Revelation 17:13-14 NASB) “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. 13 These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.”***

- b. Two Witnesses – The two witnesses are two prophetic leader in the end time church that will operate in unprecedented Kingdom power and authority. For 3 ½ years they will perform signs and wonders and be prophetic support to the Church.

***(Revelation 11:3-6 NASB) “And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; and so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. 6 These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.”***

- c. Harlot Babylon - the Harlot Babylon is a literal “megacity” and “consumer city” located in the desert yet close to the coast. It will be a global system with international influence, which will touch the political, economic, and religious spheres and ultimately prepare the earth for Antichrist. Harlot Babylon is dynamically related to the ancient city of Babylon, and will function as a primary eschatological opponent to the city and people of Jerusalem as well as the worldwide body of Christ.

***(Revelation 17:18 NASB) “The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.”***

## II. Major Sign Events In Biblical Eschatology

- a. The bible describes out many “*signs of the times*” that indicate the urgency of the hour we live in. There are significant “*sign events*” that will take place as well as many “*sign trends*” that will occur throughout the final decades leading up to His return. Jesus likened these signs to birth pains that increase in severity over time. These signs serve to alert the praying church of where we’re at in the timeline so that we can be fully engaged in our part in the story (So the bride knows when to push).
- b. Two of the most dramatic and striking events that are Major signs of the times are 1) the return of the Jews to their ancient homeland to reestablish the state of Israel in 1948, 2) The regaining of control of Jerusalem in the six-day war of 1967. In the session prior to this one, we addressed the fact that the end time storyline is heavily Israel-centric. In order for some of these end time prophesies to be fulfilled, it requires Israel to have an existential ethnic, tribal, and national identity (*Ezekiel 38:8; Joel 3:2, 12; Zechariah 12:3,6; 14:2; Luke 21:24*).

***(Ezekiel 38:8 NASB) “After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual place of ruins; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely...”***

- c. Rebuilt Temple In Jerusalem – There will be some sort of rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and Jewish sacrifices instituted. Currently, on the temple mount in Jerusalem, there is an Islamic mosque and the Dome of the Rock shrine.
- d. 7 Year False Peace Covenant - **Daniel 9** says that the Antichrist will be apart of a 7-year peace covenant with “many” (likely middle eastern nations, and especially Israel) nations. This is a main sign event because it will initiate the final 7 years of this age.

***(Daniel 9:27a NASB) “And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week...”***

***(Isaiah 28:15 NASB) “Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we have made a pact. The gushing flood will not reach us when it passes by, Because we have made falsehood our refuge and we have concealed ourselves with deception.”***

- e. The Abomination of Desolation – 3 ½ years through the false peace covenant, the Antichrist will break his covenant and cut off the Jewish sacrifices. This major sign event will initiate what we know as the “Great Tribulation”.

***(Daniel 9:27b NASB) “...But in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate.”***

***(Matthew 24:15,21 NASB) “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place—let the reader understand...21 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will again.”***

***(2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 NASB) “No one is to deceive you in any way! For it 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.”***

- f. 21 Judgment Series – During the final 3 ½ years, Jesus will loose a 21 judgment series against the Antichrist Empire. A series of 7 seal judgments, 7 trumpet judgments, and 7 bowl judgments will dismantle the wicked empire. The saints will be supernaturally protected and provided for in the midst of these severe global judgments.
- g. The Death of The Two Witnesses - At the end of their 3 ½ year ministry, the Antichrist will overcome the two witnesses and kill them, but they will rise from the dead 3 ½ days later (***Revelation 11:7-11***).
- h. The Return of Jesus – The sign of the coming of the son of man will be the most dramatic sign event to take place. His return lasts for a period of 30 days in 3 parts: 1) Jesus Travels across the sky “rapturing” believers 2) then, marches up through the middle east delivering (mostly) Jewish captives 3) then, triumphantly enters Jerusalem as King of Kings. His return does not happen in a vacuum but is loud, obvious, and seen by every person on the planet.

***(Matthew 24:30 NASB) “And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.”***

***(Revelation 1:7 NASB) “Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.”***

***(2 Thessalonians 1:6b-8 NASB) “...When the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God, and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”***

***(Revelation 19:11,14 NASB) “And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.”***

### III. Basic Islamic Eschatological Concepts Compared To That of Biblical Eschatology

- a. The Arabic term “*Qiyamah*” is the concept of the coming day of judgment and is understood as the study of the end times. One of the 5 tenants of Islam is “*belief in the last days*”, meaning, each Muslim is required to give attention and observe to their end time prophecies.

- i. For Christians, the end times are often observed as secondary to other theologies. Only two generations in Christian history have emphasized the end times as a primary study, The generation of the apostles, and this current generation.
- b. Muhammad is quoted as not knowing the timing of the end time events
  - i. Similarly, Jesus stated that while He was on the earth, He did not know the day or the hour of His return (*Mark 13:32*).
- c. Islam teaches that there will be a resurrection of the dead along with the sounding of a great trumpet.
  - i. The Bible teaches that at the sounding of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, the dead in Christ will be raised, caught up in the air, and receive a glorified body (*1 Thessalonians 4:15-17*).
- d. Muslims believe that at the end of it all, a season of prosperity will come
  - i. The Bible teaches of a millennial age or 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth (*Revelation 20:4*).

#### IV. Comparing Eschatological Figures of Islam and The Bible

- a. Al-Mahdi [Biblical Antichrist] – The Mahdi is Islam’s “*Messiah*” figure. Muslim’s believe that the Mahdi will be the final Caliph (The chief Muslim civil and religious ruler) will appear in the end times to institute a global Islamic society. There has been call for the restoration of an Islamic Caliphate (a governmental/religious system ruled by a Caliph) where the Mahdi can function as the final Caliph. The Mahdi is believed to lead a world revolution through jihad (military campaign/holy wars) that will result in an Islamic “great harvest”.
  - i. Muslims believe the Mahdi will descend from the family of Muhammad and will bear his name
  - ii. Most Islamic traditions see the Mahdi ruling the earth for a period of 7 years
    - a. The Bible teaches of a 7 year reign of the Antichrist (*Daniel 9:25-27; 12:11*)
  - iii. It is said that the Mahdi will have control over the wind and the rain and crops and under his reign, Muslim’s will live in prosperity.
    - a. The Bible teaches the Beast and False Prophet will preform many signs and wonders (*Revelation 13:3; 11-18*)
  - iv. It is believed that the Mahdi will ride on a white horse
    - a. The first seal depicts, the Antichrist riding a white horse (*Revelation 6:2*).
  - v. The Mahdi will produce some “*undiscovered Bible scrolls*” and the “*ark of the covenant*” in order to win converts from Christianity and Judaism.
  - vi. Muslim scholars apply Bible verses about the Antichrist specifically to the Mahdi.
  - vii. The Mahdi’s rise to power is said to be preceded by an army from the East carrying black flags (Islamic banners of war). Hadith (recorded sayings of Muhammad) indicate that the black flags will come from the area of Khorasan (Iran). Muslims believe that the Mahdi will join the army of warriors carrying the black flags, and will lead this army to Israel and re-conquer it for Islam. The Mahdi will rule over the earth from Jerusalem.

(Izzat and ‘Arif, *Al Mahdi and the End of Time*, 40) “*The Mahdi will be victorious and eradicate those pigs and dogs and the idols of this time so that there will once more be a caliphate based on prophethood as the hadith states.... Jerusalem*”

will be the location of the rightly guided caliphate and the center of Islamic rule, which will be headed by Imam al-Mahdi.... That will abolish the leadership of the Jews...and put an end to the domination of the Satans who spit evil into people and cause corruption in the earth, making them slaves of false idols and ruling the world by laws other than the Shari'a [Islamic law] of the Lord of the worlds."

(Sahih Muslim, Book 041, Number 6985) "The Prophet said... the last hour would not come unless the Muslims will fight against the Jews and the Muslims would kill them until the Jews would hide themselves behind a stone or a tree and a stone or a tree would say: Muslim, or the servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me; com and kill him."

- a. The Bible teaches that the Antichrist will invade Jerusalem, sending Jewish people into exile. In Jerusalem, The Antichrist will initiate the Abomination of Desolation and rule from Jerusalem for 3 ½ years (**Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**).
- b. The Prophet Isa [Biblical False Prophet]
  - i. Isa is the Arabic name for Jesus. Islam has an incredibly warped view of Jesus. They believe that Jesus was a prophet, yet not the Son of God, did not die (was miraculously saved from death by Allah and taken to heaven) and will come back to serve the Mahdi and convert the earth to Islam. When he comes back, he will be a radical Muslim. This Islamic picture of Jesus fits the Biblical description to the False Prophet.
  - ii. Isa will appear just outside of Damascus (southern Syria) before the time of prayer to meet the army of the Mahdi. The Mahdi will ask Isa to lead prayer and he will instead defer to the Mahdi.
  - iii. Isa's primary purpose will be to oversee the institution and enforcement of Islamic Shariah law (Islamic governmental and religious systems) over the whole world. He will do many deceptive miracles in order to win the earth over to Islam. It said that Isa will abolish Christianity and will:
    - a. Break crosses throughout the earth
      - a. Persecution on the Christian Church (**Daniel 11:33; Luke 21:24**).
    - b. Kill all the pigs of the earth. Pigs are forbidden to eat in Islam, Radical Muslims refer to Jews and sometime Christians as pigs.
    - c. Abolish the Jizyah tax (a Muslim tax on non-Muslims)
      - a. By abolishing the Jizyah tax, non-Muslims will either convert to Islam or be killed. This is literally the philosophy behind the Mark of the Beast (**Revelation 13:15-17**).
    - d. Kill the Muslim Antichrist (The Biblical Jesus) & his followers (Christians & Jews)
      - a. The False prophet institutes the killing of those who don't take Beast's mark.
- c. The Dajjal, Islamic "Antichrist" [The Biblical Jesus]
  - i. Muslim's believe that the Dajjal will be a Jewish man appearing from the northeast of Jerusalem (in the region between Syria and Iraq) and be traveling with "seventy thousand Jews".
    - a. The Bible teaches that Jesus (who is a Jewish man) royal procession to Jerusalem will march up through the Middle East, up through Syria and Lebanon and down to the mount of Olives (East of Jerusalem) and then enter Jerusalem (**Isaiah 63:1-6; Zechariah 10:10; 14:1-15; Joel 2:32**).
  - ii. The Dajjal is said to be a deceiver who will have miraculous powers, including healing power and the power to bring people back to life.

- a. Jesus will perform many signs wonders and miracles through His Church leading up to His return and also during His triumphal procession.
- iii. Islam teaches that the Dajjal will go around the earth for a period of 40 days causing many to believe in him.
  - a. Biblically we know that the return of Jesus is happens over (at least) a 30-day period (***Daniel 12:11; Revelation 16***).
- iv. The Dajjal is said to come riding across the sky on a giant white mule.
  - a. ***Revelation 19*** clearly tells us that Jesus will return in the clouds riding on a white horse.
- v. Islamic tradition says that the Dajjal will have the name “Non-believer” written on his forehead.
  - a. ***Revelation 19*** explains that Jesus will have a “name written on him which no one knows”, and on His robe and thigh he was a name written: King of kings and Lord of lords”.
- vi. Islam teaches that the Dajjal will have fire with him that he calls Hell but is actually Heaven. He will throw muslims into that fire who refuse to worship him. Those that follow the Dajjal will go to the “real hell”, which the Dajjal calls Heaven.
  - a. When Jesus returns, He will throw the Antichrist, False Prophet, and those who took the mark of the beast into the lake of fire (***Revelation 19:20-21***). ***2 Thessalonians 1*** says Jesus comes back on the clouds “with fire”.
- d. The Ya’juj & Ma’juj [Biblical Two Witnesses]
  - i. Islam teaches that Ya’juj and Ma’juj are two disbelieving tribes from among the son of Adam. Allah has held them back from appearing on earth, but Allah will give them permission to come out at the end of time. They will spread “*mischief*” on the earth and be problematic for Muslims.
    - a. The Bible teaches of the two witnesses who will appear at the end of the age to prophetically strengthen the church and perform many signs, wonders and miracles. The Church will function in similar ways to the two witnesses (***Revelation 11:3-6***).
  - ii. According to Islam, Allah will kill Ya’juj’ and Ma’juj by sending worms to eat their necks. They will not be buried, but Allah will send rain to wash away their bodies into the sea to “cleanse the earth of their stench”.
    - a. The Bible teaches that after 3 ½ years the Antichrist will kill the two witnesses and leave their bodies to rot (***Revelation 11:7-10***).