

I. Intro & Review**A. So far, we've covered...**

1. The Sovereignty of God
2. **Ezekiel 37-39**: The Regathering of the Nation of Israel, the attack & defeat of Gog / Magog / Iran / Syria...others
3. What's driving the leadership of Iran...the calling to hasten the coming of the Mahdi.

B. Today and next week, we'll be looking at a comparison of the people and events described in Islamic eschatology compared with those revealed in Biblical eschatology. An executive summary. Not comprehensive.

1. Islam is expecting the Mahdi, Jesus, a world political rule, a world religious rule.
2. The God of the Christian Scriptures has written what will actually take place. We'll compare the two views.

C. Prayer**D. Preliminaries****1. Approaching the OT & NT Scriptures.**

What is our view of Scripture that deals with those things which are yet to come?

- a. These books, Daniel, Revelation and others are part of the holy scriptures and are given to us by God
- b. They are revealed, written and true truth
 - i. **John 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
- c. God has given them to be profitable, to be read and studied, grappled with, not shelved
 - i. **2Timothy 3:16-17** All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
- d. Because they contain sections that are difficult to grasp, does not mean they are to be avoided
- e. **They mean something!** Our goal is to read, observe the text, interpret as well as we can, beginning and ending with the text, and form our conclusions accordingly.

2. I will be taking a futurist view of the books of Revelation and Daniel.

- a. That there are events described in these books which are yet to happen
- b. I am aware that there are other views that can be biblically defended, and have been, by better men than I

3. I will be taking a literalist view of the books

- a. That the passages are describing people and events that will actually exist and take place, even though the terms used to describe the events often contain symbolic, prophetic language.
- b. I have spoken of the fact that I have become less dogmatic in my views of the end of days as I have gotten older and hopefully, more irenic. I don't know as much about eschatology as I used to think I knew.
- c. To present these topics, one must establish a starting point, a place from which to begin.
 - i. For the record, and for those who are interested, I do not consider myself to be in the interpretive grid of dispensationalism, I would be classified as reformed as relates to the doctrines of God, man, sin, and salvation, but, though I try always to accurately understand the scholarship and interpretations held by my other brothers in the faith, I remain a futurist as relates to the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. The perspectives we cover will proceed from that starting point.

II. Exactly the Same...Only Completely Different**A. Introduction of a concept: Anti-Parallelism**

1. The same event being viewed, described, or understood from two different, opposing viewpoints
2. When good looks bad to one... and bad looks good to another...even though it is the same person or event
 - a. Hitler as an example
 - i. Two differing views of Hitler
 - (1). Many Germans thought of Hitler as the savior of Germany, to lead the German nation back to greatness, to establish the Glorious Third Reich
 - (2). History has shown, and those outside of Hitler's realm of deceit already knew that He was a force for evil, deceiving and killing like few men before or since.
 - ii. Hitler was Hitler, He did what he did. In reality. In space and time.
 - (1). Hitler was the same.
The way people viewed Hitler was diametrically opposite.

This concept will help us as we examine events described by Biblical Eschatology, events described by Islamic eschatology, and then ponder whether they may actually be a single event or person, viewed from opposing positions.

B. One more note...on the very concept of truth**1. The Bible claims to be true truth.**

a. The Bible, both Old Testament and New Testament claims to be **written, revealed, objectively true truth** given to us from the being who has created and sustains the world that now exists.

i. **Psalms 119:160** The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.

2. We will be comparing Religions systems, Islam claims to be founded upon written, revealed truth.

a. What do we do when two truth claims collide and disagree?
Can they both be true? **No**. One is true. One is not true.

3. Jesus was an absolutist - The Bible is a document of Absolutes - Not variables.

Jesus did not come to offer personalized, variable, relative truth that changes with its surroundings. Jesus claims to be truth.

a. To his closest men He said this...“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. **John 14:6**

4. Scripture, Philosophy, and Logic declare that in the world of contradicting claims, there is true, and there is false.

Thinking men and women are forced to take sides.

This is the nature of Truth.

III. In Biblical Eschatology

A. We seem to find the following things... (*We Seem to See...* addendum)

1. We see someone called the Antichrist
2. We see someone called the False Prophet
3. We see individuals called The Two Witnesses
4. We see someone called the Dragon (Satan)
5. We see what seems to be a worldwide religious system
6. We see what seems to be a worldwide unifying political system
7. We see what seems to be a worldwide economic system
8. We see what seems to be a seven year period of time possibly containing a treaty
9. Finally...We see Jesus returning, we see a great battle of Armageddon, much more...

IV. In Islamic Eschatology

A. We seem to find the following things...

1. We see someone called al-Mahdi - the Islamic Messiah
2. We see someone called Isa - the Islamic Jesus
3. We see someone called ad-Dajjal - the Islamic Antimesiah
4. We see a worldwide religious rule - the Islamic Caliphate
5. We see a worldwide political rule - under Islamic Sharia Law
6. We see a seven year period of a treaty with the Jews

V. al-Mahdi - The Islamic Messiah

A. What does Islam say about him?

1. **Summary:** The hadiths speak of al-Mahdi as a character that is expected to appear in the Last Days, unite the Muslims and with the help of Isa, conduct jihad (lit. struggle, more commonly, referring to warfare in Allah's cause) against the rest of the world.

He is expected to be victorious and to usher in a new era of Islamic Caliphate. The Caliphate is the jurisdiction of the Caliph. Muslims expect this Islamic Caliphate to eventually cover the entire world as the entire world comes under Islam.

2. **The hadiths say: Al-Mahdi is considered a Major Sign of the Qiyamah**
(the day of Judgment or Resurrection)

a. The Guided One, The Gifted One

3. **The hadiths give his physical description**

a. Hadiths ascribe to him a regular height, an Arab complexion, a glittering face, about the age of 40, and has a black mole on his right cheek. He will be wearing two cloaks.

The people asked:

“O Rasulullah sallallahu alayhi wasallam , who will be the Imaam of the people at the time?”

Rasulullah sallallahu alayhi wasallam said:

“He will be from my progeny and will be forty years of age. His face will shine like a star and he will have a black spot on his left cheek. He will don two “Qutwaani” cloaks and will appear exactly as a person from the Bani Israel...”

4. The hadiths say he is near when an army comes from Khorasan with black flags

- a. With an army bearing the black flags of Jihad
- b. Black flags will be planted at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem
- c. al-Mahdi will then be imminent

5. The hadiths say the Mahdi will be changed overnight

- a. The Mahdi may not be some prominent person that is already ruling over some country in the world. Instead, Muslims believe al-Mahdi to be a person living in obscurity before his emergence, and that his heart will be changed overnight to take up this responsibility.

6. The hadiths say Allah will cause the people of this world to admire and love him.

- a. That al-Mahdi will exude a charisma, charm, and as we shall also see, persuasiveness, that will bring many people will to come willingly under his rule and become Muslims as al-Mahdi and make Islam the only religion in this world.

7. The hadiths say he will sign a peace treaty to be upheld for 7 years

- a. We also read of a peace treaty that the Muslims will enter into:

Hadhrat Abu Umamah radiyallahu anhu says that Rasulullah sallallahu alayhi wasallam said:

“There will be four peace agreements between you and the Romans. The fourth agreement will be mediated through a person who will be from the progeny of Hadhrat Haroon alayhis salaam and will be upheld for seven years.”

(Tabrani, as quoted by Mufti A.H. Elias and Mohammad Ali ibn Zubair Ali, “Imam Mahdi (Descendent of Prophet Muhammad PBUH)”)

8. The hadiths say Mahdi will reign for 7, 8, or 9 year period. Most say 7

- a. Narrated Abu Sa’id al-Khudri:

The Prophet (peace_be_upon_him) said: The Mahdi will be of my stock, and will have a broad forehead a prominent nose. He will fill the earth with equity and justice as it was filled with oppression and tyranny, and he will rule for seven years. ()

- b. *Then there will arise a man of Quraysh whose maternal uncles belong to Kalb and send against them an expeditionary force which will be overcome by them, and that is the expedition of Kalb. Disappointed will be the one who does not receive the booty of Kalb. He will divide the property, and will govern the people by the Sunnah of their Prophet (peace_be_upon_him) and*

establish Islam on Earth. He will remain seven years, then die, and the Muslims will pray over him. (Sunan Abu Dawud, Book 36, #4273)

- c. There are some other hadiths that gives his length of rule as 5, 7, 9 or 10 years. There is even one that says 20 years. However, the hadith with seven years seems to be the most authentic (Sahih). There is some doubt in the authenticity of the other hadiths.

9. The hadiths say Jerusalem will be the center of al-Mahdi's Islamic Caliphate

- a. *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.* (Muhammad ibn Izzat and Muhammad 'Arif)

10. The hadiths say he will govern according to Sharia Law & Islamic Calendar

a. Islamic Law

According to the hadiths, al-Mahdi will govern according to the Sunnah of Muhammad. The word sunnah literally means "trodden path" and refers to the words and acts of Muhammad, and these are recorded in the hadiths.

- i. The Sunnah of Muhammad refers to the precedents set by Muhammad.
ii. The Sunnah is codified into the Shari'a (Islamic Law).
ii. Sharia Law in the UK

The Sunday Times - September 14, 2008

Revealed: UK's first official sharia courts by Abul Taher

ISLAMIC law has been officially adopted in Britain, with sharia courts given powers to rule on Muslim civil cases.

The government has quietly sanctioned the powers for sharia judges to rule on cases ranging from divorce and financial disputes to those involving domestic violence.

Rulings issued by a network of five sharia courts are enforceable with the full power of the judicial system, through the county courts or High Court.

Previously, the rulings of sharia courts in Britain could not be enforced, and depended on voluntary compliance among Muslims.

It has now emerged that sharia courts with these powers have been set up in London, Birmingham, Bradford and Manchester with the network's headquarters in Nuneaton, Warwickshire. Two more courts are being planned for Glasgow and Edinburgh.

b. Islamic Calendar

- i. Another important aspect of Shar'ia relates to the calendar. Muslim nations use the Islamic calendar that dates from the Hijra (the escape of Muhammad from Mecca to Medina). Thus, Islamic dates are labelled as A.H. (after Hijra) instead of A.D. (Anno Domini, latin for "in the year of our Lord"). When al-Mahdi implements the Shari'a Law over his empire, it is a given that he will also use the Islamic calendar.
- c. **Daniel 7:25** He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws.

11. The hadiths say the Mahdi will conquer Jews and slaughter them

- a. *(Muhammad 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; come and kill him.*

B. Overview of the Parallels between the Mahdi and the Antichrist of the Bible**1. Summary — Characteristics Of Al-Mahdi**

- He will be Islam's deliverer.
- He is to be a descendent of Muhammad.
- He is to bear the name or some variant name of Muhammad.
- He will look like a Bani Israel.
- He will lead the Muslims and wage jihad against them rest of the world.
- He will rule over the world.
- He will cause Islam to be the only religion in the world and rule with Islamic Law.
- He will be much loved by the world.
- He will conquer the Jews and slaughter them.
- He will set up his seat of authority in Jerusalem.
- He will rule for seven years (or 8, or 9).
- He will make a treaty of seven years with a person of priestly lineage.
- He will possess and distribute wealth to the Muslims.
- He will discover a new Torah, Gospel, and the Ark, and will use them to argue and persuade Jews and Christian, and cause many people to follow him into Islam.
- During his rule, there will be good rain, great harvest and crops.

2. Comparison Chart between the Mahdi and the Antichrist as described in the Bible**3. Comparing what we seem to see in the Bible vs what Islam says is coming**

How could these similarities be? Strategic evil. Strategic deceit.

John 8:44 “ You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

VI. Conclusion**A. Next week, we'll look at:**

1. Isa: the Islamic “Jesus”
2. ad-Dajjal: the Islamic Antichrist
3. The Islamic “Mark of the Beast”
4. The incredible counterfeit and deceit that will come about in those days

B. Assignment:

1. Read Daniel and/or Revelation for yourself
2. At least read through the Scripture Reference sheet

C. Resources

1. Best web resource
 - a. <http://al-mahdi.atspace.com/>
2. Books
 - a. Antichrist: Islam's Awaited Messiah by Joel Richardson
 - b. God's War on Terror: Islam, Prophecy and the Bible by Walid Shoebat

D. Prayer