

## Newsletter January 2016 (Revised)

As the year 2016 dawns, the path ahead for mankind appears very bleak with unprecedented political, financial, and religious problems and conflicts on the near horizon, which are vastly overshadowed by acts of extreme religious violence on a global scale. Therefore, it seemed appropriate for us to briefly depart from our ongoing discussion of the temporal church to examine world issues – as we have periodically done in the past – in order to assess the nature of this current threat. In this newsletter we shall discuss the major campaign by Islam to achieve worldwide religious dominance through infiltration and immigration. The movement is being spearheaded through a “holy war” undertaken by radical elements of a sect within the greater religion of Islam. Islam is today's second largest religion and rapidly growing with more than one and one half billion adherents worldwide such that the credibility of its endeavor to achieve global dominance cannot be denied. In the following brief discourse of the origin of the Islamic movement and its rise to imminency, we shall utilize edited excerpts taken from *Comprehensively Reformed Christianity* Book III. Then, we shall move on to address the threat of Islam to the western world's way of life through covert expansionism as well as through intimidating acts of terrorism – both undertaken in the name of the religion of Islam.

Islam was founded by a man named Muhammad. He was born in Mecca in AD 570, into a prominent Hashim family, but he was reared by his uncle upon the death of both his parents and grandparents. On a trip to Syria, he became greatly disturbed by the idolatry and insouciant religious attitudes of Christians that he observed there. Not only was statuary of Jesus, Mary, and various other saints being worshiped as deity by the corrupt Roman church, their worship of God was seen as pragmatic and undisciplined. In hostile reaction, Muhammad established himself as a prophet in AD 610 whereupon he soon began an all out effort to eradicate all forms of idolatry. This religion is exclusively referred to as Islam today, and its adherents are referred to as Muslims.

The early Islamic movement of the seventh century soon became a militant campaign to destroy corrupt Roman churchianity and all other forms of idolatry at its roots, which resulted in much bloodshed as Muhammad and his followers destroyed idols and established his religious beliefs by means of the sword. By the year AD 651, the seven Asian churches (located in present-day Turkey) that are recorded in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 finally fell under the Islamic advance. The region commonly known as Palestine, including the ancient Jewish homeland, was also submerged under the fierce religious *jihad* (holy war) of Islam. Large portions of North Africa, including Egypt, were likewise overwhelmed by the Islamic onslaught. The Turks, who dominated Islam at that time, were exceedingly intolerant of Christians. Their violent conquests that had gained them possession of the Holy Lands, and their barbarous treatment of Christians residing in Palestine, would become in large part the motivation behind the bloody Christian crusades of AD 1095-1272 (cf. *CRC* Book III, pages 193-196). Islam had nearly succeeded in destroying any outward evidence of Christianity as its powerful armies swept both east and west – extending westward into a large area of Spain by 715. The rest of Europe was protected from Islamic dominance when Charles Martel defeated the Muslim army at Tours, France in 732 – thus ending the massive advance into Europe. In AD 1453, Ottoman Turks captured the Eastern Christian capitol of Constantinople, which brought the Byzantine Empire to an end (cf. *CRC* Book III, Chapter 17.10). The Ottoman Caliphate thus created existed for 469 years until it was partitioned and brought to an end in 1922 – following World War I.

After the fall of the Islamic Caliphate, Muslims continued to occupy many of the nations of the middle east and began to spread outward into the nations of northern Africa. Today a ring of Muslim dominated nations is beginning to form around the Mediterranean Sea, and Muslim hopes for a restored but even more robust Caliphate is in view. One notable obstacle to the formation of this Islamic Caliphate is the modern democracy of Israel, which was founded in 1948 through an action of the United Nations. Israel's initial boundaries along the eastern Mediterranean Sea encompassed much less than the area that God had expressly granted to Israel, but it is an area that had been previously occupied by various nomadic Muslim Arab tribes for 1000 years or more. Many Muslim Arabs who had permanently settled in the territory abandoned their homes to avoid living under Jewish rule – preferring instead to live as exiles in surrounding territories that now include the west bank of the Jordan river and a narrow strip of land along the Mediterranean known as Gaza. Muslim leaders had strongly encouraged this mass exodus in order to establish a self-imposed refugee status in surrounding camps, which could be manipulated as grounds for the ousting of Israel and the establishment of Muslim sovereignty over all of Palestine. Disputes over ownership and control of the holy city of Jerusalem have become a major obstacle to any talks of political peace between Israel and her Palestinian neighbors. Israel is viewed by all Muslims as an

impediment to the establishment of a future Caliphate that already has its foundations anchored in Jerusalem. The massive Islamic Dome of the Rock covering a rock formation in Jerusalem where Muslims believe that Muhammad ascended to heaven is co-located with the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is considered to be the third most holiest site of Islam.

While the planned future Caliphate is forming in the middle east around the Mediterranean Sea, a well-planned dispersion of Muslim populations around the world is also underway to gain an eventual world-wide dominance of Islam. This dispersion commonly takes place through simple immigration. Some Muslim immigrants flee from oppressive governments in fear of their lives, while others seek to immigrate with the express purpose of expanding Islam worldwide. Regardless of their motive, when Muslim immigrants arrive in a host nation, they at first keep themselves separate from its citizens to avoid conflict. When they have gained sufficient numbers through additional immigration, they establish a Muslim enclave within the host nation and begin to recruit converts from the surrounding population. Then comes the building of mosques enabling them to establish a strong religious anchor. Overtime, these enclaves grow into cities and from there they seek to overwhelm regional governments. At that point, they could exercise newly acquired political power to fundamentally transform an entire nation into an Islamic Caliphate. We should note that expansionism is an inevitable consequence of holding to a religious belief that is considered to be the only legitimate one for all of mankind. In that sense, this activity is not all that much different than that of Christian immigrants and foreign missionaries who for many centuries have sought to convert the world to Christianity – most often by peaceful means, but deplorably in earlier times through the use of militant abusive force (cf. *Global Expansion of Roman Catholic Churchianity*, CRC Book III, Chapter 17.11).

By the year 2000, Islam's attempt at world dominance was already well underway through the infiltration of western nations of Europe and the Americas with large numbers of Muslims through both legal and illegal immigration over national boundaries. This incursion was coupled with an active recruitment of disgruntled citizens within those nations. Early recruitment in the United States was especially targeted to the African American population that was made susceptible through the relentless preaching of black liberation theology (cf. *CRC Book III*, pages 336, 414) from a large number of their church pulpits. Many were easily led to believe that Islam was the original faith of their forefathers in Africa before Christianity had been forced upon them in a nation where they were still being held in virtual slavery by a white society and its oppressive laws. Today, the Islamic movement has expanded its enlistment tactics to gain recruits from every conceivable race and ethnic background. The Internet and Social Media have greatly facilitated this recruitment success, and the inherent obscurity of Internet Media has made it easy for radical elements to plan subversive activities undetected.

Muslim infiltration of the United States has on the surface been a peaceful one, inasmuch as most of these Muslims have immigrated from extremely severe Islamic regimes that had endangered their lives. However, their growing presence in a nation that was built upon Christian faith and ethics has produced a subversive stress on the U.S. Constitution due to the clash of radically opposing cultures and religious values. Unlike many immigrants of the past who retained their ethnicity yet became Americanized over time, there is no intent by American Muslims to assimilate into civil society,. The religious divide for them is far too vast to overcome.

There is a large number of today's Muslims who advocate a change within Islam to make it a more peaceful and less combative religion. Whereas the Christian reformation movement, driven by a literal interpretation of the Bible, opposed the militant errors of Roman Catholicism, a literal interpretation of the Qur'an is precisely what today's so-called Islamic militants use to authenticate their violent ideology. This “radical” ideology is actually a reformation of Islam back to its elemental roots. What moderate Muslims actually advocate, then, is a transformation movement – away from Islam's fundamental roots toward a more liberal allegorical interpretation of the Qur'an. Nevertheless, U.S. mosques remain a breeding ground for Islamic fundamentalism. Imams who lead prayers and teach Islamic doctrine from the Qur'an and the Hadith in American mosques consistently teach Sharia law (cf. *CRC Book III*, page 515) as well as portray *jihad* as a sacred duty required of all Muslims. Indeed, they would neglect their religious calling if they did not do so. A literal reading of the Qur'an and the Hadith as well as Islamic history makes it very clear that *jihad* is not a mere allegory symbolizing an internal struggle within the hearts and minds of Muslims as they fight personal temptation. Nevertheless, peace-loving transformational Muslims have come to accept that allegory as fact. They have no inclination to overthrow the U.S. government by force and in that sense they represent no direct threat to civil society. Even so, they are hard

at work to gain full acceptance of Islam as a peaceful religious faith on a par with or superior to Christianity. Hidden within this outwardly peaceful agenda, is the real threat to western society.

Atheists and progressive humanists, who are so busy in their attempts to eradicate Christianity in the United States, do not differentiate one religion from another and have no idea what is really at stake – they lump all religions together like they are but superstitious fraternities that do not particularly like each other. In the interest of so-called “religious tolerance” and in hopes of promoting some form of secular understanding, Islamic dogma is rapidly finding its way into the nation's public school systems, colleges, and universities through specially designed religious courses that easily subvert the nation’s spiritually-naive youth away from a sound Christian foundation and moral ethic. Western legal systems are likewise being infiltrated with opinions from Islamic law.

A more radical Shi'ite sect within fundamentalist Islam believes in the advent of a hidden twelfth Imam. This Imam’s name is Abu al-Qasim Muhammad or Muhammad al Mahdi. Mahdi means savior or messiah. The Mahdi's return is expected to be accompanied by a series of extreme chaotic events that will take place during a span of three years. Shi'ite Muslims of a more zealous disposition believe that they must initiate that state of chaos themselves through overt and covert means in order to bring in the twelfth Imam and the final Caliphate under his rule. The world at large was slowly awakened to this violent aspect of Islam as the twentieth century was coming to a close. On February 26, 1993, a group of Islamic conspirators headed up by Sheik Omar Abdel-Rachman attempted to topple tower one of the World Trade Center of New York into tower two with a 1500 pound urea-nitrate bomb planted in a rented Ryder van. Six people died, and one thousand more were injured in the explosion. All of the conspirators were caught and sentenced to long prison terms, and most citizens falsely assumed that this violence had been isolated to one small radical group of Muslims.

Throughout the next decade, however, Muslims continued to fund and execute still more attacks against United States interests abroad in the world. At the end of the Twentieth Century, a radical Muslim group founded by Osama bin Laden and known as Al-Qaeda sprung up out of the earlier war with Russia in Afghanistan. Its primary goals were the establishment of Sharia law throughout the world, the elimination of Israel as a political state, and the political unification of all nations under a restored Caliphate. It was not until the World Trade Center was successfully attacked and destroyed on September 11, 2001 by Islamic terrorist members of Al-Qaeda using hijacked commercial airliners as missiles that Americans became seriously concerned about the imminent threat of Islam. Since then, the United States has been involved in wars in Afghanistan and Iraq in an effort to eradicate Al-Qaeda. Osama bin Laden was killed in a U.S. commando attack in Pakistan in May of 2011, but his many followers remained to spread their murderous venom elsewhere.

A modern Salafist movement within the Sunni sect is the source of much of today's violent activity within Islam. It views terrorism as a perfectly valid means of waging militant *jihad* until the whole world finally submits to all the demands of Islam. Further fueling this call for violence, the radical Muslim believes that there is only one sure way to enter paradise and that is by giving his own life to further the Islamic cause by killing the enemies of Allah. Therefore, the term “radical Islam” is precisely descriptive, inasmuch as “radical” accurately describes the Islamic core doctrine of *jihad* that the radical Shi'ite embraces. Extremist elements of radical Islam have expanded *jihad* from organized warfare to include individual acts such as suicide missions and suicide bombings. Although Islam does not condone suicide, it is being justified by radicals because it simultaneously murders non-submissive “infidels.”

Much like Hydra, the mythological multi-headed monster, as one head of radical Islam is cut off more groups with new leaders spring up to take its place. By 2003, another jihadist group known as ISIL or *Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant* came into being to compete with Al-Qaeda (Levant is a previous name for the geographical area of the middle east that is now occupied by Lebanon, Syria, and Israel). As civil war broke out in Syria in 2013 arising from persistent Syrian citizen protests and subsequent severe government crack-downs over the previous two years, ISIL hijacked the revolution establishing what is provisionally known today as ISIS or the *Islamic State of Iraq and Syria*. Muslim Iraq, which was greatly weakened by the U.S. pullout of troops at the conclusion of the Iraq War, rapidly lost a large portion of its northern territory to this rapidly expanding Shi'ite force whose intent was and is to establish an Islamic Caliphate in Iraq and Syria, further expand it to encompass the middle east, and ultimately the entire world. ISIS is currently funded by the sale of captured oil reserves supplemented by human trafficking and ransoms received from the kidnappings of various western nationals. It has committed barbaric atrocities that far exceed those committed earlier by Al-Qaeda. Many Christians as well

as various other religious minorities in Iraq – and even other Muslims that differ in any way from their extreme religious views – have suffered brutal deaths at their hands.

On the night of September 22, 2014 a loose coalition consisting of the United States and five Arab nations mounted a limited air attack on Raqqa, the home base of ISIS located within war-torn Syria. France, Canada and a few other nations later unenthusiastically joined this coalition. While some progress has been made in recovering captured territories in northern Iraq, ISIS is rapidly advancing their radicalism into other nations. This progress was recently aided by a vast flood of refugees that came out of Syria when Russia began determined bombing efforts in support of the Assad regime. All nations of Europe have been overwhelmed by this sudden influx of Muslims, which threatens to undermine their national sovereignty.

A coordinated attack on Paris, France occurred on November 13, 2015 wherein 130 persons were killed and another 391 were injured thus terrorizing French citizens. One or more of the attackers was from Syria and had entered France hidden within the flood of refugees fleeing the Syrian civil war. Stating humanitarian concern, U.S. President Barack Obama has authorized the acceptance of ten thousand of these refugees into the United States over the next year, and quite likely more in the future. The increased terrorist risk to the U.S. homeland as a consequence of accepting large numbers of Muslim refugees from Syria, where the ISIS movement is currently centered, has caused many state governors and congressmen to oppose this vast influx of refugees. However, immigration-control is within the sole jurisdiction of the federal administration – as it is written in the Constitution of the United States. The first amendment to the constitution guarantees freedom of religion such that the federal government cannot pass any law to promote a particular religion or prevent the free exercise of another. Although this amendment applies specifically to U.S. citizens, a religious test for immigrants has never been established on that same basis. Admission of nationals from enemy nations can be banned in times of war, but this is not applicable to the present immigration issue since no national war has been declared.

It only takes one or two determined terrorists to take many innocent lives. Case in point: on December 2, 2015, two radicalized Muslim terrorists, Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife Tashfeen Malik, opened fire with assault rifles at a Christmas office party that was taking place at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, California. Fourteen people were killed and twenty-one were wounded. Farook was a natural-born U.S. Citizen, but his wife of two years was a recent Pakistani who had entered the United States on a fiance' visa. Both were later killed in an intense shootout with local police as they attempted to escape from their rented apartment in a van. Whereas earlier converts to radical Islam traveled to Syria and Iraq to engage in the front lines of the ongoing *jihad*, they are increasingly being told to stay at home to commit terrorist acts locally. So-called sleeper cells already lie in wait in every state of the United States. If they all or even most of them should successfully execute simultaneous attacks, the effect upon the perceived security of the nation would be devastating and could induce a state of national panic. Since many radicalized individuals are U.S. citizens with no criminal record, they are very hard to detect ahead of committing a terrorist act. Some express their violent intent in American mosques, but the loyal Muslim religious society is reluctant to report such inclinations to civil authorities. Some may be submissively sympathetic to this rhetoric, while others are fearful lest they could become its target.

We can fully expect radical Islamic acts of terrorism to increase worldwide not only in quantity but in severity as the radical Islamic movement gains access to more sophisticated weapons. Shi'ite dominated Iran is very close to developing its own nuclear weapons, and Israel is its first declared target. Nuclear, chemical, and very likely biological weapons are already being stockpiled and traded among various other rogue nations around the world. It is inevitable that radical Islamic groups will eventually obtain nuclear weapons in a light portable form, and they will have no qualms against using them to further their global *jihad*. When that occurs, all non-radicalized nations of the world must bury all political differences and band together to defeat the common enemy.

The close association of western, Islamic, and Asian nations required to combat this global threat, as well as the delusional fear of man-induced global climate change, could eventually lead to the collapse of nationalism altogether – resulting in the formation of a powerful one-world government to put down all opposition to “necessary” international edicts. Depending upon the outcome of the current Islamic conflict, this global government could be forced to adopt Sharia law to bring Muslims on board – or conversely, adopt a rigid form of socialism to retain very strict international control. Either way, a very strong leader will be needed to head it up; the world would be fully disposed to receive the ultimate antichrist of Revelation 6 as that leader (cf. 1Jn.2:18; Re.6:2). Indeed, we may be on the very threshold of great apocalyptic events. © Arthur J. Smith, January 2016