

July - September 2016

# ARMOR OF GOD

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

## Leaders for Christ

Islam—A Prophetic Consideration? (Part III) • Hold Your Line, Hold The Line  
Scientific Facts in the Bible

## "CHANGE IS COMING"

That phrase became a buzzword the moment President elect Rodrigo Roa Duterte launched his candidacy at the last day of filing before the COMELEC. Because of his unorthodox and radical approach to governance, the catchphrase "change is coming" spread out in social media particularly Facebook. His uncompromising stand against the problems that bedeviled the nation like illicit drugs, criminality, impassive government services and corruption, resonated to the "sick and tired" sector of society. "Change is coming" then became a byword that augmented his ascent to the highest office of the land.

Duterte's early pronouncements raised expectations that he will be different from other politicians whose promises are likely to breed disappointment because of their forgetful nature once elected. A grateful nation will certainly esteem him highly should he faithfully deliver his promises once he assumes office. This publication wishes the new President to succeed in all his undertakings for the good of the nation and hopes that "change is coming" indeed not many days hence.

Of course we know that regardless of how vast the powers a leader may possess, or how genius and capable he really is; and despite the purity of his motives, he is still subject to human limitations. To formulate and institute the kind of change that will bring about lasting peace, happiness and nationwide prosperity is a gargantuan task hardly attainable by human power alone. This observation has been proven throughout the ages. Even considerably prosperous nations are beset with insoluble problems. They too are not impervious to the inadequacies and dangers facing everyone in this planet.

Thankfully, one big "CHANGE IS COMING" which will bring about what mankind has been longing for since time immemorial. This is not going to come because of man's effort, or through brilliantly crafted human initiatives. This will happen when Jesus returns to take over the rulership of the kingdoms of this world (Rev. 11:15) and allow mankind to experience lasting peace, true happiness and universal prosperity. It may sound like a dream, but your Bible prophesied on this event.

Know more about this very important event; request for a FREE copy of the following booklets: "The Real Reason Why Christ Came to this Earth" and "What Does the Bible Really Say About The Millennium?". Text your name and complete address to 0917-8116365.

Eleno S. Mellomida

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# Leaders for Christ

by Winston S. Co



**L**eadership is what makes or breaks an institution. People maybe hankering for change, but if the leader fails to develop a structure that will endure because of incompetence, society can hardly attain its goals and objectives.

The reality is, people are divided into leaders and followers. The leaders pave the way and direct others towards new frontiers, while the followers support and implement the change. Leadership is defined as the ability to inspire or influence people towards the achievement of a goal. God has put in place a system of natural leadership. 1 Corinthians 11:3 says, "But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."

Leadership affects our life, attitude, behavior, performance and well-being. It is a buzzword in the corporate world as well as in politics. You see, we

humans are social creatures. We live together in large groups. It is therefore necessary that people work and function independently and yet cohesively to survive and progress. Leadership is a social phenomenon. In order for society to continue to grow and flourish, it must develop a structure of co-existence to keep it functional and enduring.

Leadership has a vast impact in society. It is often intangible, yet it is instrumental in achieving social change. It is impossible to create change and move people without leadership. Leadership points the direction, ignites passion, motivate people, inspire action and unite interest towards a common goal. Leadership shapes the thinking, attitude, behavior and destiny of a society, organization and/or any group of individuals towards a singular objective.

A leader has the power to influence many

people and the capacity to change people's lives. A good and competent leader can create a positive impact in society and lead many to happiness, abundance and success. On the other hand, a poor and bad leader can create a negative impact and cause harm and despair. In short, leadership impacts and influences people's lives.

Thus, leadership is defined as the ability to inspire or influence people towards the achievement of a goal.

### **The Natural Leader**

God has put in place a system of natural leadership. This leadership starts from the family unit. Human society is an outgrowth of the family system. God has put the father and husband as the leader of the household.

Psalms 78-1-8 records the words of Asaph. In these verses Asaph spoke about the important role of fathers, one that is absolutely essential to the preservation of society and of our spiritual relationship with God.

God's governance has always been a Theocracy. Theocracy is a form of government in which God is recognized as the king and ruler. In this system, the father is the head of the family and the elders are considered the head of the clan.

You can see a resemblance of this in family owned corporations wherein the patriarch, or founder, or members of the family hold key directorship in the corporation.

### **Follow the Leader**

People have the right and power to follow whom they choose. Leaders are everywhere. They are not confined to politics and corporate environments. Whoever is able to influence you and shape your thinking is your leader and you have become his follower. In the digital space today, there are many influencers. They have created a following for themselves.

In much the same way, Christians are the leaders for Christ. Jesus said that Christians are the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-14). God has made true Christians the salt of this world to give divine flavor to the

earth and light to the world. They are supposed to lead for Christ in the community, home, workplace and in any place where we move and live (1 Peter 3:15-16).

They are the influencers of this world. They are supposed to be the essence of life and the role models for the world to emulate. Our lives, faith and duty to God should shine brightly as a guiding light in a darkened world and provide hope to all mankind. Paul said Christians are Christ's ambassadors here on earth, and their leader is no other than Jesus Himself. Jesus is the Head of the Church, and true Christians are His faithful followers (Colossians 1:18).

### **Christian Leadership**

Therefore, to be a leader for Christ we need to look up to Jesus as the role model for true leadership. Here are four (4) qualities of a Christian leader; these are:

#### **1. Share the Vision**

Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

This is a true saying. Without vision there will be no progress, no advancement and no great leaps for humanity. Without vision, no one will ever be able to set an aim and plot a course for advancement and achievement.

A leader must have vision, foresight and purpose. He must be able to articulate and share the vision. There is power in vision and goal setting. Christ came to share His vision with mankind. This vision is the coming of the Kingdom of God. During His 3 ½ years of ministry, Jesus preached about this Kingdom – the kingdom that has been prepared for us before the creation of the world (John 2 and Acts 1).

For anyone to become a follower of Christ, he must share the same hope and vision. In turn, he may lead others to Christ by sharing with others the same gospel and vision of hope.

What is this vision of hope? The answer is in Ephesians 1:3-5: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in

Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will."

God's purpose in creating us is to make us His sons and daughters. This is what Paul is saying in the Book of Hebrews that the world to come (referring to the future) will not be subjected to the angels but to the saints who are to become sons and children of God (Hebrews 2:5-17).

Paul said that our lowly bodies will be transformed into glorious bodies like that of Christ (Philippians 3:20-21). The Apostle Peter categorically states that we are to participate in the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). It is our fervent hope that you (dear reader), will comprehend the enormity of the declaration and the vision of Christ in His plan. We are to participate in the divine nature with glorified body similar to that of Christ. This is our hope and destiny. This is the vision that we share. As followers and leaders for Christ, we must share and imbibe the same glorious vision.

## **2. Live by a Principle**

John 15:10 "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love."

A leader is a person who possesses high moral principles. He lives by a certain set of values. Jesus during His life on earth kept the commandments of God and He taught His disciples to keep them as well. Obedience to the commandment is the hallmark of God's true people. Christians are identified by the way they live and behave (2 Corinthians 2:14-18).

A leader is also a role model (Colossians 3:9-10 and 2 Peter 3:1). Jesus Christ is our role model and we are the role model to others.

## **3. Team Player**

Jesus said: "For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves." (Luke 22:27).

The traditional concept of leadership is he

bosses over the subordinates. As the boss, he has absolute control and power over the people. He gives order, he tells them what to do, he bullies, he directs, he reprimands and he hires and fires. He is supposed to be the most knowledgeable person in the team. Thus, he puts this sign on the desk for all to see: "Rule No. 1, the boss is always right. Rule No. 2, when the boss is wrong refer to rule No. 1." A lot of managers feel this way. They are the boss and they rule over the subordinates.

***A good and competent leader  
can create a positive impact in  
society and lead many to  
happiness, abundance and  
success.***

A Christian leader has a different mindset. Listen: Jesus called them (His disciples) together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:25-2).

A leader sees himself as a servant of his subordinates. He leads by serving. He is to the team a trainer; coach; counselor; guide and mentor. He is not the tormentor nor ruler of the team rather he serves the needs of the team. When skill is needed, he provides. When conflict erupts, he resolves. When problem arises, he solves. When people come to see you when they have a problem don't scold them, work with them so that they will leave the office with a solution. It is the job of a manager to find solution to problems. How wonderful when you have a manager who is more interested in solving problem than ego tripping! This is what Jesus said in Mark 10:35-45 when the disciples were wrestling for position in the coming kingdom. Remember true leadership is service.

Jesus is the epitome of the servanthood leadership. In fact, He gave an example in John 13:13-16.

The modern term for this is “team player.” The Christian leader is a team player. He leads by example and he is at the forefront of the action. He leads by serving the needs and requirements of the entire team. Jesus exemplify this in His life. In fact, He puts His own life on the line. He died so that mankind will live especially those who will follow Him.

#### 4. Faithfulness to the End

In Hebrews 13:5: “God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” A leader is one who is faithful to his vision and his followers. He is absolute and firm to his commitment and wavers not (James 1:6). A leader needs to demonstrate a resolve of this belief.

A leader has many things on the plate. He has to cope with a lot of views, suggestions, opinions and ideas. It is extremely easy to get distracted from the goal. For a leader to be effective he has to train his mind to focus at the end result. Nothing changes his plan and outlook. As leaders for

*“If you keep my commands,  
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as I have kept my Father's  
commands and remain in his  
love.” (John 15:10)*

Christ, Paul encourages us in Philippians 3:12-14: “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” Yes, we need to stay in the course and be faithful to the end.

Jesus never wavered on His mission. He

completed His work and mission here on earth. His prayer in John 17 can be considered an accomplishment report to the Father who gave Him a mission. One of the most significant words Jesus uttered were recorded in John 19:28-30 which ended with “It is finished!”

#### Future Leaders

Christians today are future leaders of the world tomorrow. There is a new world coming—the Millennial reign of Christ. Yes, our role in the millennium is to rule with Christ. God's government is a theocracy. Theocracy means to be ruled by God. Revelation 3:21 says, “To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.” The righteous will be granted to sit with Christ on His throne. The 12 disciples will rule over the 12 houses of Israel (Luke 22:30). These are leadership roles reserved for the saints.

Christians are called a Royal Priesthood (1 Peter 2:9-10). Royal priesthood refers to a kingly lineage and authority. The saints are to become a kingdom of priest! They will be kings and priests of God Most High, and they shall reign upon the earth (Revelation 5:10). Yes, as priests we are to reign with Christ for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4)! The role of the saints is to reign with Christ as Kings and Priests of God Most High! Yes, the saints will have leadership role in the coming Kingdom of God.

#### Finally

If you are a faithful follower of Christ, and wonder what will be your role in the coming Millennium, wonder no more! The resurrected saints will have leadership positions in the Kingdom of God—as Royal Priesthood—kings and priests of God—to reign with Christ for a thousand years.

Christian leadership is a role that we need to learn and put into practice today; and anyone can become a leader for Christ because God's offer is open to all. Communicate with us, keep reading our publications and find out how. **AG**

# Islam—A Prophetic Consideration

## (Part III)

Many do not understand Islam is actually a theocracy because, central to its core, it is a political movement—but is more dangerous than most realize, because it's driven by religious ideologies and supported by Islamic Fundamentalists who are beholden to a demented religiosity. This makes it much more complicated than Socialism, Communism, or Fascism.

by Bill Watson

The present movement of Muslim Fundamentalists involved in Jihad should be considered very dangerous—much more precarious than just political ideologues, because they interpret the Qu'ran *literally*. Remember, not all Muslim Fundamentalists are Jihadists, but all Jihadists are Muslim Fundamentalists. It's important this distinction is understood, because it will help us to recognize what defines Islam; and the important point of this is: whether violent or non-violent, it does not dismiss or lessen the others' intent to *dominate*. Both types of Jihadists are equally as dangerous in their methods of controlling the hegemony of the hosting culture.

Let us be reminded there are *two distinct strategies* used by Muslims to conquer their targets for dominance. Obviously, Jihad is *one* method used by this theocratic fundamentalist movement. But *secondly*, and often underestimated, is that of embedding in the culture they migrate to, and then integrating so as to gain influence within the *political* segment of the culture.

This second method or strategy can be executed in a few different ways. First, it can be accomplished very legally and consequently seamlessly, with a degree of uncontested acceptance by simply assimilating as is necessary to acquire the influence and favor for election into a political office via the normal and natural means of a democratic system. This has been done for many years and is still done in the United States. As a matter of fact, there are currently two Muslim Congressmen, Muslim mayors in Florida, New Jersey, and Connecticut, and a Muslim majority running the city of Hamtramck, Michigan, which now conducts the call to prayer multiple times a day throughout the city. All of this was voted in by the people within those districts and communities. Clearly, in time, their numbers will grow into a majority that can be very threatening and ultimately detrimental for maintaining the laws and traditions of the hosting nation or culture. Hamtramck,

Michigan is a *perfect example* of how a Polish community has been essentially replaced by Islamic culture. It's no secret that even the most moderate, non-violent Muslims will favor Islamic law—Sharia—over a nation's constitutional law, thereby eventually becoming the domineering hegemony through peaceful compromises and concessions. Even the city of London, England recently voted in their first Muslim mayor, thereby substantiating this exact strategic method!

In addition, we see something happening that most Muslims call Hijra. This is the Arabic word describing what Mohammad did when moving to Medina from Mecca. This term of migration, or “moving” is now being assigned as a facsimile to the migration of literally millions of Muslim refugees to Europe and the rest of the world. However, it is nothing more than a civilian *invasion* of Islamic influence and culture with the intent to *dominate*—as was conducted by Muhammad when he fled to Medina. It's the same principle being applied today and labeled as such by many Muslim leaders. This often results in what we are now witnessing throughout Europe, and in particular areas of the United States, where certain long established indigenous ethnicities and cultures are required to concede and compromise their values and traditions to accommodate Islamic laws and lifestyle requirements, even going so far as to ban certain holidays, celebrations, and foods in school, dress, or any other items Muslims might find offensive. As mentioned before—it's what they do! They become very assertive, somewhat xenophobic, and bigoted toward *anything* considered foreign or strange to Islamic law. Islam, at its core, is very intolerant and prejudicial toward anything contrary to Islamic thought and its theological ideas—and that is why it's considered so pugnacious, pernicious, and *perilous*!

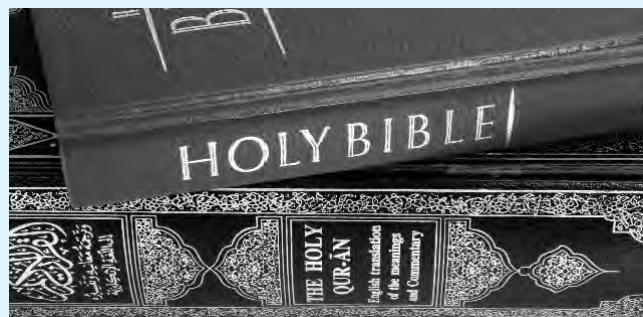
### An Additional Compounding Threat About Islam

Make no mistake: Islam is *absolutely* not a friend of

the Christian Church. Though there are some who argue the God of the Old Testament is the same as Allah, this simply is just not true! Let's take a moment to compare some fundamental differences to prove this point and thereby establish the following: Allah and YHVH are *not* the same, nor does the Qu'ran agree with the Old or New Testament. These are two important premises to establish going forward in clarifying the definition of Islam and what it teaches.

What the Qu'ran teaches and claims is quite different from what the Bible heralds, discloses, and authentically institutes. Notice:

Muhammad wrote the Qu'ran over a period of 20 years. He received his first revelation at the age of 42 in A.D. 612 and died in A.D. 632 at the age of 62. During that period, he claimed the angel Gabriel gave him revelations while in a trance, which allegedly revealed and established him as Allah's prophet. These revelations were first presented to the Arabs of Arabia and then spread throughout the world. Historically, Muhammad's initial method of converting others was by ruthless military action (Jihad), forcing the non-believers to either accept Islam or die. He was known for his forceful military conquests using robbery, murder, and terror as his most common methods of persuasion. The Old and New Testaments of the Bible do not teach any of this.



Holy Bible and Qu'ran

The five pillars of Islam are: **1)** There is no God but Allah; Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah—his prophet; **2)** Prayer is to be performed five times daily, facing Mecca, on Fridays in a mosque; **3)** Alms and offerings are to be given to Allah as acts of piety; **4)** Fast during the month of Ramadan; **5)** Make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in your life. The Bible also does not teach any of this.

- According to *Differences—Bible vs. The Koran* by Ben J. Smith, the Qu'ran teaches the following:

- (S=Sura)
- Muhammad is Allah's prophet above all others (S-5:75)
- Jesus Christ is only a prophet (S-5:75)
- Jesus is not the Son of God (S-3:59, 9:30, 10:68-69, 19:35)
- Jesus did not die on the cross (S-4:147)
- Jesus did not resurrect from the dead (S-4:158)
- Mary, the mother of Jesus, is the *sister of Aaron*, the brother of Moses (S-19:27-28)
- Muhammad came as the Messiah of the Old Testament (S-7:158)
- Muhammad came as the Holy Spirit of the New Testament (S-61:6-7)
- The Jews backslid and lost their right to the Old Covenant (S-61:5)
- Christians backslid and lost their right to the New Covenant (S-9:30)
- Believers (Muslims) shouldn't be friends with Jews or Christians (S-5:51)
- Note: The Qu'ran doesn't mention the 10 Commandments
- Enemies or adversaries of Islam should be killed (S-9:73)
- No religion has the right to exist but Islam (S-2:256)
- The world will be conquered by Jihad (S-48:27-28, 61:9)
- Men are allowed to have as many as four wives (S-4:34)
- Muhammad could have as many as he wanted (S-33:51)
- Rebellious wives can be beaten (S-4:34) (S-3:139-140, 42:39)
- 20 percent of all war booty goes to Muhammad for Allah's good (S-8:44)
- Men should take revenge and remain unforgiving.

Obviously, the above list illustrates some glaring differences between the teachings of Islam and the teachings of the Christian Bible. It's important for all of us to begin recognizing Islam is not similar in any way, shape, or fashion, and has *nothing* in common with Christianity—from its origins and who wrote it, to the theology and god it advances. Allah and YHVH are *two different concepts*, and only YHVH is God, *not Allah!*

A true Muslim will argue the Bible has been corrupted and presently is a misleading and fraudulent document. This is how they justify not conceding to the blatant contradictions the Qu'ran has with the Bible. Many Muslims, especially the Imams, firmly believe both Jews and Christians lost their right to the Covenants due

to their disobedience toward God by abandoning His ways! And they believe the Old and New Testaments are mischaracterizing the story of Ishmael and Israel, as well as the record of what Jesus went through and His announcement and claim to be the Son of God and mankind's living Messiah.

We see very serious differences of belief and teaching in these two documents. Fundamentally, Islam is at *variance* with the Bible, and therefore the Qu'ran is *unacceptable* as a credible document for consideration. This presents quite a dilemma when attempting to debate these two religious views, or come to an acceptable understanding about the differences between Islam and Christianity.

### A Dangerous Complication: The Eschatological Factor

What most of the West doesn't realize, is many Shiite Muslims believe a Messiah is promised, confirmed in the Hadith (an oral Islamic commentary of the Qu'ran and life of Muhammad, much like the Talmud is to the Jew). It's known as the return of the 12th Imam, or the Imam al-Mahdi. This doctrinal teaching underscores much of the motivation behind what is played out in the terrorist attacks around the world. Many Muslims believe we are witnessing the “natural course” of the signs of the end times. This adds an *eschatological dynamic* to these terrorist activities that cements the reason for this hate and violence. Why? Because Muslims who adopt this view believe they're doing God a favor by helping to set up the *conditions of chaos* for the al-Mahdi's return. This translates to a motivational factor that provides those Jihadis the sense of urgency and reason to sacrifice consistently, at all costs, for the “cause of chaos” that allegedly precedes the coming of this Islamic Imam al-Mahdi. In other words, this is central to the “psyche” of the Jihadist!



Jihadist

Iran has about 75–90 million people living in the country with about 90 percent being *Shia* Muslims who believe the 12th Imam, or al-Mahdi, is *alive today*. Their belief describes the al-Mahdi as being alive, and is in occultation (hiding) since A.D. 869, until the Day of Judgment. That's right, they believe he is alive *right now*,

and has been for some 11 to 12 centuries. At the time of judgment, he will reveal himself as Messiah, or Guide, and show humanity the right path to follow for achieving world peace and brotherly love. This is at the core of the eschatological teaching of how Islam will finally become the world's religion and save mankind from self-destruction.

This eschatological factor is a *significant* belief in the Islamic religion in general, and goes back to the idea of the 12th Imam. Interestingly, some scholars, including Bernard Lewis, Professor Emeritus of Near Eastern Studies, *Princeton University*, confirms this teaching and references that this Shia Imam is in occultation (hiding and seclusion), since A.D. 869, and explains it is not a new teaching, but actually can be traced back to about A.D. 873.

There is a *Sunni* version of this teaching, but with a slight difference. They believe the al-Mahdi will come from Muhammad's family, but is *not* currently in hiding or living in seclusion, but rather has yet to come and is only known by Allah. He exclusively knows who this al-Mahdi is—and when the Imam al-Mahdi returns, he will come back with Isa (Jesus Christ)—and together, they will subdue the tyranny and evil of the world from the infidels and set the world “right” by establishing Islam as the global religion. This is the *objective* of the non-violent (moderate) and the violent (Jihadist) Fundamentalist Muslim.

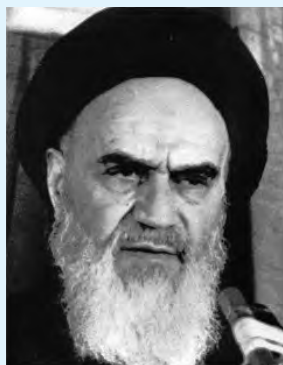
However, this is the important point we should recognize: We're dealing with a *faith*—Shia or Sunni—it is a faith! This is what makes the Islamic Jihadi terrorism so difficult and enormously menacing when compared to contending with the “standard” political ideal like Communism, Socialism, or Fascism. We can't forget: When facing off with the *secular* political world powers of the Soviet Union and Red China during the days of the Cold War of the 50s through the 90s, there was a well ingrained understanding: “Mutual Assured Destruction” (MAD). This “gentlemen's understanding” kept everyone in check, frozen in the position of “stalemate.”

But in the case of an Islamic nuclear armed Shia Republic of Iran, there *is* no idea of “Mutual Assured Destruction.” Instead, their worldview is simply, “Israel is the little Satan and the USA is the big Satan; and both need to be obliterated!” This presents a far more treacherous, threatening condition! Frankly, this is a radical difference which can only be described as an *apocalyptic* worldview; and due to the underpinning hatred they have for the West, combined with a *fearless*

disregard of retaliation, fueled by their theology of the return of the al-Mahdi Messiah—we should easily and plainly see the menacing threat and risk this presents to the United States, Israel, and the rest of the world—especially since the current Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, and President Rouhani are both supporters of the 12th Imam, or the al-Mahdi, as is also former President Ahmadinejad.

### What Does This Tell Us?

Now we have the inherent concern, that since inclusive to this theology is the understanding this 12th Imam will return during a time of great calamity, unrest, and chaos, there just might be *other* motivating factors behind Iran's seemingly relentless pursuit of nuclear development and the necessary ballistic missile delivery



Ayatollah Ruhallah  
Khomeini

systems they are currently designing. These eschatological beliefs should raise concerns that perhaps, the possibility exists that what's *really* behind Iran's initiatives for nuclear development is a desire to *cause* the disruptive circumstances generating the cataclysmic conditions that will bring the al-Mahdi's return. That is an unnerving

thought to consider, but unfortunately, extremely *plausible* considering the theology that underscores the mentality of the Islamic Fundamentalist!

Yet incredibly, Western leadership will not address this fight for what it really is—a *religious* conflict, deeply imbedded with theological differences providing fuel for a relentless war of *potential mass destruction* of biblical proportions. The West insistently refuses to recognize these *real possibilities*.

Sadly, many in the West have ignored the plain statement of Shaker Assem, representing the Islamic Liberation Party, when he said, “People who say there is a conflict between Sharia and Western democracy *are right*.” Now what is so difficult or hard to understand about his statement? What is it we don't understand?

In 1998, Omar Ahmad, Board Chairman of the *Council on American Islamic Relations* (CAIR) at the time, said, “Islam isn't in America to be equal to any other faith, but to become dominant. The Qu'ran should be the highest authority in America, and Islam the only accepted religion on earth.” CAIR spokesman Ibrahim

Hooper was just as forthright when he said, “I wouldn't want to create the impression that I wouldn't like the government of the United States to be Islamic sometime in the future. But I'm not going to do anything violent to promote that. I'm going to do it through education.” This goes to the *second strategy* we mentioned: embedding into the hosting culture and *through legal and natural means* using the freedoms provided by the hosting nation's laws to advance the propagation of Islamic law—which is Sharia!

What must clearly be understood is the *agenda*, which is to restore a *caliphate*, since Islam makes *no distinction* between the religious and secular arms of the Islamic theocratic movement. As mentioned, it's their *intent* to relieve mankind from what Muslims perceive as “humanities infringement.” In their minds, this is idolatry—encroaching on God's sovereign right to guide human affairs. Therefore, they see it as their responsibility to *set the stage* for the return of the Imam al-Mahdi, and the construct of a caliphate is key to the success of their *empowerment* to accomplish this objective.

We cannot forget the deep anguish many Jihadis have at the loss of the most recent caliphate that was dismantled in 1924, after the Ottoman Empire fell at the end of WW I. It occurred when Mustafa Kemal Ataturk (the father of the Turks), the first President of Turkey, announced the establishment of a secular “Turkish Republic”—officially abandoning the caliphate structure. This sealed the destruction of the Ottoman Empire and the government's separation from the strong connection and influence of Islamic law—it was the death of the last caliphate of our modern day.

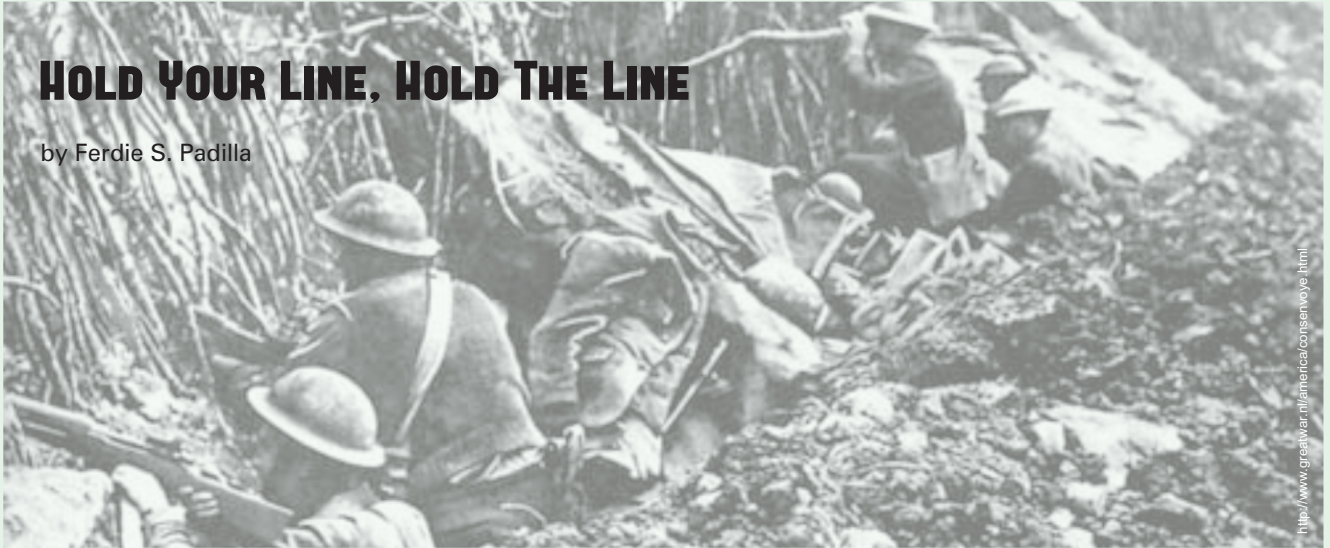
So where is all this leading? Will Islam continue to play a role in the prophetic scenarios that are building? And if so, will it play a *major or minor* role in the developing circumstances that are sure to result in a global “Babylonian System” that is destined to influence and affect mankind on a worldwide scale (Daniel 7:23–27, Revelation 18:9–11,15–18)? We'll explore some of these questions in our next installment about whether Islam is a prophetic concern. Ω



President of Iran  
Hassan Rouhani

# HOLD YOUR LINE, HOLD THE LINE

by Ferdie S. Padilla



<http://www.greatwar.nl/america/conservoje.html>

Some 74 years ago, on April 9, 1942, Bataan fell to the invading Japanese forces. This is the day now commemorated by our nation as “*Araw ng Kagitingan*”. If we read history books and references for this event and of the personal accounts of those who survived the ordeal, one would get a sense of desperation, of defeat and of doom of those serving in the front lines. We can only try to imagine being subjected to constant bombardment from Japanese warplanes and from artillery, but we cannot really fathom the horrors of those moments. None of us have actually experienced being in a battlefield and being shot at or scampering for safety whenever planes hovered above or being bombed as they did. We were not in the front lines fighting a battle, holding what is called in the military, battle lines.

## The Christian in the Forefront of A Different Kind of Battle

But do you know, that we Christians, are involved in a greater conflict, in a bigger war with something much more at stake for us? And this war is not physical in nature. Paul says in Ephesians 6:12 “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” In other words, our battles are even much more difficult. They are against powerful beings whose objective is to destroy us.

We cannot see the enemy. We do not know when he would attack or perhaps unaware we are already under attack. That's a pretty tough war to fight don't you think so? We, Christians are involved in a war that is so different, that can be so taxing that if we do not hold our lines, we would certainly be defeated. And the consequences for us far outweigh anything than we can ever imagine. Our very life, our eternity is at stake here. So we cannot afford to be complacent. We should understand what is at stake here and take action accordingly.

In this article, we will tackle briefly, how to hold our individual lines and as a church, our collective lines.

## Holding Your Line

So how do we hold our individual lines? For the purpose of this article, we will list down 2 things (in no particular order of importance):

### 1. Put on the full armor of God.

If we continue reading from where we left off in Ephesians 6, we find out that God enumerates the things that we need so we can hold our lines and put up a solid stand against the enemy. And take note, these are all from Him, because Paul calls it the “Armor of God”. It is not an ordinary armor. Ephesians 6:13-18 “Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then,

with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” If we dissect the passages, we can list down the following as components of this armor: belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, sandals of readiness (the original Greek word used for “fitted” implies wearing of sandals or shoes), shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit and prayer. These merit another full length article to describe each one in greater detail. But let us note one thing here. Each component requires action on our part so that they can be worn on ourselves. The advice to us is to **put on** (that’s action on our part) the full armor of God, not just a few components, but the whole armor. They do not automatically place themselves on us. Notice: verses 14-15: Ephesians 6:14-15 “Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.” The belt of truth needs to be buckled around our waist. We need to consciously wear the belt of truth so we can be on guard against deceitful lies, against false doctrines. And then we need to put the breastplate of righteousness in place so we do not go about sinning again. We have the laws of God worn on our chests. Then we also fit our feet with the readiness coming from the good news. We are, in other words, always prepared. Then in verse 16, we are admonished to also take up the shield of faith (yes, take up, act on our faith) so that whatever doubts, whatever things the devil throws at us, we can easily counter them. Faith is action based. Then in verse 17, it says “Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” We always need to study our Bibles and constantly remind ourselves the salvation that

is in store for us. And after putting on all of these things, we should not forget to, verse 18 says: “...pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests...” When things get really tough and rough, our lifeline to God will always be available 24/7 thru prayer. It never fails. But all of these things, need action on our part. These are all vital for our spiritual protection and they must be consciously worn.

## 2. Submit to God.

After putting on the full armor of God, the next action we should do is to submit to God. That is right. We do not really lean on our strength to fight our battles. Of course, we have to do something. And that something is “submitting” to God. Now submitting does not say we are just to stand there and absolutely do nothing. In the first place, we did something. We trusted God. We believe that He is able to fight for us and He will protect us via the armor He has provided. And as we have seen, clearly, there is action on our part to put them on. Now, I think, that there is something interesting and an eye opener for us when we try to understand what James has to say to us in James 4:7 “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” What is interesting here is that three ideas are presented and I submit to you, these are related ideas one highlighting the other resulting to the third idea. The first idea is submitting to God. The second idea is resisting the devil. The third idea is, the devil will flee from us. How are they related? I think (and hopefully, you agree with me on this one) it is this: When we submit to God, we are bound to resist the devil, and when we do resist as in resist, he will flee from us. I mean, it is a logical and reasonable consequence of submitting to God. When we obey God, chances are the devil will try to disrupt that obedient and submissive attitude we have towards God. And when he does, he will come full strength to do so. And if we really are submissive to God, we will resist the devil. But we will not be relying on ourselves when we do this. The beauty of it all, dear readers, is that God has provided us with His armor (remember, it is the armor of God) as stated in Ephesians 6:13 “...so that when the day of evil

comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.” In other words, you hold your battle line. We hold our lines. We do not fall. And guess what, after we have done everything, the devil will flee from us (James 4:7). That’s the promise for us.

### **Holding the Line**

Now, it is not enough that we are just able to hold our individual lines. In a battle, the battle line drawn is not just a small line. It is usually long and it may stretch and wind for miles and miles. If a breach is made on a weak spot, then the whole defense may crumble. In the same manner, we are also bound, as a church, to hold the line collectively. We should remember the old saying that a chain is as only as strong as its weakest link. In other words, the devil can still come at us via the backdoor. He will exploit the weakest link (and it could be anybody) and from there work his way so that eventually not just an individual is caught up in his trap but others too. That’s how cunning the enemy is. Therefore, as a church, we are duty bound to look after each other. We help each other hold our battle lines. Again, for the purpose of this article, we will list down two things on how to do that:

#### **1. Carry each other's burden.**

Paul says in Galatians 6:1-2 “Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” In other words, if we see a brother or sister overcome by a fault, we should gently “restore” him or her. We should not become judgmental and condemn the other person. We should not spread malicious insinuations against him or her. Remember, we are all only human and we do fall from time to time. And it is in these times that we need someone to help us get back on our feet. If we need to carry someone for a time, then we should do it. It is a known fact that in the wars fought in the past (World War I & II, the Vietnam War, etc.), fallen or wounded soldiers are carried by their comrades. They never leave them behind. The same should be done among us. Now, of

course we should do it circumspectly. We should know the difference between caring and meddling. We should avoid the trap of becoming self-righteous in the process.

#### **2. We do not give up meeting.**

In order for us to be strengthened furthermore, we should always make it a point to regularly attend Sabbath services (both weekly and annual Sabbaths). We read a gentle reminder in Hebrews 10:25 “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” The Sabbath services is a very good venue whereby we know if we are still wearing the armor of God, if we are still being submissive to God via the messages we hear. Too often, we tend to overlook our own faults. We often do not see the things that we need to improve on. Many messages are given on Sabbath services that help us focus on ourselves and help us identify all those chinks in our characters with the end goal of helping us overcome them so that in the end, the enemy will not be able to exploit anything from us, both individually and collectively. The Sabbath services also affords us the opportunity to draw inspiration from our brothers and sisters in Christ who have overcome personal trials, to draw strength from our brethren, to learn something from the collective wisdom of the brethren. It is comforting in itself to know that we are not alone in this battle against sin and against principalities as we have read earlier. We have God the Father and our Elder Brother Jesus Christ with us plus the saints, fellow like-minded Christians who truly care for us, who truly love us. If we are able to maximize these opportunities, then we, as a team, as a group, as a church can hold our battle lines.

### **Conclusion**

If we are able to do so, then sweet victory in Christ will be ours. Remember, our Lord gave us a command to hold on until the very end in Matthew 24:13 “but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.” So dear readers, let us all hold our lines. Stand firm in the Lord Jesus Christ. **AG**

# SCIENTIFIC FACTS IN THE BIBLE

- Only in recent year of invisible atoms. Scripture tells us that the things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.
- Medical science has only recently discovered that blood clotting in a newborn reaches its peak on the eighth day, then drops. The Bible consistently says that a baby must be circumcised on the eighth day.
- At a time when it was believed that the earth sat on a large animal or a giant (1500 B.C.), the Bible spoke of the earth's free float in space: "He...hangs the earth upon nothing" (Job 26:7).
- The prophet Isaiah also tells us that the earth is round: "It is he that sits upon the circle of the earth" (Isaiah 40:22). This is not a reference to a flat disk, as some skeptics maintain, but to a sphere. Secular man discovered this 2,400 years later. At a time when science believed that the earth was flat, it was the Scriptures that inspired Christopher Columbus to sail around the world.
- God told Job in 1500 B.C.: "Can you send lightnings, that they may go, and say to you, Here we are?" (Job 38:35). The Bible here is making what appears to be a scientifically ludicrous statement—that light can be sent, and then manifest itself in speech. But did you know that radio waves travel at the speed of light? This is why you can have instantaneous wireless communication with someone on the other side of the earth. Science didn't discover this until 1864 when British scientist James Clerk Maxwell suggested that electricity and light waves were two forms of the same thing (*Modern Century Illustrated Encyclopedia*).
- Job 38:19 asks, "Where is the way where light dwells?" Modern man has only recently discovered that light (electromagnetic radiation) has a "way," traveling at 186,000 miles per second.
- Most cosmologists (scientists who study the structures and evolution of the universe) agree that the Genesis account of creation, in imagining an initial void, may be uncannily close to the truth (*Time*, December 1976).
- Solomon described a "cycle" of air currents 2000 years before scientists discovered them. "The wind goes toward the south, and turns about unto the north; it whirls about continually, and the wind returns again according to his circuits" (Ecclesiastes 1:6).
- Science expresses the universe in five terms: time, space, matter, power, and motion. Genesis 1:1,2 revealed such truths to the Hebrews in 1450 B.C.: "In the beginning [time] God created [power] the heaven [space] and the earth [matter] . . . And the Spirit of God moved [motion] upon the face of the waters." The first thing God tells man is that He controls all aspects of the universe.
- The great biological truth concerning the importance of blood in our body's mechanism has been fully comprehended only in recent years. Up until 120 years ago, sick people were "bled," and many died because of the practice. If you lose your blood, you lose your life. Yet Leviticus 17:11, written 3,000 years ago, declared that blood is the source of life: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood."
- *Encyclopedia Britannica* documents that in 1845, a young doctor in Vienna named Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis was horrified at the terrible death

rate of women who gave birth in hospitals. As many as 30 percent died after giving birth. Semmelweis noted that doctors would examine the bodies of patients who died, then, without washing their hands, go straight to the next ward and examine expectant mothers. This was their normal practice, because the presence of microscopic diseases was unknown. Semmelweis insisted that doctors wash their hands before examinations, and the death rate immediately dropped to 2 percent. Look at the specific instructions God gave His people for when they encounter disease: "And when he that has an issue is cleansed of his issue; then he shall number to himself seven days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in running water, and shall be clean" (Leviticus 15:13). Until recent years, doctors washed their hands in a bowl of water, leaving invisible germs on their hands. However, the Bible says specifically to wash hands under *running water*.

- Luke 17:34–36 says the Second Coming of Jesus Christ will occur while some are asleep at night and others are working at daytime activities in the field. This is a clear indication of a revolving earth, with day and night at the same time.
- During the devastating Black Death of the 14th century, patients who were sick or dead were kept in the same rooms as the rest of the family. People often wondered why the disease was affecting so many people at one time. They attributed these epidemics to "bad air" or "evil spirits." However, careful attention to the medical commands of God as revealed in Leviticus would have saved untold millions of lives. Arturo Castiglione wrote about the overwhelming importance of this biblical medical law: The laws against leprosy in Leviticus 13 may be regarded as the first model of sanitary legislation (*A History of Medicine*, Grant R. Jeffery, *The Signature of God*).

With all these truths revealed in Scripture, how could a thinking person deny that the Bible is supernatural in origin? There is no other book in any of the world's religions (Vedas, Bhagavad-Gita, Koran, Book of Mormon, etc.) that contains scientific truth. In fact, they contain statements that are clearly unscientific. Hank Hanegraaff said, "Faith in Christ is not some blind leap into a dark chasm, but a faith based on established evidence."

Source: *The Evidence Bible*, p. 1605

**"Thy word  
is a lamp  
unto my feet,  
and a light  
unto my path"**

Psalms 119:105

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#### **Naga**

Villa Caceres,  
Magsaysay Ave.,  
Naga City  
2nd-5th Saturdays  
10 a.m.

#### **Alabang**

Crimson Hotel,  
Entrata Urban Complex,  
Filinvest City, 2609 Civic Dr.,  
Muntinlupa City,  
Saturdays, 2 p.m.

#### **Iloilo City**

Iloilo Midtown Hotel  
Yulo St.  
Saturdays, 2 p.m.

#### **Malolos**

Hiyas ng Bulacan  
Convention Center  
Malolos City  
Saturdays, 2 p.m.

#### **Cebu**

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Fuente Osmeña Circle  
Cebu City  
1st Saturday of the Month  
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#### **Mindanao**

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Lala, Lanao del Norte  
Saturdays 10 a.m.  
  
Brgy. Kiara, Don Carlos, Bukidnon  
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month  
10 a.m.