

I. Intro

- A. Greetings & Announcements
- B. Prayer

II. Review

A. Last week

1. Ezekiel 37

- a. Fulfillment of a 2,500 year old prophecy - The Valley of Dry Bones
- b. God regathers the dead, dry bones of the extinct nation of Israel out of their diaspora and causes them to live again as a nation
 - i. **Ezekiel 37:5** - I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life.
 - ii. **Ezekiel 37:12** - I will bring you into the land of Israel
 - iii. **Ezekiel 37:14** - I will place you on your own land

2. Ezekiel 38-39

- a. God brings nations against Israel — “after many days...in the latter years”
 - i. **Ezekiel 38:4-6** “And I will turn you about, and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords; 5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet; 6 Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops — many peoples with you.
 - ii. **Ezekiel 38:8** “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 waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them.

b. Map Pages:

The many nations mentioned seem to include:

Russia, Iran, Turkey, Sudan, Libya and “many others with you”

Why aren't Syria & Egypt mentioned?

i. We examined some of the regional, military alliances that now exist between these countries

(1). Russia / Iran / Syria -

(a). **RUSSIA BUILDS KEY NAVAL HQ IN SYRIA: MISSILE PRESENCE WORRIES ISRAEL**

July 21, 2009, 4:24 PM (GMT+02:00) DEBKAFfile Special Report

Russian warships will use Syria's Tartus as main naval HQ for four seas.

A high-ranking Russian navy source reported July 21 that the Soviet-era naval maintenance base near Tartus in Syria is to be expanded and modernized to become "fully operational."

DEBKAFfile's military sources report that Russian is building the facility up as its main sea base for operations in four seas: The Atlantic and Indian Oceans and the Mediterranean and Red Seas.

The upgrade of Russian port facilities at Tartus, its only foothold in the Mediterranean, will automatically enhance Moscow's strategic interests in Syria and Bashar Assad's regime.

Israel is deeply concerned, according to our military sources, by the sophisticated air-defense S-300PMU-2 and Iskander-E missile systems the Russians propose to hand Syria on the pretext of installing a shield to defend the facility against air or missile attack.

Moscow claims they will remain under the control of Russian crews but, according to information reaching Israel, they will be quietly and gradually handedover to the Syrian army; the Russian teams are in fact instructors.

c. God defends Israel, destroys the attackers, and sets forth His Glory

i. **Ezekiel 39:1-4** "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD," Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal; 2 and I shall turn you around, drive you on, take you up from the remotest parts of the north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel. 3 "And I shall strike your bow from your left hand, and dash down your arrows from your right hand. 4 "You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops, and the peoples who are with you;

ii. **Ezekiel 39:21-22** "And I shall set My glory among the nations; and all the nations will see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them. 22 "And the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God from that day onward.

III. A Very Basic Primer on Islam

A. Numbers

1. 1.3 billion approx
2. Fastest growing religion worldwide

B. Founded 622 AD

1. Monotheistic
2. Traces origins back to Abraham via Ishmael
3. Acknowledges OT prophets and Jesus but says Muhammad is the greatest prophet
4. Claims to be the restoration of true monotheistic religion

C. Primary Written Sources of Authority

1. Qur'an

- a. Revealed to Muhammad (570 AD - 632 AD) by the angel Gabriel from 610-632 AD
- b. Totally authoritative

2. Hadiths

- a. relating to the words and deeds of Muhammad, sometimes called the Sunnah
- b. Categorized by Islamic scholars as Sound, Weak, or Fabricated
- c. Partially authoritative

D. The Five Pillars of Islam

1. Shahadah - Reciting the Creed
2. Salah - Ritual prayer
3. Zakat - Alms-giving
4. Sawm - Fasting during Ramadan
5. The Hajj - Pilgrimage to Mecca

E. Denominations

1. Sunni

- a. 93% of Islam

2. Shia

- a. 7% of Islam
 - i. 90% of Iranians are Shiite
 - ii. 70% of Shiites are "Twelvers"
- (1). "Twelvers" believe in 12 divinely ordained leaders or the Twelve Imams



IV. Iran: The Driving Forces

A. The Islamic Republic of Iran

1. Iran officially became an Islamic Republic on 1 April 1979, following the Islamic Revolution
Shia Islam is the official religion and Persian is the official language
2. The highest state authority is the Supreme Leader

B. The Supreme Power of the Supreme Leader

1. Current Supreme Leader
 - a. Ali Hoseyni Khamenei (born 15 July 1939), also known as Ali Khamenei
 - b. President of Iran from 1981 to 1989 - Supreme Leader since 1989
 - c. In the News - July 2010

Iran's Supreme Leader Says He Represents Prophet Muhammad on Earth

Edward Yeranian | Cairo - 21 July 2010

Iran's Supreme Leader has reportedly issued a fatwah, or Islamic edict, demanding that people obey him as the earthly "deputy" of both the Prophet Muhammad and Shi'ism's mysterious 12th Imam. He also accused the U.S. and Britain of sowing division among Muslims and of fomenting the recent mosque bombing in Sistan-Baluchestan.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has created a stir after apparently issuing a religious edict Tuesday claiming ultimate spiritual powers on Earth. Iranian media reported that he told followers that they must "obey him" as the "representative of the Prophet Muhammad and [Shi'ism's] 12th Imam on Earth."

2. An example of the clerics iron hand rule...
 - a. In July of 2009 Ahmadinejad dismissed his choice for the key post of first vice president, Esfandiar Rahim Mashai. Too conciliatory, too soft.
 - i. Mashai angered conservatives when he said in 2008 that Iranians were "friends of all people in the world - even Israelis."
 - b. Iran's state television carried the public reading of the order issued earlier by Khamenei to dismiss Mashai because he is "contrary to the interest of you and the government"

C. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's Vision

1. Bio

- a. Born in 1956 - Son of a blacksmith. Holds a PhD in traffic and transport from Tehran's University of Science and Technology. Elected mayor of Tehran in 2003. Ran for & elected president of Iran in 2005

2. His view of His Calling and Role

a. Believes he has been placed by Allah to bring about the coming of the Mahdi

- i. *"In perhaps his most dangerous delusion, Ahmadinejad believes he is ordained to perform Allah's will. After he spoke to the United Nations in late 2005, he was caught on videotape telling a cleric that, during the speech, a halo appeared above his head. "Suddenly the atmosphere changed," he said. Of the world leaders in attendance, he said, "and for the duration of the twenty-seven or twenty-eight minutes, they did not even blink. I am not exaggerating. I looked up and I saw them. They were transfixed. It was as if a hand of God was holding them."*

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD
by Lawrence J. Haas — *inFocus Quarterly Summer 2007*

- ii. From WorldNetDaily: WASHINGTON – While most of the reporting and analysis of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's speech at the U.N. focused on what he had to say about the West and specifically the U.S., his chilling closing remarks were lost on most listeners – and apparently all reporters.

The last two paragraphs of his remarks revealed his steadfast and driving conviction, as previously reported in WND, that a messianic figure, known as the "Mahdi" to Muslims, is poised to reveal himself after an apocalyptic holocaust on Earth that leaves most of the world's population dead.

"I emphatically declare that today's world, more than ever before, longs for just and righteous people with love for all humanity; and above all longs for the perfect righteous human being and the real savior who has been promised to all peoples and who will establish justice, peace and brotherhood on the planet," Ahmadinejad said. "Oh, Almighty God, all men and women are your creatures and you have ordained their guidance and salvation. Bestow upon humanity that thirsts for justice, the perfect human being promised to all by you, and make us among his followers and among those who strive for his return and his cause."

Ahmadinejad is on record as stating he believes he is to have a personal role in ushering in the age of the Mahdi. In a Nov. 16, 2005, speech in Tehran, he said he sees his main mission in life as to "pave the path for the glorious reappearance of Imam Mahdi, may Allah hasten his reappearance."

b. al-Mahdi - The Islamic Messiah

i. How do they know about him?

(1). The Hadiths -

- (a). The hadiths are the records of words or deeds of Muhammad, and are second in importance as the source of inspiration after the Qur'an.

ii. How do they describe him?

(1). Mahdi - Their Messiah or Al-Mahdi

(a). 12th Imam, Final Prophet/Teacher/Imam

(b). Was living but disappeared (went into occultation) in AD 941 or 847 AD

(c). The Shi'ites believe that in the Last Days, he will reappear and rule the earth with an Islamic Caliphate

(d). Some say he dwells in a well in Qom -

(1). Jamkaran mosque

(a). 20 million dollars for the Jamkaran mosque from which the Mahdi supposedly will arise



(1). The Jamkaran mosque, dropping letters down the well

(a). By the way...what's another word for well?

The Biblical Antichrist ascends from the pit

Revelation 11:7-8 When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. 8 "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

(2). The Bright Future Institute in Qom

(a). The Bright Future Institute was established in early 2004 by a number of scholars and masters of Islamic seminaries in the holy city of Qom awaiting Imam Mahdi.

c. *"The Hidden Imam is heir to everything that has been good and beautiful throughout history, and the call [to await his coming] is a call [to have faith] in the missions of the divine prophets, in monotheism, and in justice."*

"In these days, humanity longs for monotheism and justice. With God's grace, the [preparations] for a flood of compassion, truth and justice will soon be complete."

"The message of Mahdism, which calls [to believe] in the Savior [i.e. the Hidden Imam], brings hope and joy to people [throughout the world]. [It is] a message of steadfastness and patience and of resisting the oppressors [i.e. the West, headed by America]; it is a message of submission [to God] and of the pursuit of justice and honor. The current situation in the world has led the nations to reject in disgust the rule of the oppressors."

“Now is the time to invite people to accept the rule of the righteous, and [especially that] of the most righteous of [rulers] - the Hidden Imam.”

“[The day] of these aggressors... who are oppressing and controlling the nations, is now coming to an end.”

“Those who [seek to] distract the people with materialistic philosophy of one kind or another, and who pursue materialism, have brought humanity nothing but despair and deception.”

“The time of the righteous rulers will come, and the most righteous of rulers, [i.e. the Hidden Imam], will form a government and thereby instate the monotheism of Abraham [throughout the world]. That day is not far away.”

“Our enemies naturally feel threatened by the call to [believe in] the Mahdi, for they do not want people to think about justice. But our reply to them is that the era of the aggressive [powers] has come to an end. We believe that it is time for the righteous to rule, and for humanity to be properly [re]born out of love, knowledge, and spirituality.”

“Today we must prepare ourselves to discharge the responsibility [placed] upon us... which transcends the [boundaries of the] Muslim world.”

“Islam is the truth. This truth was only partly revealed in Judaism and Christianity, but is fully revealed in Islam.”

“Today, as ever, the world needs the Hidden Imam, [for] it is suffering under the yoke of dishonest [rulers].”

“Our mission transcends the geographical boundaries of the Muslim [world]. Our clerics have a responsibility to call upon humanity as a whole to [embrace] the [true] monotheism and the rule of monotheistic principles.”

“The ultimate solution is to replace these unworthy regimes and rulers, and to establish the rule of the Hidden Imam.”

“Those who are not versed in [the doctrine of Mahdism] believe that the return [of the Hidden Imam] will occur only in a very long time, but, according to the divine promise, [his return] is imminent.”

“The Iranian nation and the Islamic Revolution have a pivotal role in preparing the ground for the coming of the Hidden Imam.”

“We must rapidly develop Iran in order to create the [right] conditions for his [the Hidden Imam's] coming, and we must also help the rest of the world's nations [to prepare for his return], in order to precipitate this great event.”

“The responsibility that currently rests on Iran's [shoulders] is very heavy; it is the kind of mission [with which] the divine prophets [were entrusted]. It does not permit us to rest or slumber even for a moment. Have you ever seen a prophet take a rest from the fulfillment of his mission?”

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's Apocalyptic Vision

During August 18-29 of 2007, Ahmadinejad gave a series of speeches concerning his Apocalyptic visions. Following are quotes taken from those speeches.

i. *"I emphatically declare that today's world, more than ever before, longs for just and righteous people with love for all humanity; and above all longs for the perfect righteous human being and the real savior who has been promised to all peoples and who will establish justice, peace and brotherhood on the planet," Ahmadinejad said. "Oh, Almighty God, all men and women are your creatures and you have ordained their guidance and salvation. Bestow upon humanity that thirsts for justice, the perfect human being promised to all by you, and make us among his followers and among those who strive for his return and his cause."*

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad - U.N. Speech September 2006

ii. At a convention of clerics on November 16, 2005, Ahmadinejad said:

"the main purpose of the Islamic revolution is to pave the way for the reappearance of the twelfth imam and to define economic, cultural, and political policy in accordance with the policy of the return of [Imam] al-Mahdi."

iii. What circumstances are needed to hasten the return of the Mahdi?

V. Analysis

A. What do we see?

1. We see the apocalyptic mentality of Iran

- a. A man who believes he has been called by Allah to hasten the coming of the Mahdi
- b. A religious and political environment that coincides with his vision
- c. A country that is within months of obtaining nuclear capability
 - i. **US and Israel fear Iran may be capable of a nuclear test this year**

DEBKA-Net-Weekly July 19, 2010, 6:07 PM (GMT+02:00)

Shahram Amiri's voluntary repatriation to Iran and a second close look at the nuclear data he passed to the CIA are raising grave doubts about its value,

DEBKAFfile's intelligence sources report. There is mounting suspicion in Washington and Jerusalem that Tehran employed the scientist to strew red herrings in their path, namely, out-of-date material for concealing and

misdirecting their attention from the rapid progress taking place secretly in Iran's nuclear program.

A high-ranking intelligence source in Washington remarked Monday, July 19, that he would not be surprised "if we woke up one morning to find the Iranians had conducted an underground nuclear test."

This was not to say Iran had a bomb or nuclear warhead ready packed for delivery, he said, "Only that it was a lot closer to this option than the Americans and Israelis had been led to believe."

Therefore, as of now, their forecast of a nuclear test capability has been brought forward to within the five months remaining of 2010.

2. We see the determination of Israel

a. Iron Domes, Arrow 3, Regional Training, Saudi Airspace, Joint Exercises

b. ISRAEL TO DRILL MISSILE ATTACK FROM MANY DIRECTIONS

May 25, 2009, 6:27 PM (GMT+02:00)

Deputy defense minister Matan Vilnai outlined the nationwide civil defense exercise to be staged next week in a briefing to the Knesset foreign affairs and security committee Monday, May 25. Next Tuesday, he said, sirens would send the entire population heading for the nearest shelters or protected sites.

Vilnai explained that the exercise was configured on the presumption of a missile assault from three or four directions synchronized with large-scale terrorist attacks up and down the country. He stressed that this was no fantastic scenario divorced from reality but highly credible in the event of a war.

B. What will happen? We don't fully know...

1. Ex-CIA chief Hayden: Military action against Iran "seems inexorable"

DEBKAFfile Special Report July 25, 2010, 10:41 PM (GMT+02:00)

Ex-CIA Director Michael Hayden said Sunday, July 25, that during his tenure (under President George W. Bush), a strike was "way down the list" of options. But now it "seems inexorable" because no matter what the US does diplomatically, Tehran keeps pushing ahead with its suspected nuclear program.

C. Do we know when things will happen?

1. Ahmadinejad says expects U.S. to attack MidEast soon

Robin Pomeroy, Reuters July 27, 2010, 8:40 pm

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran expects the United States to launch a military strike on "at least two countries" in the Middle East in the next three months, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told state-run Press TV.

In an interview recorded on Monday, Ahmadinejad did not specify whether he thought Iran itself would be attacked nor did he say what intelligence led him to expect such a move.

D. Are God's people afraid?**VI. Conclusion****A. Next two weeks:**

1. Will be spent on an incredible comparison of the people and events described in Islamic eschatology vs those revealed in Biblical eschatology.
 - a. Islam is expecting the Mahdi, Jesus, a world Political rule, a world religious rule. God has written what will take place. We'll compare.

B. Resources

1. Epicenter, by Joel Rosenberg (Book & DVD)
2. www.jpost.com
3. www.debka.com
4. www.israelnationalnews.com

C. Finis

1. Islam's 99 Beautiful Names of God
 - a. Muhammad said: "To God belongs 99 names, 100 minus 1, anyone who memorizes them will enter Paradise;"
 - b. Many are quite close to God's revealed character, but...
 - c. Islam has: No incarnation, no crucified Jesus, no substitutionary atonement, no salvation through His shed blood, no sin bearing savior
 - i. **1John 2:23** Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

D. Prayer

1. For the peace of Jerusalem...why?
 - a. **Psalms 122:6** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you."