

The End of Days and the Rise of Radical Islam

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Signs, Times and Seasons

Text: Matthew 5:44

Americans do not seem to take the **threat** of Islam seriously. Research suggests that US citizens are blind to the potential danger of radical Muslims. For many it is hard to match their Christianity with the fact that both Christ and Christians, as well as America have some very real and determined **enemies**. Georges Sada, a general under Saddam Hussein, warns Americans not to think of the Islamic revolution as a Middle East or European problem. He reminded them that the ultimate goal is the conquest of the west and America.

Two words we often hear associated with Islam are **Jihad** and **Fatah**.

Jihad – a struggle, fight or war against the enemies of Islam, the struggle with one’s self against sin.

Fatah – Conquest of Islam

~ Georges Sada – *“I am often asked about militant Islam and the threat of global terror. I am asked about the meaning of the word Jihad and the word Fatah. To the followers of the militant brand of Islam, these doctrines express the belief that Allah has commanded them to conquer the nations of the world both by cultural invasion and by the sword. In some cases, this means moving thousands of Muslim families into a foreign land- by building mosques and changing the culture from the inside out, and by refusing to assimilate or adopt the beliefs or values of that nation-to conquer the land for Islam. This is an invasive doctrine, but it’s being carried out in places around the world. They will not be stopped by appeasement and they are not interested in political solutions.”* --- We see this in America, England and throughout Europe.

Americans are particularly vulnerable to the spread of Islam because our enemies take advantage of our traits that we consider to be socially positive. We are generally **friendly**, sometimes naïve and trusting. We are genuinely surprised when people take advantage of our **vulnerability**. It is the rise of radical Islam that is setting the table for the events of Ezekiel chapters 38-39.

Many claim that Islam is a **peaceful** religion. To investigate the truthfulness of this claim we need to only look at history and the Koran.

- The founder of Islam, Muhammad, engaged in **47** battles and wars.
- In **every** war the Muslim armies have engaged in throughout history they have slaughtered men, women and children who would not bow their knee to Islam.
- In the Koran there are many verses about killing **infidels**, those who resist Islam.
- There is a component of **Sharia** Law that permits a Muslim to lie to a non-Muslim or non-believers, in order to achieve their goals. It is called “Taqiyya”.
- There is not one Muslim country that allows **freedom** of religion or speech.

History of Islam

- Islam literally means submission. A Muslim is one who submits to god.
- There are 1.8 billion Muslims in the world with 3.45 million in the United States.
- The Founder of Islam is Muhammad who was born in Mecca (Saudi Arabia) in AD 570. At the age of 26 he married a four-time divorced, forty-year-old caravan owner. They had six children.
- When Muhammad was forty years old meditating in cave he received “messages” from god and used those to form the verses of the Qur’an which Muslims regard as the divine word of god.
- In the seventh century in Arabia the people worshiped 360 gods. One was the moon god Allah. As Muhammad promoted his new religion, he declared Allah the one true god.
- When Muhammad died, the Islamic community became divided into two sects, the Shi’ites and Sunni. The Sunni now comprise about 90% of the Islamic world. The Shi’ites and their leaders have authority that is equal to the Qur’an.
- The Shi’ites believe that the Twelfth Imam went into concealment hundreds of years ago until he returns as the Mahdi.... or the Muslim Messiah. (Remember that the Antichrist will unite Christians, Jews and Muslims – He will meet the criteria of the Messiah found in both the Koran and the Old Testament)
- Muhammad’s successor Abu Bakr waged holy wars that spread Islam from Northern Spain to India and threatened Christian Europe. Christians resisted and drove the Islamic invaders back to the Middle East.
- The hatred that the Muslims have for the Jews is well documented throughout history and goes all the way back to Sarah and Hagar in the Bible. Many Christians fail to understand what most Muslims do --- this is a predominantly spiritual battle.
- There is not a single predominantly Muslim nation on earth where Christians and Jews are not persecuted.

There are two major hopes of Islam:

- 1) Islam hopes to rule the world.
The resurgence of militant Islam drove America to fight two wars in Muslim countries. It disrupted our alliance with Europe and caused the largest reorganization of America’s government in 50 years in the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.
It is easy to resist the effects of jihad when it comes to terrorism because we have something to shoot at.

We have trouble seeing the more subtle strategy of Fatah. This is infiltration or moving into a country with numbers large enough to insert the influence of Islam. When military invasion will not succeed, the slow, systematic, unrelenting methods of Fatah are conquering entire nations. We see this happening in France and in England. Some are predicting that by 2040 the Islamification of France will happen and by then 80% of the nation will be Muslim.

In England Muslims are advancing their goal of dominance by taking advantage of the British policy of pluralistic tolerance. Many believe that because of the growing Islamic population Britain must be accommodating and incorporate sharia law into British law. The term they use is constructive accommodation.

Sharia includes the idea of “honor” killings in cases of suspected immorality, the idea of women being clothed from head to toe and not being permitted to drive.

- 2) Islam hopes to return their “messiah”. In Shi’ite teaching the “promised one” is known as the twelfth Imam. In Sunni teaching he is known as the Al-Mahdi.

Shi’a Islam believes that the Twelfth Imam can appear only during a time of world chaos. This is why they are actively pursuing nuclear weapons in Iran. Radical Islamic leaders hope to create the chaos necessary to make him appear. Many of the Biblical prophecies concerning the end times will be brought about by the beliefs and actions of radical Islam.

Three things Christians need to understand about Islam

- ❖ Allah is not another name for the God of the Bible. Many are promoting this idea so that Christians and Muslims will develop harmony together. Allah is the name of the Arab moon god whose co-equal was a sun-goddess. They were counter parts to Baal and Asherah.
 - ~ The God of the Bible is knowable. According to the Qur’an, Allah is so exalted he cannot be known.
 - ~ The God of the Bible is a personal being with intellect, emotion and will. Muslim theology tells us that Allah is not to be understood as a person.
 - ~ The God of the Bible is one God in three persons (the trinity). The Qur’an denies the trinity and views it as heresy.
 - ~ The God of the Bible is a God of love. Allah does not have emotional feelings towards humanity.
 - ~ The God of the Bible is a God of grace. According to the Qur’an there is not a Savior.

- ❖ The Qur'an is not a divine book. It is not in any way on the same level as the Bible. A comparison of the two books shows the absolute absurdity of that claim.

The Bible is a masterpiece of cohesion, depth and consistency. God inspired forty men over a period of 1,400 years to write the God breathed Words that carry His message from Genesis to Revelation.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV and AMP), Hebrews 4:12

The Koran is a self- contradicting book, supposedly given by the angel Gabriel to Muhammad who could neither read nor write. The sayings were collected from the memories of those who heard them.

- ❖ Muslims are within the reach of God's salvation. God is at work in the Muslim world. Iran is experiencing a great revival. Many are being confronted with the gospel in their dreams.

John 3:16, 2 Peter 3:9

Remember, Jesus died and rose again for all people. While we may not win entire Muslim countries to Christian ones, we can share the Gospel one person at a time.