

October - December 2016

# ARMOR OF GOD

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

## THE MESSAGES OF John 3:16

**For God so loved the world  
that He gave His only begotten  
Son, that whoever believes in Him  
should not perish but have  
everlasting life.**

Do You Have The Holy Spirit? • Islam—A Prophetic Consideration? (Part IV)



## “Faith & Works”

Do you believe in God? Do you truly believe in God? How do you show it?

The apostle James, half-brother of the Lord Christ tells us “faith without works is dead...” (James 2:26) “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or a sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” (James 2:14-17)

The apostle James seem to imply that faith alone, belief in God, without any positive action, such as helping the needy, can mean we will not be saved.

James then tells us: “But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!” (James 2:18-19)

It would seem that “faith without works” is not any different with demons who believe in God, who actually see and know God, and even tremble in His presence. The demons believe in God, but they are disobedient. It is easy to just “believe” in God, after all, His presence and power is evident in the creation. Acting on that belief is more important especially when it comes to salvation, to receiving eternal life.

The Lord has this to say of His Father, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth...” (John 4:23-24). Christ was once asked, “Good teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” And He replied, “if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” (Matthew 19:16-17)

It is just as the apostle James said, ‘faith without works is dead.’ The Lord Christ affirms this, ‘if you want to enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS!’ We can’t just believe, we have to actually act on it!

Rene D. Corpuz

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# The Messages of John 3:16

by Eleno S. Mellomida

***John 3:16 is probably the most quoted and well memorized verse in the whole Bible. Preachers cite it with ease, and lay members can quickly pinpoint where the passage is found. Yet, not everyone spent ample time to thoroughly dissect and carefully examine the teachings that this passage of scripture essentially conveyed. You may not have thought of it, but there are basic questions in Christianity that can be answered by John 3:16.***

**The following questions ought to be answered squarely in the light of this famous verse:**

## 1. How does God love the world?

John 3:16 (NIV), **For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

Mankind has long been deserving the death penalty. From the time the first man and woman defied God's command in Eden, sin cascaded down towards the generations that followed. Romans 5:12 says, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"; and "the wages (the 'compensation' if you will) of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

The Bible define sin as transgression of the law (1 John 3:4). And the Bible indiscriminately pronounced everyone guilty as transgressors: "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes." (Romans 3:10-18, KJV)

Even at the early stage of man's existence, God already contemplated to wipe humanity off the face of

the earth because of pervasive wickedness. Genesis 6:5-9 narrated this tragic episode: "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

In this tragic chapter of human history, God spared only eight people (2 Peter 2:5)—barely enough to preserve the human race. God did not totally give up on His creation. Much as God was disappointed with the conduct of mankind, He did not abandon His plan for them. His original purpose in creating man after His own image and likeness remained steadfast regardless of the events that seem to thwart its fulfilment. And the very reason for your and my existence revolve around this great plan of God which few Bible advocates are able to grasp, or if they do, dared to proclaim. *(To understand more about the purpose of man's existence request a free copy of the booklet "Man's Awesome Destiny")*

What did God formulate to rescue one of His most important creation from death? Verse 17 tells us: "He gave His only begotten Son" so that the death penalty incurred out of sinning will be paid for by Christ. Paul wrote: But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

So, why would God the Father endanger the life of another God (Jesus) to save humanity? This act of love by God is unfathomable to the human mind; and that's

basically the embodiment of the Father's love for you and me as expressed in John 3:16.

## 2. How many Beings are there in the Godhead? Is God One, or is God a Trinity?

John 3:16 (NIV), **For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

In John 10:30 Jesus said, "I and My Father are one". This verse is where the proponents of the theology of "Oneness" draw their inspiration. But what did Jesus mean in saying He and the Father are one? A non-complicated understanding of the English language will tell us that Jesus is not saying He and the Father are just one and the same Being. The pronoun 'I' and the noun 'father' interconnected with the verb 'are' clearly indicates two separate entities. "I and My Father", the "I" said he has a "Father"!

Jesus' personal prayer prior to His arrest is recorded in the 17th chapter of John. Jesus addressed this prayer to His Father. In a number of times Jesus implored, beseeched, entreated, pleaded and appealed to His Father in behalf of His disciples and for Himself to be able to withstand the upcoming ordeal. (The reader is advised to read the whole chapter of John 17 to fully comprehend that a father and son relationship exist between Jesus and the God the Father) On one occasion Jesus declared, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I (John 14:28). Can anything be clearer than that!

Yes, Jesus came and revealed that He has a Father. Prior to this, the Israelites knew only of one God. They consider Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (the *shema*) as the foundation of their tightly held belief that there is only one God. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 says, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." They knew only of the one God of creation; the God who appeared to their forefathers; who liberated them from Egyptian slavery; the God who introduced Himself to Moses as 'I Am' (Exodus 3:13-14), whom Abraham bargained with to spare his loved ones from the imminent conflagration of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:24-32); the God who also told the Jews 'before Abraham was I Am' (John 8:58), which is none other than Jesus Christ Himself. *(For a thorough understanding of who Jesus*

*is, request for a free copy of the booklet "Is Jesus Really God?")*.

It was only upon Jesus' coming in the flesh that He introduced God the Father. Referring to the Father, John wrote: No one has seen God (the Father) at any time. The only begotten Son (Jesus), who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him (John 1:18). Jesus confirmed this, saying, "And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form" (John 5:37).

Clearly there are only two (2) Beings in the godhead—Jesus Christ and God the Father. The Holy Spirit, which many assume as member of the godhead is nowhere mentioned nor referred to in John 3:16. Jesus talked only of a Father who gave His only Begotten Son to save the world. The truth is, even the apostle Paul, in all his epistles did not mention the Holy Spirit in all his greetings and salutations. An act of this nature is tantamount to being disgraceful if not outright blasphemous if indeed the Holy Spirit is on equal footing with the Father and Christ. That in itself is proof that the Holy Spirit is not a member of the God family. However, it has a separate function, and a very crucial one at that in God's plan for salvation. It is God's primary tool to fulfil His grand design for humanity. *(Request a free copy of the magazine "The God Family - Open or Close?")*

How is it then to be ONE with the Father as Jesus said He is? Jesus made it clear in His prayer in John 17:20-23, "I do not pray for these alone (meaning His followers), but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be ONE as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be ONE in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be ONE just as We are ONE: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in ONE, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."

Based on of Jesus' statement, ONENESS can only be understood to mean one common goal, one godlike perspective; having the same godly virtues, one quality of character, attributes, capabilities, and finally one bodily composition when Jesus returns (Phil. 3:20). Paul said, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus (Phil. 2:5). That is basically the goal of a true Christian. Again, "... till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a

perfect man, TO THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST (Ephesians 4:13). At one with God means in complete agreement with all His principles and living a life patterned after His will.

### 3. Do we have 'immortal soul' or are we 'naturally perishable'?

John 3:16 (NIV), For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not **perish** but have eternal life.

Is there a conscious soul in the form of a spirit that departs from the dead body and goes to heaven or hell after death? The following scriptures will enlighten our understanding with regards to the “souls” of the departed. In fact, long held traditions and beliefs about the immortality of the soul are bound to collapse if open-mindedness is honestly observed.

a) “The soul that sins it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4.20) 'Soul' (*nephesh*) in the original means 'living creature'. Gen. 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul (*nephesh*). Man became a 'living soul' only at the very moment God blew air (oxygen) into his nostrils. As the saying goes 'we are only a breath away from death'—a fact which doesn't require intelligence to prove it.

b) For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even the memory of them is forgotten. Their love, their hate and their jealousy have long since vanished; never again will they have a part in anything that happens under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 9:5-6).

c) Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save. When their spirit (breath of life) departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing (Psalms 146:3-4).

d) 1 Peter 1:24, "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass, the grass withers, and its flower falls away”.

If we have immortal souls, then 'eternal life' is unnecessary! Why then would God the Father send His only begotten Son to die for us if we already have eternal life/immortal souls? Jesus warned twice: I tell you, but unless you repent you will all likewise perish (Luke 13:3,5). Perish in greek is *apollumi* and the English equivalent are destroy, die, lose, mar, perish-destroy fully. 1 Timothy 6:16 says “God alone has

immortality”. Eternal life or immortality is a gift from God (Romans 6:23). Mankind do not inherently possess it. God will give it to us on conditions set forth in John 3:16—“whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”.

### 4. What kind of belief is needed to avail of God's gift of eternal life?

John 3:16, For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever **believes** in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” This “tricky” verse can be construed as license to 'believe' only and not to act on that belief. Assuming the “no law-

*If we have immortal souls, then 'eternal life' is unnecessary! Why then would God the Father send His only begotten Son to die for us if we already have eternal life/immortal souls?*

all grace” proponents are correct, this “contentious” passage would have to contend with the writings of the same writer which is Paul himself. Paul ask: Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law (Romans 3:31). He added: Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good (Romans 7:12). Likewise, James explained the entire mechanics about the kind of faith needed to gain eternal life (James 2:17-25). Finally, listen to Jesus: "Therefore everyone who **hears these words of mine and puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who **hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice** is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." (Matthew 7:24-27).

Hebrews 11, the acknowledged faith chapter, narrates that "BY FAITH" the faithful men and women mentioned were deemed faithful out of what they DID, not on what they DID NOT DO. Therefore belief or



faith requires performance—it is an action word, a verb, not a just a noun. That is the kind of faith needed to gain eternal life.

### 5. Is salvation exclusive to Israel or some “select” group?

**John 3:16, For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

Unfair though it may sound, but the Bible explicitly stated that outside the realm of the Christian faith, salvation is not possible. Notice: Acts 4:10-12: “It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’ Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

However, there are no prohibitions or deterrent that forbids anyone to seek salvation from God through Christ. The following scriptures served as our guarantee that anyone can come to God and attain salvation.

**a) Titus 2:1,** “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men;

**b) 1 Timothy 2:3-4,** “This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

**c) John 4:14,** but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

**d) 1 Timothy 4:1,** “...and for this we labor and strive, that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, and especially of those who believe.”

*Unfair though it may sound, but the Bible explicitly stated that outside the realm of the Christian faith, salvation is not possible.*

### 6. Finally, why eternal life?

**John 3:16, For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

Should we prove ourselves obedient and faithful to the end, God will change us from mortal to immortal, from human to divine, from temporal to eternal by a resurrection to immortality so that we will be like Him, be adopted into His divine family, become His literal sons and daughters and be at one with Him in His glorious kingdom forever.

The following passages will attest to the fact:

**a) Romans 2:6-7,** God “will give to each person according to what he has done.” To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

**b) Romans 8:14-17,** “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together

**c) 1 John 3:2,** “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

**d) John 1:12,** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

**e) Philippians 3:20-21,** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

### To Sum it up...

The six (6) messages deduced from John 3:16 cover almost all the basic teachings of Christianity that will bring salvation to every believer. John 3:16 has all the element that opens up the way leading to the fulfilment of God's plan for mankind. There is more to John 3:16 than repetitiously reciting or quoting it to project sacredness. Reading it carefully and meditating on its every word will help us understand the reason and the hope of our existence because the embodiment of God's plan for you and me are encapsulated in this verse. Now you know why you should memorize, remember, live by, and take to heart the messages behind this verse. **AG**

# Do You Have The Holy Spirit?

by Winston S. Co

**M**any people wonder if they have the Holy Spirit abiding in them. In fact, even truly converted Christians tend to become doubtful if they have God's Holy Spirit. So, can we fully ascertain the evident presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian? Can you tell yourself with confidence that you have the Holy Spirit abiding within you? These are fair and important questions for each and every Christian to answer confidently to determine if the Holy Spirit truly dwells in them.

I believe that there is an overt sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit in an individual. I also believe that an individual will be able to discern if he or she has the Holy Spirit. Further, I also believe a person with the Holy Spirit will be able to discern another person who has the same Holy Spirit abiding in him/her.

What then is the Holy Spirit? Jesus said the Holy Spirit is a gift God gives to His faithful followers. Jesus spoke about this promise to the disciples at the last supper. Jesus talked about it in this manner:

*"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."* (John 14:15-21)

So, Jesus promised that after His departure He would send another counselor, a comforter, to be with His people—the Holy Spirit. Since the word for 'Spirit' is expressed in the masculine majestic grammatical



gender in the English Bible, many erroneously and automatically presume that the Holy Spirit is a separate divine being. However, the original Hebrew word for 'Spirit' is in the feminine form '*Ruach*' and in neuter form '*Pneuma*' in Greek. It only took on a masculine grammatical form when translated to Latin as "*Spiritus*" which was eventually translated into English as 'Spirit' in the masculine gender.

It is worth noting that both "*Ruach*" in the original Hebrew and "*Pneuma*" in Greek literally mean "wind or breath." The spirit of God which is rendered as the Holy Spirit in the New Testament means "the breath of God." The account in Luke 1:35 tells us that the Holy Spirit is the power of the Most High; thus the Holy Spirit is not a divine person but the power of God.

## The Giving of the Holy Spirit

After His resurrection, Jesus taught the disciples for 40 days. He instructed the Apostles to stay at Jerusalem and wait for the coming of the promised Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:2-9)

Ten days after His ascension, the Holy Spirit came upon God's people. This happened on the Day of Pentecost. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in tongues with power to proclaim Christ and His resurrection. A large number of the people who went to Jerusalem to observe the Day of Pentecost were pricked in their hearts when they heard the disciples preach. They asked what they needed to do in order to be saved.

Peter replied saying *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."* (Acts 2:38-39)

God promised to give the Holy Spirit to everyone who believes and accepts the sacrifice of Christ. These faithful people were sanctified by the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will take its abode in the person. Paul said we now become the temple of the Holy Spirit as the Holy Spirit dwells in us. (1 Corinthians 6:19) True to what Jesus said, we will come to Him and abide with Him—the faithful followers of Christ that is.

### Spirit of Adoption

Why do you need the Holy Spirit? Let me share with you the unique role of the Holy Spirit in God's plan for mankind. This insightful perspective of the role of the Holy Spirit comes from the Apostle Paul. He described the Holy Spirit as the "spirit of adoption to son-ship".

**Ephesians 1:1-14**, Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 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 (*pre-planned and pre-purposed*) us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ (*the executive creator and redeemer*), in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ (*the whole plan into fruition*). In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in

conformity with the purpose (according to plan) of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. (*talking about the first fruits*) And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption (*Resurrection*) of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory (*The Holy Spirit therefore is a mark and seal of ownership*).

Paul declares the Holy Spirit is a mark of ownership and a deposit that guarantees our inheritance until the time of redemption.

### Mark of Ownership

What is ownership? Ownership is possession. I know of someone who owns a cattle ranch. He owns a huge tract of land and at one time he had a 1,000 heads of cattle. The cattle to land ratio is about a hectare to a cattle. So you can image the size of the grazing field.

His neighbors are also cattle raisers. So, oftentimes the cattle would get mixed up. The only way to identify the ownership of the cattle would be to put a marking on the cattle. The mark is a "seal of ownership."

God has a mark or seal of ownership. The Holy Spirit is the mark, the seal signifying God's possession (2 Corinthians 1:22). It is the mark of ownership—that we belong to Him—that we are His children (Ephesians 1:3-6). In Romans 8:14 it says "all those led by the Spirit of God are sons of God". God declared He knows who are His. (1 Corinthians 6:19). When God looks down from heaven He knows who are His children as well as those who are not. His children have His mark—the Holy Spirit—the mark of sonship.

### Deposit

The Holy Spirit is a deposit that guarantees our inheritance. What is a deposit? A deposit is a pay in. It is a down payment. It is a small token of the full inheritance in the future. It acts as a guarantee that you will get the full rewards in due time if certain conditions are met. If a party breaks the agreement the guarantee can be withdrawn.

Have you bought anything on an installment plan, a car, appliance or a home? How about 0% interest for six months or a lay away plan? You need to put down an



initial payment or deposit. Once you do that, the item is considered yours—you own it. You can enjoy it and have legal rights to it. It becomes absolutely yours once payment is made in full. However, your deposit can be forfeited once you violate the condition of the agreement.

The Holy Spirit is given only when the person has repented and accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior. Repentance is not remorse or merely being sorry. Repentance is a commitment to change one's life—to hate evil and to do what is good and righteous.

Anyone who has been given the gift of the Holy Spirit must strive to do away with sin. He cannot continue sinning because he has the seed of God in him which is the Holy Spirit (1 John 3:9). He must strive to be holy and remain holy (1 Peter 1:13-15).

Once baptized, the person becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit, and must therefore maintain the state of holiness. We should not grieve the Holy Spirit or it will be taken away from us (1 Thessalonians 5:19-22). That is really scary. When David sinned against God he prayed that God would not take the Holy Spirit away from him (Psalms 51:1-2 and 9-11). David knew the consequence of God withdrawing the deposit of the Holy Spirit. It would mean the loss of his salvation. Therefore, do not grieve the Holy Spirit with which you are sealed for redemption. Do not lose it! It is your guarantee of eternal inheritance!

### **Guarantee**

What is a guarantee? Guarantee is an assurance, warranty, pledge and surety. A guarantee is the surety of a commitment. Why is the Holy Spirit called a guarantee of our inheritance? The Holy Spirit is the agent of the resurrection. This is the ultimate role of the Holy Spirit. It is the guarantee of the resurrection (Romans 8:9-11).

- **The Spirit of God lives and dwells in us**
- **The Holy Spirit is the Spirit that was in Christ Jesus**
- **Christ is with us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit**
- **If Christ is in us, even if our body is dead we will live in the spirit—talking about the hope of resurrection.**
- **The Resurrection is through and by the Holy Spirit that is in us!**

Therefore, if one has the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in Him until his death, he will be resurrected at the last days—upon the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You need to have the Holy Spirit because it is the only means by which you will be resurrected to eternal life!

### **Inheritance**

The Holy Spirit guarantees our inheritance. What is this inheritance and what is an inheritance? An inheritance is a bequest, heritage and legacy given by parents to children. It is a birthright! It is about the right and privilege of a son/daughter. We have an inheritance from God because we are His children. The Holy Spirit is a deposit and a guarantee of this birthright!

The birthright is to become a member of the Divine Family as a son of God (2 Peter 1:3-4). Romans 8:14-16 further expounded that we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ!

The Holy Spirit is the seal of ownership and the deposit of our inheritance. The Holy Spirit dwells within the believers as a sign that we belong to God. It is the same Spirit that was in Christ (Galatians 4:6).

God knows who His children are because the seal of ownership are stamped on His sons. He looks down from heaven and He sees those who have His mark—His Holy Spirit. They are His heirs and co-heirs with Christ. Have you been marked as an heir of God?

### **Do You Have The Holy Spirit?**

Do you want to know if you have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you? During the time of the Apostles it was easy to know. The disciples were empowered to speak in tongues, to heal, to prophesy and to understand the deep things of God; among others. But, Jesus said the most overt and important of these gifts is the empowerment of understanding (John 16:13-14).

Notice John 14:15-24, “If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves

me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?” Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. *(Jesus was talking about the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit.)*

**John 14:25-26**, “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. **John 15:26-27**, “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. *(Understanding the truth.)*

**John 16:7-11**, But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. *(Conscious of sin.)*

**John 16:12-15**, “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.” *(Know God's plan.)*

If you can understand the secret things of God, then Jesus said you have the Holy Spirit.

## Gifts

Many people look for gifts as signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit, such as; ability to preach, teach, heal, speak in tongues, prophesy, etc. We know these gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12. What if someone does not manifest any of these gifts, does it mean he has no Holy Spirit? The answer is NO!

1 Corinthians 12 was written primarily to admonish people against looking for particular gifts. Paul was saying that there are all kinds of gifts. There is no need to compare or brag about it or to be jealous or envious or desirous of a particular gift. Each person has his own unique gift. There is absolutely no need to make comparisons because we all possess the same spirit that forms one body. And if there is a superior gift—it is faith, hope and love. And, love will be the greatest!

Others look for the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The fruits of the spirits are not gifts; they are fruits we develop with the help of the Holy Spirit. In short, we are to develop the holy and righteous character of God with the help of the Holy Spirit. This is how we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in order to be like Him.

## Summation

There you have it. It is clear that the Holy Spirit is both a promise and a gift. It is promised to all the faithful who keep God's command. It is a gift given to anyone who has repented and has been baptized.

When these two conditions are met, God sends the Holy Spirit to dwell in us. It is no longer a question of either you have it or not. It is a certainty that you will receive it. Therefore, those who are baptized and continue to keep God's command can be assured that the Holy Spirit resides in them.

The Holy Spirit is the seal of ownership. The Holy Spirit marks you as a son, a daughter—a child of God. It sanctifies the recipients as God's very own children—His treasured possession. It is a deposit—a token of your inheritance as an heir of God and co-heirs with Christ. It is a guarantee—your assurance of the resurrection to eternal glory in Christ. This spirit—the Holy Spirit that is in you is the same spirit that is in Christ Jesus. It is the spirit of adoption to sonship.

Jesus said; the hallmark of the Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth and understanding. Isaiah 11:2; “The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord.”

The gift of the Holy Spirit is your counselor and comforter to enable you to discern spiritual truth, to understand the deep things of God so that you may grow into the stature of His Son Jesus Christ and be worthy to inherit the Kingdom of God. **AG**

# Islam—A Prophetic Consideration

## (Part IV)

Some believe Islam fits the description of the prophesied “man of sin,” or beast. Could this be true? Could the man of sin, or perhaps the false prophet, be a Muslim?

by Bill Watson

**T**he Bible is very clear, the beast, or man of sin, will be considered “antichrist.” He will not share in the idea or belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Messiah, or Savior of mankind. Notice what is said by the apostle John: “Little children, it is the last time: and as you have heard that antichrist shall come...” (1 John 2:18). Assuredly, John goes much deeper into the meaning and scope of just what the term “antichrist” includes, but this is a plain implication. Apparently, there were discussions about a latter day antichrist within the Christian community at that time. (Request our free publication, *What Does the Bible Really Say About the Antichrist*, for additional details.)

Also, the apostle Paul had a *warning* about this same individual some years before when writing to the Thessalonians. Notice: “Let no man deceive you... and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition [same as the antichrist]: Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God... So that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember you not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things” (2 Thessalonians 2:3–5)? Obviously, Paul at the time fully expected this “man of sin”—this antichrist—to appear and set himself up in the *physical* temple of God, still in existence when Paul wrote this, plainly indicating he expected an end-time temple would *facilitate this prophecy*.

The book of Daniel provides additional detail profiling this end-time tyrant the Bible also labels as a “king of fierce countenance.” Notice: “And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, *a king of fierce countenance*, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power [the dragon, Satan, shall give him power—Revelation 13:4]: and he shall destroy wonderfully [not by force], and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand: and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace [prosperity] shall destroy many: he shall also stand up *against* the Prince of princes [he will be anti, or *against* Jesus Christ]; but he shall be broken without hand. And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut you

up the vision; for it shall be for many days” (Daniel 8:23–26). Daniel goes on to say he didn't understand the vision at that time.

Later, in another visitation from what appears to be Michael, or Gabriel the Archangel, Daniel is told of the latter days and what events will lead up to the final concluding battle with the returning Christ and those in the first resurrection. All this begins in Daniel 10:7, which exclusively was his to hear and receive. The prophecy located right after chapter 10, commencing in chapter 11 through 12, is considered the longest prophecy in your Bible, outside of the book of Revelation, and is also about the latter days, covering major historical points related to Alexander the Great, who is listed as the “mighty king” (Daniel 11:3) right on through and including the first resurrection (Daniel 12:1–3).

Specifically, in Daniel 11:36–45, we gain *additional* insight into the profile of this antichrist autocrat and what he is led to do on a geopolitical level. It's described as a retaliatory invasion into the “glorious” land, Palestine (Daniel 11:41) due to some apparent aggravating provocation from a “king of the south” that allegedly gives him (the beast, this king of the north) cause to exercise military aggression (Daniel 11: 40–43). Ultimately, this stirs up the nations from the east and north (northeast) of Jerusalem to counter this invasion with a retaliation of biblical proportions, described in both the books of Joel and Revelation—the battle of Armageddon in the valley of Jehoshaphat (Daniel 12:1). It's clear—this is the *final battle*, because the first resurrection occurs at this time (Daniel 12:2–4), a clear indication this happens simultaneously with Christ's second coming to establish the Kingdom of God on earth (Zechariah 14:1–15) at the last trumpet.

### Islamic History Demands A Cautious Prophetic Consideration

One thing is clear: the man of sin—or as John labeled him, the “antichrist”—is unique among the long list of tyrants down through world history. He is described as an individual who somehow is able to exercise authority and take control by means of affluence and non-violent advancement, not



jihad. He will ingratiate himself and win the hearts and minds of the people and ten kings (Revelation 17:12–15) throughout the world, but at some point becomes dominant and uses military power to counterattack an aggressive, offensive *invasion* from what the Bible calls a “king of the south” (Daniel 11:40–45).

Obviously, many of these roles are *not yet* clearly identified, nor have the nations, coalitions, or individuals been described and connected to any specifics by *name*. But, there are *patterns* we can look to for some semblance of *sequential order* to clarify some of these crucial events and possible nations. One thing is *clear*: this coming socialistic world combine, with 10 kings working as one, empowering a dictator and false prophet, is called *Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and the Abominations of the Earth* (Revelation 17:5). It is profiled as a combination of the Babylonian, Greco-Roman Empire (the former king of the north) that was, is not, and yet is, because it will be healed—it will resurrect and come back into the present—and take on its empowerment and authority on into perdition. That's its destiny (Revelation 13:1–18; 17:8–14).

AND THIS BRINGS US TO THE QUESTIONS SOME HAVE: *Is Islam to be blamed for these conditions? Could the Muslims play a part in any of these events and circumstances? Could they be complicit to some degree for what the Bible describes as the end-time tribulation, beast, and false prophet? Some are seriously considering that Islam, at least at first blush, may be a plausible source of these end-time scenarios. Could this actually be possible?*

These questions merit a review of some surprising history that illustrates and confirms this is not the *first* time Islam has been “front and center” as a source of worldwide aggression and suspicion of being the end-time beast power. If we consider some historical facts about the Muslim movement, not the least of which were the Crusades, it goes to this point: we need to consider the prophetic value of Islam's emergence very *cautiously*. But just the same, let's consider Islam's effect on the world, limited to just over the last 500 to 600 years. In so doing, we shall see what is happening today has indeed happened *before*. It's *nothing new* to the geopolitical interplay.

Let me remind us, as was pointed out in Part II, that Islam was an aggressive force to contend with throughout the period preceding and during the Crusades. It was well on its way to expanding throughout Christendom. The Ottoman Turkish Empire was on the rise, subjugating the remaining Byzantine Empire as an all consuming Islamic Caliphate, which included most of Greece, Serbia, and Albania. The Catholic Church had its hands full, trying to battle back the advancing hoards of Muslim invaders throughout the European region.

It was so bad, the historian for Emperor Frederick III, Joseph Grunpeck, stated: “When you perceive the miserable

corruption of the whole of Christendom, of all the praiseworthy customs, rules, and laws, the wretchedness of all classes, the many pestilences, the changes in this epoch and all the strange happenings, *you know that the End of the World is near.*” Interestingly enough, we see it was no different some 600 years ago as the Islamic advancements were forging ahead, moving closer to the doorsteps of Vienna. It caused *great fear* and *terror* in the minds and hearts of those throughout Western Europe at the time.

Unquestionably, Islamic Fundamentalism wants to dominate the *world*. That's what Islam means, “submission.” And these same Islamic jihadi fundamentalists are presently causing all kinds of havoc, chaos, and terror among many non-Islamic nations—and this has much of the world's community of nations very disturbed and anxious about how to handle this horrible aggression. It seems almost unthinkable, unimaginable, and astonishing, that what is happening can occur in what many secularists today claim is a civilized world. But, hard as it might be to believe, it is indeed happening!

Yet, as incredibly macabre as conditions are (public beheadings, rapes, drownings in water, and dissolving people in acid while they are alive), it becomes very suitable for many “prophecy prognosticators” to *exploit* the circumstances described in today's headlines, spinning it to their advantage for some kind of personal gain. This is sad, but true!

We see it time and time again, using specific tragedies, or foreboding threats to *headline* an alleged prophetic connection they portray as something currently menacing. We've seen it with Y2K, Harold Camping's prophecies, the Mayan calendar, the *Left Behind* series, and here recently with the lunar tetrads, a.k.a. blood moons. And so it is for some religious leaders today, Islam portends to be the *new apocalyptic threat* that will usher in the return of Christ, or for the Muslim, the return of the “Al Mahdi”—the term for the Islamic messiah.

Historicists have shown Islam has a long connection over the ages of being suspected as the destructive force that ultimately would face off with Christ. It's a known fact according to Peter Toon, Anglican priest, professor, and author, that the Protestants in Europe felt threatened by the Ottoman Empire, especially as it increased in size over the years and took on the profile of a caliphate. Many early Presbyterians, Baptists, Puritans, and other Protestants groups began to identify the Turkish Muslims as the ones John was talking about in the book of Revelation. Mark U. Edwards, Jr., in his book, *Luther's Last Battles: Politics and Polemics*, 1531–46, claims Martin Luther believed the papacy was the antichrist, but the Turks comprised the small horn that eliminated the three horns of the beast in Daniel 7. Luther also believed the Turks were Gog and the papacy was Magog. From the book *Luther's View of Church History*, pg

265, Luther wrote: “I believe that we are the last trumpet which prepares for and precedes the advent of Christ.”

Martin Luther wasn't the only one at this time to think Muslims were key players within prophetic events; Calvin also had his own observations. He believed Islam was one of the two horns of the beast—the pope as one, and Islam as the other.

John Gill of the 18th century also portrayed the Muslim Turks a few times in his commentary, identifying Gog in Ezekiel 38 as the Islamic Turks. Also, Thomas Scott of the 19th century had similar beliefs with regard to Islam and their ultimate aim to make war with the Jews. Thomas Newton of the 18th century and James Glasglow in his 1872 commentary both connected Mohammed with the star that fell from heaven, described in Revelation 9:1, the fifth trumpet, or first woe. So, we can see many in the past suspected Islam would have a role in the end-time prophetic events—it really is nothing new.

### So Where Does This Lead Us?

This information should cause us to recognize, when considering *current* events and headlines, that there is an existing risk they potentially could be *deceiving* if we forget our *history*. We must keep in mind the historical *patterns*—the *framing*! Let me remind us that there remains in the latter day two major forces that face off: the king of the north, formerly Rome, and the king of the south, formerly Egypt (Daniel 11:40).

This historical and prophetic pattern remains *unfulfilled* in the latter day, and if Islamic movement continues to develop into an end-time caliphate, it *cannot* play both roles.

We know history tells us that in the 8th century, Islam was thought to be Gog and Magog. It was also taught in the 7th century that Mohammad was the antichrist, but then in the 10th and 11th centuries it changed to the Catholic popes. However, in the 12th century, we find the Muslim leader Saladin considered as the “man of sin.” History has proved time after time many individuals were considered to be the antichrist—even Martin Luther was at one time suspected to be the antichrist. Incredible!

So in all due respect, though Islam may appear to be rather threatening at the moment—and yes, may appear even more so because of the combination of weak leadership from the West conceding certain “enabling policies,” i.e., *weak* immigration enforcement, *mild* military counter attacks with no clearly defined military objectives, and *political correctness* paralyzing lawmakers, allowing Muslim encroachment into the polity, resulting in certain compromises of constitutional law in the hosting nations, changing the hegemony over time—we *must not forget* that presently, the Islamic nations only account for about one percent of the world's equity markets. By and large, keeping Islam in perspective compared to the West, much of the

Muslim world remains in poverty, generally speaking, but with some noted exceptions of course, due to Western money.

However, we plainly know there are active Muslim jihadi fundamentalists advancing a violent *jihad* (violent struggle, or holy war), hoping to achieve dominance and chaos in their pursuit of a resurrected caliphate, as they go about creating the environment for the returning Al Mahdi. This is at the core of their theology: the return of the Al Mahdi, or 12th Imam, who will save humankind from self destruction and restore Islamic law by *sharia*, for all to “enjoy.”

Admittedly, these current jihadi fundamentalists are a comparatively small *fraction* of what is considered to be defined as the greater Islamic population, but that doesn't dismiss the threat, risk, and danger they impose due to the tactics of *terrorism* and the potential of *additional* jihadists joining the ranks. Keep in mind a recent Pew Research Study revealed there are about 1.6 billion Muslims in the world (23 percent of the global population). At present, there appears to be between 150,000 to 300,000 *jihadist* Muslim fundamentalists *actively engaged* in some sort of violence (less than 0.01 percent), and are actually associated with some terrorist group like ISIS, Hamas, Boko Haram, al Qaeda, etc.—obviously, a small percentage. Nevertheless, a very dangerous Islamic segment of Muslims, along with about 60–70 percent of all Muslims globally are considered to be *Salaf*—the Arabic religious term for “fundamentalist.”

When considering the jihadists as a whole, inclusive of all the groups at the present time, clearly, they are not a large number. Though dangerous and menacing, by comparison they present what should appear to be a *mild* threat to the security of the West; but tragically, the tactics they employ—terrorism and gorilla warfare—make all the difference; and that is generating the motivation for the West to unite against it. If these Muslim jihadi fundamentalists do anything, they may just cause the West to be driven to collectively consolidate their assets and essentially “circle the wagons” to defend against this common enemy that threatens the values and lifestyles of Western society. That remains a real possibility—the thing lacking from the West is *affirmative leadership*.

With that being said, Islam does indeed have a present role in the prophetic scenarios we are observing here in the West and especially in the United States. The reality is there are many *potential scenarios* that could develop out of what is happening, which continues to thrust world conditions to their prophetic fulfillment. It remains to be seen just how expansive Islam's role will be as mankind moves into the storm developing on the horizon. In the meantime, we need to be patient as God works toward accomplishing His plan—especially when considering all that is listed within the prophetic script.

However, one *prominent point of prophecy* is playing out

right in front of us today. Notice: “The stranger [foreigner] that is within you [in your nation, embedded in the population] shall get up above you very high [exceed in influence and power]; and you shall come down very low [the indigenous people of the nation will lose influence, power, and ultimately control of the country]. He shall lend to you and you shall not lend to him [the nation will be beholden to those we borrow from—our debt will increase—we will be the borrower, not the lender]: he [the foreigner] will be the head, and you shall be the tail [the foreigner will gain the power and influence to control the nation]” (Deuteronomy 28:43–44).

It is *stunning* to see this historical “Israelite” parallel happening in so many areas of the West, especially in Europe, Scandinavia, Britain, and the USA, due to the nations' laws of freedom and liberty *used against* the hosting country to compromise the standards, values, and conditions of the indigenous. They are being used to *erase* the lifestyles of the West and replace them with other ethnic *foreign* hegemonies—in particular, and presently, Islam!

By means of terrorism, Muslim jihadi fundamentalists are having an influence in *shifting attention* to internal security, which necessitates defensive steps to guard against this onslaught of violence. This naturally results in the loss of certain freedoms. Sadly, *political correctness* has *paralyzed* many Western nations to think in terms of accommodation and appeasement for the sake of peace and cooperation, but in so doing have *compromised* and *conceded* particular liberties and freedoms by the obfuscation of hard decisions against Islamic fundamentalism. And so the price is being paid; risk, danger, and peril is *accelerating* for the populations of countries like France, England, Australia, Scandinavia, and the United States. Terror alerts and the threats of additional attacks are intensifying and only look to become worse in the future.

In the meantime, Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and others in the Middle East continue to saber rattle, taking aggressive political and/or military steps they believe can be won since the West appears to be so preoccupied with their own security and apologetic diplomacy—or as some would describe, *weak leadership* from so many directions.

### So What Does This Portend?

The conditions the world finds itself in today are extremely disturbing due to one *major element*—the United States is perceived as weak, indecisive, and without vision, purpose, or a clear objective—a paper tiger *at best*! Its foreign policy and soft approach of trying to be all things to everyone has been detrimental to the perception of America's strength and influence—it has undermined its own image.

Tragically, the results have emboldened many potential enemies of the West and bought them time to position themselves into a stronger posture for steering

circumstances more favorably for themselves. Some major illustrations of this are China's military presence and build-up in the South China Sea, Russia's invasion of Crimea, and the Iranian nuclear deal that allows Iran to proceed with the development of nuclear technology without pragmatic supervision, which is most certainly going to culminate with nuclear weapons of mass destruction. When that happens, the world will never be the same.

All indications seem to be pointing to a major clash up ahead. Russia and China are growing closer together. Turkey is moving more toward an Islamic state, perhaps a revived caliphate, as it was in the early 20th century. Iran is relentless in its research and development for nuclear technology, now that the United States Treasury has enriched it with billions of dollars from the release and payment of revenue it allowed. And the Israeli state is growing more nervous by the day. So it would appear, unless something drastically changes, the world is fast becoming a more dangerous and volatile place, and doesn't look to be changing for the better any time soon! Instead, it appears circumstances indicate a *collision* of major world powers is becoming more intensely probable that could threaten the fragile peace the world is so desperately trying to maintain.

Knowing the Bible clearly describes a Babylonian, Greco-Roman Empire is to resurrect and revisit the present world (it will be healed) and is indeed accelerating toward its destiny with this socialistic system ruled by ten kings, a beast, and false prophet that has the “blood of the saints on its hands,” it's important we understand: Islamic fundamentalism is being used to *weaken* the West via terrorism, immigration, refugee asylum, and embedding into the polity of the hosting nations to continue impairing and diluting these cultures to the point that perhaps—just maybe—they will no longer be able to defend themselves. Admittedly, it remains to be seen to what degree this will be allowed before primarily, the United States wakes up to this threat—if at all!

We cannot forget that a major obstacle preventing the Babylonian System from this future resurrection and achieving its destined position, is the last bastion of freedom, liberty, and free market enterprise—the United States! As long as the United States is able to defend itself and is *perceived* able and willing to protect its foreign interests, it will remain a *counter balance* against worldwide aggression.

But when the day comes that it's perceived to be unable and incapable—that is the day the world will change forever, because it will be a world *without* the balance of power the United States and other free market countries like Britain bring to the global community of nations—it will be a *time of the Gentiles*. And sadly, the Bible has a prescribed pattern outlined for those nations that have adopted the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as their model, but fail to follow



His laws and statutes; and it's *not* a pleasant narrative.

Notice: "...because you hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you [USA culture is morally bankrupt]: ...Because you served not the LORD your God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, from the abundance of all things [the USA is a very corrupted wealthy nation]: ...The LORD shall bring a nation against you from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies [it may be a surprise]; a nation whose tongue you shall not understand: ... and he shall besiege you in all your gates, until your high and fenced walls come down, where in you trusted, throughout all your land: and he shall besiege you in all your gates throughout all your land, which the LORD your God had given you. ...And you shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God. ... And the LORD shall scatter you among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other..." (Deuteronomy 28:45–64).

This happened to ancient Israel, and will happen to any parallel culture representing the same God. The United States and much of the British Commonwealth nations are in this same mold, representing similar cultural values as ancient Israel, including its worship and belief in the God of the Old Testament and Jesus Christ! *We are accountable to the God of Israel!*

So, Islam is serving a purpose in the prophetic times we currently live in, but when compared to God's Word, it hardly fits the description of this coming socialistic Babylonian, Greco-Roman system destined to reemerge (Revelation 13:1–7) and bear down on the nations of the world. It just doesn't appear to have the historical substance to fit the profile as the king of the north.

But more importantly, it would appear the United States must be neutralized—taken out in some way—where it no longer is an obstacle or deterrent, preventing the world from coalescing into the socialistic system the Bible describes in Revelation 17:11–14.

Something is in the works that will enable this "beast" to rise and come to power and fit the descriptions explained in Daniel and Revelation. There are clouds on the horizon—they are building. Will potential forces and political circumstances, designed by God, afford more time for mankind to repent? To perhaps delay the storm? That remains to be seen—time will tell.

But, John was succinct about a war that will eliminate 25 percent of humanity. Notice: "And when he had opened up the *fourth seal*... I looked and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth [25 percent], to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth" (Revelation 6:7–8). The fifth seal *follows* this enormous war, which is a great Christian martyrdom. I don't have to remind us, much of the Western nations are traditionally considered "Christian."

*A major conflict appears to be coming.* The European Union is weak and has many problems—it needs to be shaken up. Why? Because it presently does not match the biblical description of the beast. Yet it is clear: the footprint, where this *Babylon the Great* system will sit, based on the historical patterns of Daniel seven, seems to illustrate it's where the European Union *currently* is, and thereby would be considered the king of the north in the last days—or the "healed" ancient Babylonian, Greco-Roman Empire. So, how will it come to be? It would appear through much pain, destruction, death, and heartache. In other words, through much tribulation—perhaps the fourth seal?

In the book of Romans, Paul mentions this: "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light" (Romans 13:11–12). This advice is to be taken to heart to assure ourselves we remain engaged—and if we're not, to repent and get right with God by living a life that exemplifies Jesus Christ—without delay! Ω

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

Psalms 119:105

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Alzon's Palace, Maranding  
Lala, Lanao del Norte  
Saturdays 10 a.m.

Brgy. Kiara, Don Carlos, Bukidnon  
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month  
10 a.m.