

## ***A Middle Eastern & Jerusalem Centered Storyline***

### **I. The Restoration of All Things & The Protoevangelium**

- a. After healing the lame beggar, Peter preaches a sermon in *Acts 3* where he calls the return of Jesus the “*restoration of all things*”. This is the simplicity of the end of the age storyline; **the return of Jesus brings about the restoration of all things**. In the age to come, Jesus will be the righteous ruler over every nation, and will spend 1,000 years (The Millennium – *Revelation 20:4*) restoring the order of heaven and earth to His original intent.

***(Acts 3:18-21 NASB) “But the things which God previously announced by the mouths of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has fulfilled in this way. 19 Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; 20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 21 whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things, about which God spoke by the mouths of His holy prophets from ancient times.***

***(Acts 2:6-8 NASB) “But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.” 7 “I will announce the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have fathered You. 8 Ask it of Me, and I will certainly give the nations as Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth as Your possession.’”***

- b. The return of Jesus and restoration of all things is the completion of the protoevangelium (The first gospel in “seed” form – *Genesis 3:15*). After the fall of man, God said that from that moment on, there would be hostility between Satan (and his followers) and Eve and her Descendant (The Messiah and His followers). Though Satan would bruise the heel of the Messiah, God declared that the Messiah would crush the head of Satan forever.

***(Genesis 3:15 NASB) “And I will make enemies of you and the woman, And of your offspring and her Descendant; He shall bruise [crush] you on the head, And you shall bruise Him on the heel.”***

- c. The violence at the end of the age is the least severe means Jesus will use to fully accomplish His purposes in the earth. God does not lie; our Messiah will crush the skull of the serpent at the end of this age. While it’s easy for us to embrace the picture of Jesus on the cross and in His own blood (*Isaiah 53*), we must also embrace the picture of Jesus covered in the blood of His enemies (*Isaiah 63*) and coming back in flaming fire to deal out retribution to those (followers of Satan) who afflict His people (*2 Thessalonians 1*).

### **II. God’s Eternal Covenant With Israel**

- a. Foundational to embracing biblical prophesy, is having confidence that God will do what He said He would. God does not lie, and what He says, will come to pass despite any present opposition. If we believe He’ll do the things He said He would, we can then partner/agree with Him and hasten the fulfillment of those things.

***(Romans 3:4 NASB) “...God must prove to be true, though every person be found a liar, as it is written”***

***(Titus 1:2 NASB) “In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie...”***

- b. God made a covenant with Abraham, to make him into a great nation (The nation of Israel), that God would bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him. By blessing Israel, all the “*families of the earth*” (all nations) could be blessed.

***(Genesis 12:1-3 NASB) “Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you into a great nation, And I will bless***

*you, And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”*

*(Genesis 15:18 NASB) “On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates”*

*(Exodus 32:13 NASB) “Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’”*

- c. After delivering Israel out of Egypt, God set before them a marriage proposal (*Exodus 19:5-6*) where he promised to make them a “His own possession” and a holy nation, set apart for His purposes and Moses and the elders responded with a yes (*Exodus 19:7-8*). The majority of the biblical storyline is very “Israel-centric”. All throughout scripture we can see God’s calling and love toward Israel reiterated.

*(Leviticus 20:26 NASB) “So you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have singled you out from the peoples to be Mine.”*

*(Psalm 33:11-12 NASB) “The plan of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation. 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, The people He has chosen for His own inheritance.”*

*(Isaiah 62:1 NASB) “For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, And for Jerusalem’s sake I will not keep quiet, Until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, And her salvation like a torch that is burning.”*

*(Zechariah 2:7-9 NASB) “You, Zion! Escape, you who are living with the daughter of Babylon.” 8 For the Lord of armies says this: “After glory He has sent me against the nations that plunder you, for the one who touches you, touches the apple of His eye. 9 For behold, I am going to wave My hand over them so that they will be plunder for their slaves. Then you will know that the Lord of armies has sent Me.”*

*(Zechariah 8:2-3 NASB) “The Lord of armies says this: ‘I am exceedingly jealous for Zion, yes, with great wrath I am jealous for her.’ 3 The Lord says this: ‘I will return to Zion and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the Lord of armies will be called the Holy Mountain.’”*

*(Romans 11:26 NASB) “So all Israel will be saved; just as it is written: “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.”*

- d. Throughout both Ancient and modern history, Satan as strived to wage war, persecute, and kill Israel because God has chosen them as His people. Satan has fueled Anti-Semitism (hostility or prejudice toward Jewish people) throughout the centuries leading to war, exiles, and holocausts. the end of the age, Satan will wage His final assault on the people of Israel.

*(Revelation 12:13-14 NASB) “And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child [Israel]. 14 But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time, times, and half a time, away from the presence of the serpent.”*

- i. Anti-Semitism has founds its way into the church through a false doctrine called “supersessionism”, “replacement theology”, or “fulfillment theology” which states that the Christian church has now taken the place of Israel. If supersessionism is true, it compromises the faithfulness of God and His word, thus God can not be trusted.

### III. Middle Eastern Centricity of Eschatological Passages

- a. When we approach the scriptures that speak about the end of the age, we have to take note of Israel’s centricity throughout the storyline. The end times scriptures do not revolve around America (or any other

nation), they revolve around Jerusalem. This doesn't mean gentile believers are irrelevant, we've been grafted into the storyline and we have a role to play.

- b. The bible is clear and intentional about naming names and locations of important nations at the end of the age. There is no reason to believe that the end time passages that name names are symbolic of other nations. The following are a list of scriptures that name names of particular nations:
  - i. The Ruler from Israel will crush Moab [Jordan], Edom [Jordan & Southern Israel], and Amalek [S. Israel into North-central Sudi Arabia] (*Numbers 24:14,17-20; Isaiah 25:8-11; Obadiah 1:8-10;15; Ezekiel 25:12-17*)
  - ii. The Day of The Lord against Egypt, Cush [Sudan], Put [Lybia, North Africa], Lud [Turkey], and Arabia.

*(Ezekiel 30:1-5 NASB) “The word of the Lord came again to me, saying, 2 “Son of man, prophesy and say, ‘This is what the Lord God says: “Wail, ‘Woe for the day!’ 3 For the day is near, Indeed, the day of the Lord is near; It will be a day of clouds, A time of doom for the nations. 4 A sword will come upon Egypt, And there will be trembling in Cush; When the slain fall in Egypt, They will take away her wealth, And her foundations will be torn down. 5 Cush, Put, Lud, all Arabia, Libya and the people of the land that is in league will fall with them by the sword.”*

- iii. The Day of God's Anger Against Israel's Neighbors; Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, the Cherethites, Canaan, and the land of the Philistines [Israel's south-west cost including the Gaza Strip]. Also Cush [Sudan], Assyria [Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq].

*(Zephaniah 2:3-5,12,13 NASB) “Seek the Lord, All you humble of the earth who have practiced His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will remain hidden on the day of the Lord's anger. 4 For Gaza will be abandoned, And Ashkelon will become a desolation; The inhabitants of Ashdod will be driven out at noon, And Ekron will be uprooted. 5 Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast, the nation of the Cherethites! The word of the Lord is against you, Canaan, land of the Philistines; and I will eliminate you So that there will be no inhabitant. 12 You also, Ethiopians, will be slain by My sword. 13 And He will stretch out His hand against the north And eliminate Assyria, And He will make Nineveh a desolation, Parched like the wilderness.”*

*(Zephaniah 2:8-9 NASB) “I have heard the taunting of Moab And the abusive speech of the sons of Ammon, With which they have taunted My people And boasted against their territory. 9 Therefore, as I live,” declares the Lord of armies, The God of Israel, “Moab will assuredly be like Sodom, And the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah— Ground overgrown with weeds and full of salt mines, And a permanent desolation. The remnant of My people will plunder them, And the remainder of My nation will inherit them.”*

- iv. The Lord's Sacrifice in Bozrah [Jordan] and Edom [Jordan & Southern Israel] (*Isaiah 34:3-9*)
- v. Treading the Winepress of the Wrath of God in Edom (Jordan & Southern Israel] (*Isaiah 63:1-4; Revelation 19:11-16*)



Photo from “Islamic Antichrist” – Joel Richardson

- c. The end of the age drama is centered around Jerusalem, the Middle East, and North Africa. What’s similar about all of these specific nations that we’ve listed in scripture is that all of these nations are Middle Eastern or North African Muslim majority nations.

#### **IV. Islam – The Fastest Growing Religion In The World**

- a. There are an estimated over 1.9 billion Muslims in the world today. Muslim majority countries include: Turkey 98%, Syria 92.8%, Iran 99%, Iraq 99%, Saudi Arabia 92.7%, Egypt 95.3%, Libya 95.3%, Sudan 90.7%. If current trends continue, by 2050, the number of Muslims will nearly equal the number of Christians on the earth.
- b. Since 9/11 the number of American converts to Islam as quadrupled. It’s estimated that there are around 3.45 Muslims in America (210 million Christians). In India Islam is growing at a faster rate than the country’s majority Hindu population; there’s over 172.2 million Muslims now in India.

#### **V. Intro To Islam**

- a. In the next few sessions, we’re going to compare Islamic eschatology and biblical eschatology. There are unique comparisons to be made between the positive characters in each storyline as well as the negative ones. Islam is one of the primary opponents to the Jewish people today and the main culprit of Christian martyrdom today. Islam will play a major (negative) role at the end of the age. Before digging into the eschatology of Islam, we must first take a general look at Islam. *Any information in this or any other teaching/notes from the Incense House of Prayer is not intended to promote fear or hate of Muslims in any way.*
- b. Islam (Arabic word meaning “yield” or “submit”) is a monotheistic religion defined as the religion of submission to Allah (They falsely believe Allah is the God of Abraham). It was founded in 610 AD by the “prophet” Muhammad after he had violent encounter with a spirit (he claimed it was Gabriel) in Mecca.
- c. Islam is split into 2 main “denominations”; Sunnis (majority of Muslims, believe in succession of Muhammad by election), and Shiite (minority group of Muslims, believe succession of Muhammad is a birthright).
- d. There are 5 Tenants of Islam:
  - i. Belief in Allah
  - ii. Belief in the last days
  - iii. Belief in angels
  - iv. Belief in Islamic scriptures (The Quran and other “holy” writings)
  - v. Belief in the prophets
- e. There are 5 Pillars of Islam
  - i. Profession of faith – Each Muslim must make a public profession of their faith in Allah. Must be in Arabic and acts as the official act of conversion
  - ii. Prayer – Muslims commit to praying 5 times a day and also on special commitment to prayer on Fridays.
  - iii. Give Alms – Muslims are commanded to give offerings to the poor

- iv. Fasting – Muslims are highly encouraged to fast as a regular practice, but during the month of Ramadan, all are expected to participate in the corporate fast.
- v. Pilgrimage to Mecca – The “Hajj” is a trip commanded of all Muslims to do at least once in their lifetime. They are to make a pilgrimage to Mecca (located in Saudi Arabia).
- f. Islam believes our scriptures have been corrupt so they’ve changed them to fit their beliefs:
  - i. Ishmael was the child of promise and the inheritor of Abraham’s blessing, not Isaac
  - ii. Jesus was a prophet of Allah but he was not the Son of God and never claimed to be.
  - iii. Jesus was not crucified and did not die, he was removed and someone else put in his place. Allah tricked people into thinking that Jesus was crucified.
  - iv. Muhammad was the counselor that Jesus spoke of as the one who would come after Him, not the Holy Spirit.
  - v. All of the Old and New Testaments testify about a god named Allah not Jehovah.
- g. Jihad – Muslims believe that it is their destiny to rule the world and to have all people convert to Islam. They practice “Jihad” meaning, “struggle” and is understood as a military effort against unbelievers. Those who practice Jihad are promised eternal rewards for their acts of violence.
- h. Prejudice and hostility toward Jews and Christians “people of the Book”.

*(Sura 3:118) “Believers, do not make friends with any but your own people”*

*(Sura 48:29) “Muhammad is Allah’s apostle. Those who follow him are ruthless to the unbelievers but merciful to one another.”*

*(Ibn Ishaq, 545) “The apostle assembled them in their market and addressed them as follows: ‘O jews, beware lest Allah bring upon you the vengeance that He brought upon Quraysh and become Muslims. You know that I am a prophet who has been sent – you will find that in your scriptures and Allah’s covenant with you”*

*(Quran Sura 47:3-4) “those who disbelieve follow falsehood, and those who believe follow the truth from their Lord. Thus does Allah present to the people their comparisons. So when you meet those who disbelieve, strive their necks until, when you have inflicted slaughter upon them, then secure their bonds, and either confer favor afterwards or ransom them until the war lays down its burdens”*

*The Haddith Literature says, “You (Muslims) will fight against the Jews and you will gain victory over them. The stones will (betray them) saying: ‘O ‘Abdullah (i.e. slave of Allah) There is a Jew hiding behind me; so kill him.*

## VI. Conclusion

- a. Jesus is coming back to bring about the restoration of all things and fulfill all of His promises to both Israel and the Church. Satan will wage war against the Jewish people and those Christian believers. When we realize that every country that surrounds Israel is a Muslim majority nation, and when we begin looking at the writings of Islam, we must conclude that Islam has a role to play in the end of the age storyline.