

*The Rise
and Fall of
Islam*

by
David Davis

Chapter from **The Elijah Legacy**

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The Life and Times of Elijah — The Prophetic Significance
for Israel, Islam and the Church in the Last Days

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THE RISE AND FALL OF ISLAM

In the seventh and eighth centuries A.D. Muslim hordes swept out of what is today Saudi Arabia and overran the Middle East. The spirit of Islam came upon the nations that surround Israel today. We have seen how the Lord used the prophetic ministries of Elijah and Elisha to confront and defeat the powers of darkness in and surrounding Israel in their generation.

As terrible as the darkness was in Elijah's day, today the situation facing Israel is much worse. Three hundred million Muslims surround five and a half million Jews. Israel is less than ten miles wide at one point. You can drive across it in ten minutes! A fierce war in the heavenlies is being waged against Israel and God's end-time purposes. The spirit of Islam has descended like a cloud of locusts upon the Middle East.

The forerunner and finisher ministries of Elijah and Elisha offer a powerful prophetic foreshadowing and example for us to follow at this *kairos* moment. These two prophets understood the enemy clearly. The church today needs revelation concerning the nature of Islam. We need to know our enemy if we are to be aligned with

the Lord in His last-days conflict with Islam. The roots of the conflict between Islam, Israel, the church and the West can be traced back to the time of Abraham.

On September 11, 2001, the demonic spirit of Islam was exposed to all the world for those who have eyes to see. We who live and serve the Lord in Israel experience this most ancient of hatreds on an almost daily basis. Since the rebirth of the nation of Israel in 1948, when five Arab armies attempted to destroy the infant state, thousands of Arabs and Jews have died in the on-going deadly conflict. Since September 2001, over two thousand Arabs and Jews have died. But the current situation surrounding Israel is just the latest manifestation of an ancient hatred that goes all the way back to the time of Abraham.

Hagar and Ishmael

Over four thousand years of hostilities between Arabs and Jews began because of the sin of unbelief. Sarah and Abraham did not wait for the fulfillment of God's prophetic promise. Here is the genesis of the world's longest running family feud: "Then Sarah, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan" (Gen. 16:3). When Hagar, the Egyptian maid became pregnant she began to "despise" her mistress, Sarah. Abram's wife dealt "harshly" with her pregnant maid and Hagar "fled from her presence. Now the Angel of the Lord found her by the spring of water in the wilderness" (16:7). The Lord had mercy on Hagar and Abraham's child whom she carried. God gave the distraught Hagar this prophecy: "Behold, you are with child, and you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael ["God hears"], because the Lord has heard your affliction. He shall be a wild man; his hand shall be against every man, and every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren" (vs. 11-12).

Hagar called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You-Are-

The-God-Who-Sees," for she said, "Have I also seen Him who sees me?" (v. 13). I believe the Lord Jesus appeared and prophesied to her in a theophany. Hagar obeyed the Lord and she bore a son, who was returned to Abraham. The child was to be "a wild man," violent and aggressive against all. God named him Ishmael and also prophesied that he would dwell near his brothers.

God's Promises to Ishmael – the Arab People

The Arab people claim descent from Ishmael, Hagar's son. Thirteen years after the birth of Ishmael when Abraham was ninety-nine, God told the patriarch that Sarah would bear him a son. Abraham loved his teenage boy, Ishmael, and cried out to God about him: "'Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!' 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' " (Gen. 17:18-19). God also answered Abraham's prayer for Ishmael: "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. But My covenant I will establish with Isaac" (vs. 20-21).

God's Covenant for the Land and the Messiah through Isaac

This has been the crux of the controversy between the Arab and the Jewish people for nearly four thousand years. God's covenant promises for the land of Canaan and the coming Messiah are through Isaac. God also promised that Ishmael would be blessed by exceeding fruitfulness, and that he would be a great nation. A glance at a map of the Middle East will clearly show that this prophecy has been fulfilled.

When Isaac ("laughter"), the miracle child of the covenant, was born, relatives and friends of Abraham and Sarah celebrated with

a great feast. All rejoiced for the patriarch, his wife and child, except Hagar and Ishmael, who was “scoffing [“mocking”]” (Gen. 21:9). Sarah told her husband to put the “bondwoman” and her son out of the house. Abraham was deeply distressed because of his love for Ishmael, but the Lord told him to obey his wife. The aging patriarch sent Hagar and his son Ishmael away. The agonizing wound of rejection cut Hagar and Ishmael deeply.

Ishmael and his mother wandered in the Wilderness of Beersheba (“seven wells”). There in the desert the mother and son drank their last water. Hagar put Ishmael under a shrub to guard him from the sun. In her loneliness and misery, “she said to herself, ‘Let me not see the death of the boy.’ So she sat opposite him, and lifted her voice and wept” (v. 16). I have always felt this is a deeply moving picture of the Arab people, weeping in the desert over the wound of rejection inflicted upon them by Father Abraham. God still hears that cry today, even as he heard Ishmael then: “And God heard the voice of the lad” (v. 17). (This is a play on words of Ishmael’s name.) He also answered the tears of the mother of the Arab people. “Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation” (vs. 17-18). “The-God-Who-Sees” then “opened her eyes and she saw a well of water....So God was with the lad” (vs. 19-20).

Ishmael began to live in the desert where he took an Egyptian wife. Many children were born to him, and his sons roamed the desert often in conflict with others. Indeed, twelve Arabian princes were his legacy (see Gen. 25:12–17). When Abraham died, Isaac and Ishmael, the two half-brothers, buried their father in Hebron, in the cave of Machpelah, which the patriarch had purchased. (To this day the battle between Arabs and Jews still rages in this place. Twelve Israelis were murdered there in December 2002.)

“Two Nations Are in Your Womb”

The family of Abraham was about to enter its second generation

of sibling strife. Even as Isaac’s wife Rebekah gave birth, the twin boys struggled together in her womb. The Lord told her that, “Two nations are in your womb, two peoples are separated from your body; one people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger” (Gen. 25:23). Esau the older of the twins became a skillful hunter and was his father’s favorite. But “Rebekah loved Jacob.” Esau who was called “Edom” (“red”) sold his birthright, the double portion of the eldest son, to Jacob. “Thus Esau despised his birthright” (v. 34). Later when Esau realized that Jacob had received the father’s blessing of the firstborn, “He cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry....and said to his father, ‘Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!’ And Esau lifted up his voice and wept” (Gen. 27:34,38). Isaac then prophesied over Esau: “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” (v. 40).

Ishmael hated Isaac, and now in the next generation, “Esau hated Jacob.” The oldest son sold his father’s blessing for a bowl of lentils and then declared, “I will kill my brother Jacob” (v. 41).

Esau Married into Ishmael’s Family

Cunning Jacob fled from his vindictive twin brother. Esau, now in open rebellion against his father, “saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac, so Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath [“disease”] the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham’s son....to be his wife” (Gen. 28:8-9). (She was his third wife.) Esau knowingly married into the line of Ishmael and the Canaanites, a people cursed by Noah. (See Gen. 9:22–25.)

While Esau was joining himself to the house of Ishmael and the idol-worshipping Canaanites, Jacob had an encounter with the God of his fathers in a dream. The Lord renewed His covenant and told Jacob, “the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants...and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be

blessed” (28:13-14). Jacob woke up and was terrified. “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!” (v. 17). God’s holy covenant promises are to the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—not to Ishmael and Esau. The conferring of the covenant was God’s sovereign choice. Jacob, “the supplanter,” was asleep. God’s initiating grace renewed and released His covenant promises to the third generation.

In order to biblically understand the conflict that rages over Israel in the Middle East we must trace its roots. At the death of Isaac, the second patriarch, his two boys were also there. “His sons Esau and Jacob buried him” (35:29). Esau and Jacob were twin brothers. Ishmael and Isaac were half-brothers with the same father—Abraham. Arabs and Jews today are their descendants.

“Esau is Edom”

The entire chapter of Genesis 36 is devoted to the genealogy of Esau. It begins with this statement: “Now this is the genealogy of Esau, who is Edom” (v. 11). It is most important for those of us who hope to understand God’s purposes to realize that “Esau” is “Edom.” We are told this important fact three times in this chapter. Esau, the one who would “live by the sword,” took more wives from the daughters of Canaan, including Hittite and Hivite women. Later, Esau moved his wives, children and grandchildren to Mount Seir, which in scripture becomes synonymous with Esau and the Edomites. The word “seir” means “rough male goat,” “devil,” or “satyr.” A satyr was a half-goat, half-male demon. Satyrs in pagan religions were synonymous with lechery and rape.

Esau and Ishmael had become one large family or tribe. In the recorded genealogies of Esau-Edom and Ishmael (the Arab people) we find names of individuals and tribes who later would become murderous enemies of God’s covenant people. Israel is the name God gave to Esau’s twin brother, Jacob. Some of these mortal enemies of Israel include: Kedar, Teman, Omar and Amalek. As Ishmael and

Esau and their descendants were spawning a massive pagan progeny, Jacob fathered twelve sons, who became the patriarchs of the twelve tribes of Israel.

This is the biblical background which has fostered such deep enmity between three hundred million Arabs (the descendants of Ishmael and Esau), now surrounding five and a half million Jews (descendants of Isaac and Jacob), now living in a narrow strip of the land given them from God by His holy covenant. When we see “Edom” or “Seir” in the Psalms, Prophets or New Testament, they are references to the offspring of Esau and Ishmael, sworn enemies of the Jewish people.

Amalekites

The wandering desert tribe of Amalek ambushed Israel shortly after the nation came out of Egypt (Ex. 17:3). The founder of the tribe was a grandson of Esau. Amalek means “warlike.” As Joshua battled the Amalekites in the valley, Moses’ prayers on the mountain brought victory. Because the Amalekites attacked the sick, elderly, the stragglers and the women, God put a curse upon them: “ ‘I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven!’ And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-Lord-Is-My-Banner; for he said, ‘Because the Lord has sworn: the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation’ ” (vs. 14–16).

King Saul was removed as Israel’s first king because he disobeyed God and did not utterly destroy the Amalekites. Saul spared Agag, king of the Amalekites, but the prophet Samuel “hacked Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal” (1 Sam. 15:33). Haman in the Book of Esther was an Amalekite. Herod the Great at the time of Jesus was an Edomite usurper of the throne of David. He is remembered for the massacre of innocent Jewish children, the murder of several of his sons, and his appalling death. Haman and Herod both tried to destroy the Jews and the Lord’s Messiah. They came from the line of Ishmael-Esau-Edom.

The Rise of Islam

In the eighth century AD, Muslim armies swept out of the Arabian peninsula (Saudi Arabia today) and conquered the Middle East, northern Africa, Spain, Turkey and the Balkans. Their armies were finally stopped in France and Austria. The schisms, corruption, and heresies of the Roman and Greek Orthodox churches had opened the way for the ascendancy of this demonic religion. Any objective history book will show that Islam is a religion birthed and bathed in blood. Mohammed received visions and words from “spirits,” which became incorporated into the Koran, a book dedicated to the subjection of the world to a false god, called “Allah.”

The word “Islam” means “submission.” The Mohammedan hordes slaughtered, raped and pillaged millions in the seventh and eighth centuries. Mohammed’s own harem of “wives” included an eleven-year-old girl. Islam is the only world religion with a written, clearly articulated agenda of forceful world conquest. *Jihad* (“holy war”) against all infidels (non-Muslims) is one of Islam’s fundamental beliefs. The Koran places all the people of the world into two groups: “The House of Peace” (“Islam”) or the “House of War” (everybody else). You either accept Islam or you are a target for destruction. Muslim militants simply take the commands of the Koran seriously. The Koran also teaches that Jesus did not die on the cross. Rather it teaches that an “imposter” was crucified, meaning that Jesus was not raised from the dead, and is not the Son of God.

Islam and the Spirit of Anti-Christ

“Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son” (1 John 2:22). “Anti” is a Greek preposition that has two meanings: “against,” and “in place of.” The ultimate purpose of the “spirit of anti-Christ” is to put a false Messiah in the place of the true Messiah—Jesus the Jew, the Prince of Peace. Not only is the spirit of anti-Christ against Jesus, it seeks to replace Him with an imposter. Allah, the moon god (note

the Islamic flag) of Mesopotamia, has no son. This god is not the God of the Bible.

Mohammed claimed to be a prophet who received “messages” from the angel Gabriel, who had announced the incarnation of Jesus to a Jewish virgin named Miriam (Mary). Mohammed contended that Islam was the true fulfillment of both the Old and New Testaments and had replaced them. According to Mohammed the Gospels were a perversion of the truth which he was restoring. He rejected Christianity and thought the Jewish people would become his followers. When they in turn rejected him and his new anti-Christ religion, the Muslims turned against the Jews as well and became their persecutors.

Islam bears unmistakable marks of the “spirit of anti-Christ.” Not only does it deny the divinity and atoning death of Jesus, it also attempts to replace Him and the Bible with the teachings of Mohammed and the Koran as the final revelation of God. We are in a war for the truth, with the “spirit of anti-Christ.” (For more information on Islam I recommend George Grant’s *The Blood of the Moon*; and *The Closed Circle*, by David Pryce-Jones.)

Mohammed vs. Jesus

Shortly after September 11 the international television and print media began a massive campaign attempting to whitewash Islam. Of course, they say that Christianity is just as bad. They are correct with regard to the atrocities which were committed by so-called “Christians” in the Crusades, Inquisition and pogroms. But they miss the root of the matter. Jerusalem-based AP reporter David Dolan clarifies this important point:

Modern Muslim apologists note that incessant conflicts also racked “Christian” Europe....Yet there is a fundamental difference between Christianity and Islam, and it is the key to understanding why we are precariously perched on the

edge of a precipice....European leaders and warriors were hardly imitating the Jewish Prince of Peace or His first century disciples when they violently lashed out against each other. But warring Muslim leaders....have precisely reflected the bloodstained actions of their revered Prophet and earliest followers....No contemporary Muslim....can deny Muhammad was a quintessential *jihad* warrior....most justify his violent actions as sanctioned by *Allah*, as recorded in the *Koran*. His powerful example of what one does to religious opponents who stand in the way of the spread of Islam is the main reason why men like Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden can find myriads of Islamic defenders for their violent actions today, even sometimes those directed against fellow Muslims ("Holy Violence," David Dolan, *Crisis Update*, 3 October 2001).

Dolan is right. Mohammed shed the blood of thousands. Jesus allowed His own blood to be shed for our salvation.

Satan's Masterpiece

Islam is one of Satan's masterpieces. It is built upon lies, half-truths, terror, and mass murder, all of which continues today in Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Nigeria and the Palestinian Authority. After the Gulf War, Saddam Hussein's oldest son Uday oversaw the systematic mass murder of over one hundred thousand Iraqi Muslims. (Some reports even say three hundred thousand.) They had been held in one of Iraq's notorious prisons (information taken from "*The Jerusalem Report*," p.28-29, January 28, '02). Hafez Assad, the father of Syria's present dictator, liquidated forty thousand of his own Muslim people.

Mohammed became the self-proclaimed prophet-priest of a false religion, which worships a false god called "Allah." His followers were and are characterized by male domination, power, and violence. The *Koran* teaches that the appropriation and distribution of all

female captives is a virtue. Women have few rights under Islam. Afghanistan is a prime example, but is only one of many. In some places Muslim women are "circumcised" with scissors or knives, so they are unable to have pleasure during sex. This is even true in so-called "moderate" Muslim dictatorships, like Egypt. Men may also have up to four wives. Martyrs for the cause of Islam are told they go to heaven where seventy virgins supposedly await them, and that seventy family members will also go to heaven, if they blow themselves up with some Jews.

Today over one billion people are held in subjection to totalitarian Islamic regimes. Women and children have few rights in countries where power is held by wealthy tyrants and murderers who harbor and encourage global terrorism. There has never been a democracy in a Muslim nation. An "Islamic republic" is a contradiction in terms.

We are in a war to the death with the spirit behind Islam. What was unleashed on September 11 for all the world to watch as it happened was a horrific demonstration of the murderous spirit of Islam. It was a worldwide warning.

Jesus described Satan as a "murderer from the beginning.... he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). Israel was chosen by God to give the world His Word (the Bible), and His Messiah, His Son, to redeem the world. Jesus is coming back to Jewish Jerusalem (see Zech. 14:4 and Acts 1:11) when the Jews will finally have received their Messiah (Rom. 11:26-27). Today many are already turning to Him.

Pharaoh, Haman, Herod, Hitler and now Hamas ("violence") have all tried to destroy Israel and God's redemptive plan. (Why did the Palestinian Muslims support Hitler in World War II and Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War?) The murderous spirit behind Islam hates Israel because the Jews have been restored to their ancient homeland, which God gave them through an everlasting covenant. The goal of Islam is to annihilate Israel.

But God is watching over His Word to perform it. Those who

attack Israel, “the apple of God’s eye,” “His anointed ones,” will be contending with Jehovah Tsevaot, “the Lord God of armies” (see Ps. 105:7–15).

The Spirit of Islam Upon the Seed of Ishmael

When the Islamic hordes invaded and subjugated the Middle East, the spirit of Islam (“anti-Christ”) came upon the descendants of Ishmael and Esau-Edom. We have seen that Ishmael and Esau were rejected by Abraham and Isaac. For millennia the wound of rejection has manifested itself through envy, rebellion, revenge and murder. We are in the continuing war between the half-brothers Ishmael and Isaac. Mohammed was also rejected by Judaism and Christianity. Rejection demands revenge. The Koran is a counterfeit “holy book,” which contradicts the truth of the Bible.

The casting out of Ishmael has been productive of bitter fruit, surviving in the religion of Mohammed....Little did Sarah know, when she persuaded Abraham to take Hagar that she was originating a rivalry which has been in the keenest strife through the ages, and which oceans of blood have not stopped. The Muslims claim descent from Ishmael. (*All the Men of the Bible* p.160.)

The Battle for Jerusalem

The Dome of the Rock shrine to Allah was built upon the Temple Mount above the ruins of the First and Second Temples. I have only entered the shrine once, and then I was “prayed up” and was with a team of intercessors. Inside there is an exposed rock, where a sign in several languages proclaims the lie that upon that rock Abraham offered up his son Ishmael. Over one billion deluded people believe this lie. Other Arabic inscriptions proclaim: “Allah is the only God, and has no son. Mohammed is his prophet.”

Israel has given authority over the Temple Mount area to Islam.

Israeli media have recently disclosed that Muslims are covertly destroying any remains of the First and Second Temples. In fact a large bulge has recently appeared for all to see on the face of the Western Wall. “The Wailing Wall”—the holiest place in Judaism—is the remaining section of the retaining wall of the Second Temple. Muslims claim that there were no Jewish temples in Jerusalem, and that the Jews are liars who have no right there. Jerusalem is not even mentioned in the Koran. However, Jerusalem is written over three hundred times in the Bible. For over eighteen hundred years devout Jews have prayed toward Jerusalem three times a day. At every Jewish wedding the couple declares that they will not forget Jerusalem as they break a glass.

The Covenant of Death Against Israel

In Psalm 83 we have a clear prophetic picture of the situation in Israel today. The enemies of God state: “ ‘Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more!’ For they have consulted [“plotted”] together with one consent [“heart”]; they form a confederacy [“cut a covenant”] against You” (vs. 4-5).

And who are these conspirators against Jehovah and the nation of Israel? “The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites....Amalek; Philistia [Gaza]” (vs. 6-7). There is a clear listing of all the Muslim nations surrounding Israel today. And here is what these Muslim nations are saying: “Let us take for ourselves the pastures of God for a possession” (v. 12). The PLO has never rescinded its covenant calling for the destruction of Israel. Iran, Iraq, and Syria have publicly called for the liquidation of Israel. Tiny little Israel is an island of embarrassment and “desecration” in the Islamic sea of pride and dominion in the Middle East. By its very existence in “Mohammed’s land” Israel brings shame on the honor of Islam. On April 3, 2002, Yasser Arafat lied on the Al-Jazeera TV network, that “the Palestinian people have been rooted in this land before the time of Abraham.”

In Arabic he proclaimed the way to victory is through suicide bombings of innocent Israelis. We need to understand that mass murderers are not martyrs.

Who is Occupying Whom?

The Arab claim that the land of Israel was theirs and was taken away from them by the Jews is a lie with no historical basis. According to Joan Peters in her carefully documented book, *From Time Immemorial*, perhaps 90% of the Arabs migrated here beginning in the late nineteenth century, after Diaspora Jews began returning to their homeland as pioneers.

Israel became a nation two thousand years before the rise of Islam and long before there existed any Arab nation. Israel has been the national homeland of the Jewish people since biblical times. It was subsequently “occupied” more than fifteen times, by nations such as Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome and the Ottoman Turks (1517-1917). They were followed by the British, who, under the Mandate of the League of Nations (later the U.N.) ruled in order to renew a homeland for the Jewish people. Jews have had a continuous presence in Israel for over 3,300 years.

The PLO propaganda machine has mastered the “Big Lie” technique. They have attempted to rewrite history, and by continuous repetition on TV, radio, in books and newspapers, their lies have come to be believed by a mass general audience who do not know the true history of this disputed land.

Arabs are not descendants of the Philistines (who came from Crete). Rather the Arabs came from the Arabian peninsula, now called Saudi Arabia, and are descendants of Ishmael. Because of massive oil deposits in Arab countries, Europe, Russia, Scandinavia, Britain and the U.S., acting out of self-interest, are silent or consenting to the gross Arab distortions of history. The real question is: “Who is occupying whose land?” The Word of God has the answer.

The “Land for Peace” Lie

Israel is God’s land which He chose to give the Jewish people, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in an everlasting covenant.

He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth. He remembers His covenant forever; For a thousand generations, The covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac, and confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, Saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan as the allotment of your inheritance.” When they were few in number, indeed very few, and strangers in it. When they went from one nation to another. From one kingdom to another people, He permitted no one to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, saying: “Do not touch My anointed ones, and do My prophets no harm” (Ps. 105: 7–15).

The judgment of God awaits those nations who attempt to change the borders of God’s covenant land of Israel.

They Shall Not Devour Israel

In September 1993, when the secret Oslo peace accords were made public, Karen and I were in Finland. As I sought the Lord about the consequences of Israel selling her birthright, the Holy Spirit quickened this verse to me: “The Syrians before and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with an open mouth” (Isa. 9:12). This is what has been happening since the Oslo peace accords were signed. Open mouths are still trying to devour Israel. They will not succeed.

The Apple of God’s Eye

In these last days the nations who attempt to force Israel into territorial compromise will have a controversy with the Lord of Hosts.

The Word of the Lord is clear: “He who touches you [Israel] touches the apple [“pupil”] of His eye” (Zech. 2:8). God will deal severely with these nations: “For surely I will shake My hand against them, and they shall become spoil for their servants. Then you will know the Lord of hosts has sent Me” (v. 9).

God spoke through the prophet Joel concerning the judgment which will surely come upon those nations who divide His land:

For behold, in those days and at that time,
 When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,
 I will also gather all nations,
 And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;
 And I will enter into judgment with them there
 On account of My people, My heritage Israel,
 Whom they have scattered among the nations;
They have also divided up My land (Joel 3:1-2).

Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Greece, Rome, Germany, Britain and the Soviet Union have all experienced the wrath of God because of their treatment of Israel.

U.S. President George W. Bush and his wife Laura are born-again believers. We earnestly pray he aligns himself with the Word of God and not with worldly counselors and coalitions. David Wilkerson prophesied with this warning in January 2002: “Let me say it again: ‘Diligently pray that President Bush will be given the spirit and godly zeal of Josiah, the king of Israel who turned a godless society back to God. If President Bush touches Israel—if he allows the Palestinians to have a portion of Jerusalem as their capital—we are doomed.’” A U.S. Senator gave that message to President Bush.

The Fall of Islam

Before Jesus returns, Islam will fall and the Lord will sweep millions of former Muslims into His kingdom. It is beginning to

happen in Kosovo, Indonesia, Mozambique, Uganda, Nigeria and Afghanistan. The Lord is beginning to shake the empire of Islam. When I was teaching young leaders in Kosovo in the summer of 1999, all of them were ex-Muslims. The young church that has emerged there since the war consists almost entirely of former Muslims. Since September 11 over two thousand Afgans have come to the Lord. There is massive revival in the midst of terrible persecution in Indonesia, as well as northern Mozambique. Fifty thousand Muslims have come to the Lord in Algeria. In Isaiah, Chapter 63, God says that He will judge Edom (Islam) and there will be a mighty move of salvation:

Who is this who comes from Edom,
 With dyed garments from Bozrah,
 This One who is glorious in His apparel,
 Traveling in the greatness of His strength? —
 “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save” (v. 1).

I believe the Bible clearly prophesies the fall of Islam. This scripture predicts that the collapse will be violent and bloody, but multitudes will be saved. The Lord will tread the winepress of His wrath alone, “For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of the redeemed has come” (v. 4). God promises that Islam’s strength will be “brought down” (v. 5). We need to pray for the Lord to hasten this day.

Jeremiah, Chapter 49, is another prophetic passage concerning the fall of Islam. Speaking against Edom, the Lord of Hosts (“armies”) says that He “will bring the calamity of Esau upon him” (v. 8). In this violent conflict with Islam, He says there will be many “fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let your widows trust in Me” (v. 11). This is already happening in Mozambique, Afghanistan and Indonesia.

Take up the Elijah Cloak

I believe the Spirit is calling and commissioning an army of missionaries to take up the cloak of the Elijah legacy, and go to the widows and orphans—the Hagers and the Ishmaels—of the Islamic world. Iraq may be next. God is moving mightily in all the former Soviet Republics that are now Muslim nations. In March 2002, an Iraqi believer stood in our meeting and asked forgiveness for what his nation has done to Israel. He had a message to Israeli Arabs and Palestinians to embrace God’s purposes for Israel. Amazingly, he had been led to the Lord by an Iranian believer.

Blood for Blood

Perhaps the most specific prophecy about God’s judgment upon Islam is the entire 35th Chapter of Ezekiel. The Lord tells the prophet to prophesy against Mount Seir. We have seen that “seir” represents a demonic root of Edomite paganism. When the demonized anti-Christ religion of Islam overran the Middle East, the spirit of Islam also came upon the descendants of Ishmael and Esau-Edom. I have even seen this spirit manifest itself in blatant anti-Semitism through Christian missionaries who have been working with Muslims. God told Ezekiel to prophesy that He—“Adonai Jehovah”—would stretch out His hand against Edom and make them desolate. But out of the judgment and destruction would come a mighty revival: “Then you shall know that I am the Lord” (v. 4). This is happening today in Kazakhstan, Nigeria, and Algeria. We are to prophesy and pray for this to be accomplished throughout the Muslim world.

The Lord then states why and what He will do to Islam. “Because you have had an ancient [“everlasting”] hatred, and have shed the blood of the children of Israel by the power of the sword at the time of her calamity, when her iniquity came to an end, ‘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 [“bloodshed”], therefore blood will pursue you’ ” (vs. 5-6).

The principality behind Islam (is it Satan himself?) hates Israel. The Edomites joined the Babylonians in the destruction of Jerusalem. Today Islam intends to destroy Israel so the Messiah won’t come back to Jewish Jerusalem. The Lord of Hosts promises a horrific and bloody confrontation—“blood shall pursue you,”—since Islam was birthed and is bathed in bloodshed. God promises justice and retribution.

The Lord continues in His prophecy, saying that because Islam intends to possess the land of Israel and has said “ ‘We will possess them,’ although the Lord was there, ‘therefore, as I live,’ says the Lord God, ‘I will do according to your anger and according to your envy which you showed in your hatred against them; and I will make Myself known among them when I judge you. Then you shall know that I am the Lord’ ” (v. 10–12). Millions of Muslims will come to know He is Jehovah, not Allah. God will finally judge the envy, hatred and violence of Islam against the true church and against Israel. The church and Israel will realize that God did it. So will the remnant of Islam. What a scenario we face in the near future—Jews, nominal Christians, and Muslims coming to the Lord in the millions.

God has a Controversy Against Islam

God has a controversy with Islam because they have blasphemed Him. They have boasted against God and Israel. The Lord concludes His awesome prophecy by saying, “Thus says the Lord God [“Adonai Jehovah”]: ‘The whole earth will rejoice when I make you desolate...then they shall know that I am the Lord’ ” (v. 14-15). The whole world witnessed the demonic bloodbath of September 11 and the whole world will also witness the fall of Islam.

As I listened to a portion of the State of the Union address of President Bush in January 2002, the Lord spoke to me that Mr. Bush is “the rod of God.” I believe he is God’s man who has the wisdom and courage to pre-emptively destroy weapons of mass destruction now being developed by the Islamic nations of Iraq and Iran. He also

warned the despotic regime of North Korea, the last major communist stronghold, where thousands of Christians are incarcerated, starved, and martyred today. Civilization is in a race against time as terrorist organizations and tyrants are driven to acquire more biological and nuclear arsenals, warheads and delivery systems.

It was revealed in February 2002, that Iran has given ten thousand missiles to Lebanese terrorists. They are capable of hitting the major cities of Israel. Iranian revolutionary guards are now in Lebanon, along with 35,000 Syrian troops. They are just twenty-five miles from Haifa. Iran has warned and threatened Israel not to consider attacking its nuclear power plants, which Russia is building for them. Israel destroyed Iraq's nuclear power in 1981. Thank God. Iran promises to "retaliate in ways unimaginable to any Israeli politician" (*The Jerusalem Post*, Feb. 5, 2002). In January 2002, in a daring raid in the Red Sea, Israeli commandos captured the "Karine A" ship. Fifty tons of explosives and weapons were on board. The ship was financed by Iran and was on its way to Gaza.

Islam's Harvest of Hate

On March 10, 2002, a major Saudi Arabian state-controlled newspaper published a two-part series stating that "the Jewish people must obtain human blood so that their clerics can prepare holiday pastries....The Jews' spilling blood to prepare pastry for their holidays is a well-established fact....all throughout history." Rich detail was offered about how Jews supposedly ritually-slaughter Christian and Muslim children ten years old or younger for Passover. A similar series of articles appeared in a major state-controlled Egyptian newspaper last year. In Muslim states, including the Palestinian Authority, all news media are controlled by the governments. Such articles (and books) are simply reappearances of the ancient anti-Semitic blood libel that began in "Christian" Britain and was popularized in Europe during past times of terrible persecution of the Jews. "The Matzah of Zion" is a popular Syrian book claiming

that Jews use Christian and Muslim blood to make matzah for Passover. A televised version of this book is shown on Arabic TV in the Middle East.

As these articles were running in a Saudi Arabian state-controlled newspaper, the Saudi Arabian government offered their new much-publicized "peace plan" for Israel and the Palestinians. Did the Western world forget that fifteen of the nineteen Muslim terrorists aboard the doomed American airliners on September 11 were from Saudi Arabia, as is Osama bin Laden? Can Israel possibly believe the sincerity of a corrupt Arab dictatorship that has shown nothing but hate to Israel for over half a century? In Saudi Arabia anyone found accepting another religion is beheaded.

Islamic hatred for Israel and the "Christian" West found its perfect expression on that clear September morning of September 11. Six months later the "Passover massacre" of twenty-nine, mostly elderly, Jews celebrating the Passover Seder meal at a seaside hotel not far from us, became another expression of such hate. In the month of March 2002, one hundred twenty-five Israelis died in terrorist attacks and suicide bombings.

Incitement — "To Stir up to Action"

In Israel we live under the dark cloud of the Palestinian Authority's raw incitement to hatred and murder. For instance, the Palestinian people heard these words from an Arafat-appointed spokesman and an Arafat-funded program on live official P.A. television: "The Jews....they must be butchered and killed, as Allah the almighty said: 'Fight them. Allah will torture them at your hands'....Have no mercy on the Jews, no matter where they are, in any country. Fight them, wherever you are. Wherever you meet them, kill them" (quoted in *The Washington Post*, March 31, 2002).

We are facing an entire generation of Palestinians indoctrinated and schooled in hatred of the Jews. An Arabic translation of *Mein Kampf* (Hitler's manifesto) is now a bestseller in the "territories."

The poisonous incitement of the Palestinian media against Israel has been birthed, funded, written, taught and broadcast by the Palestinian Authority during the eight years of the Oslo “peace process.” This murderous hatred has exploded precisely in the era in which Israel has agreed to major concessions of territory, the establishment of the Palestinian Authority, and to thousands of Palestinian police actually given arms by Israel. The “land for peace” delusion has become the reality of “land for war.”

After vilifying Israel for eight years through every channel at his disposal, Arafat’s state-controlled media now glorify “martyrdom operations,” as Muslim mothers and fathers appear proudly on TV after sending their sons and daughters to their death so they can kill as many Jews as possible.

During the Passover holiday, as the Christian world celebrated Easter Sunday, March 31, 2002, a Muslim suicide bomber blew himself up along with fourteen Jews and Israeli Arabs in a Haifa restaurant managed by Israeli Arabs. The Palestinian campaign of lies and hatred has birthed an orgy of unprecedented murder-suicide. An Arab pastor friend of ours was driving by the restaurant when it blew up. He sent his family home and then helped put out the flames on burning bodies, as a girl screamed from her car, “My Daddy is in there!” Her father had gone in to pick up some salads. Later the pastor walked home covered with Jewish and Arab blood. The next day the highest-ranking Egyptian Muslim cleric declared that female suicide bombers are sanctioned by the Koran.

“Millions of Martyrs Marching to Jerusalem”

On March 29, 2002, two days before this “Passover Massacre,” Mr. Arafat told the Arab network of Al-Jazeera TV: “To Jerusalem we march—martyrs by the millions.” He repeated his mantra five times.

Middle Eastern incitement of hatred and murder from Cairo, Beirut, Teheran, Baghdad and Damascus is consistently proclaimed in schools, mosques, universities and the media. Assad, the “Fox of

Damascus” cried: “Syria must unite the Arab world against the infidels—the West and the Jews.” His son publicly told the Pope that Israelis are “Nazis.” The “Butcher of Baghdad,” Saddam Hussein, took an ancient oath to restore the glories of Babylon and “to wash my hands and feet in the blood of the infidels for the glory of Babylon forever.” And the ayatollahs of Teheran vow to destroy the Jews and the “Great Satan” of America.

A Modern History of Hate

Here are some milestones in the recent history of the age-old conflict being waged in Israel today. The Balfour Declaration of 1917 declared that Palestine was to be a homeland for the Jewish people. In 1922 the British gave three-fourths of Mandatory Palestine to the Arabs and named it Jordan. Seven years later the ancient Jewish community in Hebron was massacred by Arabs. During World War II the grand mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini, met with Hitler in an attempt to solve the “problem of the Jewish element in Palestine....by the same method that the question is now being settled in the Axis countries.” The Arab world rejected the U.N. partition plan of 1947, that would have created a Jewish and a Palestinian State. In 1948 five Arab armies invaded the newly established State of Israel. Holocaust historians estimate that two million Jews perished because Britain refused to let them return to Mandatory Palestine. (See *Prophecy Today*, July-August, 2002.)

From 1948 until 1967 all Israelis were prevented from praying in Jordanian-controlled Jerusalem. Three Arab armies launched a “battle of annihilation” against Israel in 1967. Six days later, Israel controlled Jerusalem for the first time in centuries. Now all faiths are allowed to worship there. The Jews had been excluded by Jordan from 1947–1967.

In 1972 the PLO slaughtered Israel’s Olympic delegation in Munich, Germany. Later that year Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Yom Kippur. Mr. Arafat supported Saddam Hussein

during the Gulf War. After signing the Oslo accords, Chairman Arafat consistently called (in Arabic) on the Muslim world to wage *“jihad to eliminate the State of Israel.”* Arafat told President Clinton at Camp David that there never has been a Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, as PA-controlled television featured children singing in Arabic, *“When I wander in Jerusalem, I will be a suicide bomber.”* Several days later the renewed terrorist attacks of the intifada (*“Arab uprising”*) began on Rosh HaShanah, 2000, the Jewish New Year.

“A Season of the Sudden”

God will have the last word. Islam will be humbled, and millions of captives will be set free. *“Therefore thus says the Lord God: ‘I will also stretch out My hand against Edom...and make it desolate. I will lay My vengeance on Edom by the hand of my people Israel, that they may do in Edom according to My anger, and according to My fury; and they shall know My vengeance,’ says the Lord God”* (Ezek. 25:13-14).

Israel will not wait to be destroyed by Iran, Iraq, Syria or Egypt. In the Six-Day War when Arab armies prepared to attack her, Israel destroyed the Egyptian air force before it could get off the ground. If Israel’s very survival is threatened again she will strike Damascus, Baghdad, and Teheran. In the Gulf War we had a three-minute warning of incoming Iraqi scuds. Today, the warnings will be measured in seconds. We are in a *“season of the sudden.”*

Muslim Harvest

In the midst of God’s coming judgment upon Islam, there are also wonderful prophecies of the ingathering of a mighty harvest of Muslim souls. The entire vision of Obadiah is a picture of God’s judgment upon Edom. However, the prophet’s vision concludes with this marvelous promise: *“Then saviors [“those who have been saved”] shall come to Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau, and the kingdom shall be the Lord’s”* (Obad. 21). I see *jihad* warriors

transformed into radicals for Jesus, and leading their own people to salvation. The Lord is saving a remnant outside their countries and many will return home to evangelize their own Muslim people.

The Tabernacle of David

The end-time *“Elijah Company”* will be used *“to restore all things,”* as Jesus prophesied. One of the things that will be restored is *“the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down”* (Amos 9:11; Acts 15:16). The tent (or booth) of David was where the king communed with the Lord. David sat (*“remained”*) before the Lord in the tent where the ark of His Presence stood (2 Sam. 7:18). Those walking in the Elijah legacy will be consistently saturated with the presence of God. The restored tabernacle of David also represents the descendants of David, his spiritual offspring who are warriors and worshippers, like the psalmist king. Amos prophesied that God was going to raise up the ruined tabernacle, and beautify it and complete it as in *“the days of eternity”* (Amos 9:11).

Who will be the partakers of this restored intimacy with the Lord and the magnificent multi-ethnic worship released there? The biblical Jewish roots will be restored to the church and Jews and Arabs will be worshipping Jesus together—as they are beginning to do here on Mount Carmel. Not only will Arabs and Jews be in God’s *“house of prayer for all nations”* (Isa. 56:7), but they will be joined by *“all the Gentiles who are called by My name”* (Amos 9:12). This is where we are heading. And who will accomplish this mighty end-time work? It will be Jehovah *“who does this thing”* (v. 12).

I have been blessed to taste of the restored tabernacle of David with brothers and sisters from the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Sudan, Nigeria, Kosovo, Malaysia and Indonesia. I have also worshiped with my Egyptian brothers in Cairo. No demonic power will stop the fulfillment of the Elijah legacy of the *“one new man in Christ.”*

At the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 the Jewish prophets Paul and

Barnabas described how the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles. James (“Jacob”) proclaimed that the prophesied restoration of the tabernacle of David had begun, “So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord” (v. 17). The salvation of the house of Israel and the remnant of Islam is an eternal longing in the heart of God. Isaac and Ishmael will be one in the Father’s house. “Known to God from eternity are His works” (v. 18).

“Shalom” and “Salaam”

In June 2002, Karen and I ministered at the annual conference of the Pentecostal Church of Finland. Thirty thousand people attended from all over Finland. The theme was “Isaac and Ishmael”—reaching out to Jews and Muslims. At one meeting Karen was asked to sing in Hebrew, while a brother from Egypt was to sing in Arabic. However, the Egyptian was not able to obtain a visa to leave his country. When Karen was asked if she could sing another song in his place she told the organizers that she could sing something in Arabic.

At the meeting, which was held in two huge tents, Karen felt impressed by the Lord to sing the Arabic worship song, “Salaam” (“Peace”). The words are those spoken by Jesus, as recorded in John 14:27: “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.”

After Karen finished singing she sat down. A former Muslim from Israel came to the pulpit to share about his TV ministry to Muslims in Europe. With tears in his eyes he said, “I was so moved when the Jewish sister from Israel sang ‘Salaam.’ My friend from Egypt who could not come today was supposed to sing in Arabic. He is the one who wrote ‘Salaam.’” (Karen did not know this when she chose to sing that particular song.)

Then the ex-Muslim asked Karen to come up and stand with him in prayer for Jesus to reveal Himself to Muslims and Jews. There was a large rugged wooden cross next to the pulpit. Karen and the Arab man from Israel (“Isaac and Ishmael”) stood together under the

cross and prayed over the throng of people. We were witnessing a “firstfruits” fulfillment of Eph. 2:14-15: “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one [Jew and non-Jew], and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity....so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace.”

The true church will be in the forefront of this mighty restoration of the “one new man,” as we answer the call to pick up the cloak of Elijah and accept our end-time mandate as forerunners and finishers.

APPENDIX

TWENTY FACTS ABOUT ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

by William Bennett, Jack Kemp, Jeane Kirkpatrick

May 22, 2002

The world's attention has been focused on the Middle East. We are confronted daily with scenes of carnage and destruction. Can we understand such violence? Yes, but only if we come to the situation with a solid grounding in the facts of the matter—facts that too often are forgotten, if ever they were learned. Below are twenty facts that we think are useful in understanding the current situation, how we arrived here, and how we might eventually arrive at a solution.

Roots of the Conflict

1. When the United Nations proposed the establishment of two states in the region—one Jewish, one Arab—the Jews accepted the proposal and declared their independence in 1948. The Jewish state constituted only 1/6 of one percent of what was known as “the Arab world.” The Arab states, however, rejected the UN plan and since then have waged war against Israel repeatedly, both all-out wars and wars of terrorism and attrition.

In 1948, five Arab armies invaded Israel in an effort to eradicate it. Jamal Hussenini of the Arab Higher Committee spoke for many in vowing to soak “the soil of our beloved country with the last drop of our blood.”

2. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was founded in 1964—three years before Israel controlled the West Bank and Gaza. The PLO’s declared purpose was to eliminate the State of Israel by means of armed struggle. To this day, the website of Yasser Arafat’s Palestinian Authority (PA) claims that the entirety of Israel is “occupied” territory. It is impossible to square this with the PLO and PA assertions to Western audiences that the root of the conflict is Israel’s occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.
3. The West Bank and Gaza (controlled by Jordan and Egypt from 1948 to 1967) came under Israeli control during the Six Day War of 1967 that started when Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran and Arab armies amassed on Israel’s borders to invade and liquidate the state. It is important to note that during their 19-year rule, neither Jordan nor Egypt had made any effort to establish a Palestinian state on those lands. Just before the Arab nations launched their war of aggression against the State of Israel in 1967, Syrian Defense Minister (later President) Hafez Assad stated, “Our forces are now entirely ready to initiate the act of liberation itself, and to explode the Zionist presence in the Arab homeland. The time has come to enter into a battle of annihilation.” On the brink of the 1967 war, Egyptian President Gamal Nassar declared, “Our basic objective will be the destruction of Israel.”
4. Because of their animus against Jews, many leaders of the Palestinian cause have long supported our enemies. The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem allied himself with Adolf Hitler during WWII.

Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO and president of the PA, has repeatedly targeted and killed Americans. In 1973, Arafat ordered the execution of Cleo Noel, the American ambassador to the Sudan. Arafat was very closely aligned with the Soviet Union and other enemies of the United States throughout the Cold War. In 1991, during the Gulf War, Arafat aligned himself with Saddam Hussein, whom he praised as “the defender of the Arab nation, of Muslims, and of free men everywhere.”

5. Israel has, in fact, returned most of the land that it captured during the 1967 war and right after that war offered to return all of it in exchange for peace and normal relations; the offer was rejected. As a result of the 1978 Camp David accords—in which Egypt recognized the right of Israel to exist and normal relations were established between the two countries—Israel returned the Sinai desert, a territory three times the size of Israel and 91 percent of the territory Israel took control of in the 1967 war.
6. In 2000, as part of negotiations for a comprehensive and durable peace, Israel offered to turn over all but the smallest portion of the remaining territories to Yasser Arafat. But Israel was rebuffed when Arafat walked out of Camp David and launched the current Intifada.
7. Yasser Arafat has never been less than clear about his goals—at least not in Arabic. On the very day that he signed the Oslo accords in 1993—in which he promised to renounce terrorism and recognize Israel, he addressed the Palestinian people on Jordanian television and declared that he had taken the first step “in the 1974 plan.” This was a thinly veiled reference to the “phased plan,” according to which any territorial gain was acceptable as a means toward the ultimate goal of Israel’s destruction.

8. The recently deceased Faisal al-Husseini, a leading Palestinian spokesman, made the same point in 2001 when he declared that the West Bank and Gaza represented only “22 percent of Palestine” and that the Oslo process was a “Trojan Horse.” He explained, “When we are asking all the Palestinian forces and factions to look at the Oslo Agreement and at other agreements as ‘temporary’ procedures, or phased goals, this means that we are ambushing the Israelis and cheating them.” The goal, he continued, was “the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea,” i.e. the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea—all of Israel.
9. To this day, the Fatah wing of the PLO (the “moderate” wing that was founded and is controlled by Arafat himself) has as its official emblem the entire state of Israel covered by two rifles and a hand grenade—another fact that belies the claim that Arafat desires nothing more than the West Bank and Gaza.
10. While criticism of Israel is not necessarily the same as “anti-Semitism,” it must be remembered that the Middle East press is, in fact, rife with anti-Semitism. More than fifteen years ago the eminent scholar Bernard Lewis could point out that: “The demonization of Jews [in Arabic literature] goes further than it had ever done in Western literature, with the exception of Germany during the period of Nazi rule.” Since then, and through all the years of the “peace process,” things have become much worse. Depictions of Jews in Arab and Muslim media are akin to those of Nazi Germany, and medieval blood libels—including claims that Jews use Christian and Muslim blood in preparing their holiday foods have become prominent and routine. One example is a sermon broadcast on PA television where Sheik Ahmad Halabaya stated, “They [the Jews] must be butchered and killed, as Allah the Almighty said: ‘Fight them: Allah will torture them at your hands.’”

Have no mercy on the Jews, no matter where they are, in any country. Fight them, wherever they are. Wherever you meet them, kill them.”

11. Over three-quarters of Palestinians approve of suicide bombings—an appalling statistic but in light of the above facts, an unsurprising one.

The State of Israel

12. There are 21 Arab countries in the Middle East and only one Jewish state, Israel, which is also the only democracy in the region.
13. Israel is the only country in the region that permits citizens of all faiths to worship freely and openly. Twenty percent of Israeli citizens are not Jewish.
14. While Jews are not permitted to live in many Arab countries, Arabs are granted full citizenship and have the right to vote in Israel. Arabs are also free to become members of the Israeli parliament (the Knesset). In fact, several Arabs have been democratically elected to the Knesset and have been serving there for years. Arabs living in Israel have more rights and are freer than most Arabs living in Arab countries.
15. Israel is smaller than the state of New Hampshire and is surrounded by nations hostile to her existence. Some peace proposals including the recent Saudi proposal demand withdrawal from the entire West Bank, which would leave Israel 9 miles wide at its most vulnerable point.
16. The oft-cited UN Resolution 242 (passed in the wake of the 1967

war) does not, in fact, require a complete withdrawal from the West Bank. As legal scholar Eugene Rostow put it, “Resolution 242, which as Undersecretary of State for political affairs between 1966 and 1969 I helped produce, calls on the parties to make peace and allows Israel to administer the territories it occupied in 1967 until ‘a just and lasting peace in the Middle East’ is achieved. When such a peace is made, Israel is required to withdraw its armed forces ‘from territories’ it occupied during the Six Day War—not from ‘the’ territories nor from ‘all’ the territories, but from some of the territories.”

17. Israel has, of course, conceded that the Palestinians have legitimate claims to the disputed territories and is willing to engage in negotiations on the matter. As noted above, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered almost all of the territories to Arafat at Camp David in 2000.
18. Despite claims that the Israeli settlements in the West Bank are the obstacle to peace, Jews lived there for centuries before being massacred or driven out by invading Arab armies in 1948-49. And contrary to common misperceptions, Israeli settlements—which constitute less than two percent of the territories—almost never displace Palestinians.
19. The area of the West Bank includes some of the most important sites in Jewish history, among them Hebron, Bethlehem and Jericho. East Jerusalem, often cited as an “Arab city” or “occupied territory,” is the site of Judaism’s holiest monument. While under Arab rule (1948-67), this area was entirely closed to Jews. Since Israel took control, it has been open to people of all faiths.
20. Finally, let us consider the demand that certain territories in the Muslim world must be off-limits to Jews. This demand is of a

piece with Hitler’s proclamation that German land had to be “Judenrein” (empty of Jews). Arabs can live freely throughout Israel, and as full citizens. Why should Jews be forbidden to live or to own land in an area like the West Bank simply because the majority of people is Arab?

In sum, a fair and balanced portrayal of the Middle East will reveal that one nation stands far above the others in its commitment to human rights and democracy as well as in its commitment to peace and mutual security. That nation is Israel.

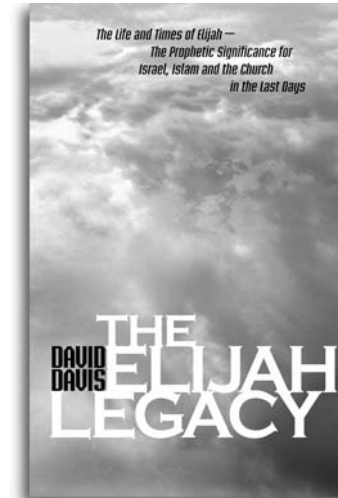
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If you are interested in ordering the book *The Elijah Legacy* or for a complete listing of additional ministry materials available from David and Karen Davis, please visit the website

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