

The Dangers of Islam

By Thomas Thornhill

Islam must not be ignored. We cannot underestimate its growing power. This militant religion has tremendously affected the world economically and politically by its influence through OPEC, a collective of Middle East countries. Most of these countries embrace the Religion of Islam, commonly known as the Muslim religion. As a result, Islam has the ability to play a key role in the social stability or instability of many governments throughout the world. As it continues to aggressively expand its sphere of influence it impacts the world, not only socially and religiously, but also politically, economically and militarily. One of our brethren, Ney Rieber, after years of research wrote a book entitled "A resource for the study of Islam." He reported at the time: "There are about a billion Muslims in the world. There are 50 Muslim majority countries in the world: 21 in Asia, 28 in Africa, and 1 in Europe. There are 13 other Muslim majority states/areas under occupation by different powers." p.40. This was over 15 years ago. Today the numbers are much larger. The religious movement known as Islam started by a man calling himself the prophet Muhammad in Arabia ca. 622 AD with a handful of followers now numbers 1.5 billion Muslims (those who adhere to Islam) in the world. This is 22% of the world's population. Wherever this religion has been established it is so deeply engrained in the lives of its members that it affects every aspect of their lives. While many in America seem to be aware of this religious movement and the part it is playing in the world community, they understand very little of the Muslim religion itself.

Even though Muslims are still in the minority in America they are rapidly becoming more and more influential in the everyday lives of Americans. As a result of their ever increasing power and influence there is a definite need for some basic teaching of the danger Islam poses to America's freedom and democracy. But even more importantly to Christianity itself. Some view Islam as just a religious movement and have been led to believe that we worship the same God as the Muslims, only under a different name. Since there is a parallel between some of the characters in the Bible and the Muslim Koran (Arabic-Qur'am) people assume there is a parallel in theology. This is blatantly false. The Allah of Islam is not the same as Jehovah God of the Old Testament Jews or the New Testament Christians. The religion of Islam, when examined with the light of divine truth can easily be exposed as a false religion.

But Islam is much more than a false religion. It is a religious system designed to control every aspect of a Muslim's life, legally, politically, economically, militarily, socially as well as religiously. In every country governed by Muslims the government is either dictatorial or autocratic and to a great extent (if not completely) its people are governed by Sharia Law. The Islamic religious leaders (Imams and Mullahs) exercise great power over the people. Muslim children are taught only from the Koran (Arabic- Qur'am). Non-Muslim schools and churches, if allowed to exist at all, are closely watched, and only non-Muslims can attend. Any Muslim caught associating with non-believers (infidels) is considered guilty of a crime punishable by death and may be killed. We have seen recent examples of this happening even here in America.

Why does Islam pose such a danger? Muslims say they want to be accepted into American society, but when one learns the true objectives it can readily be seen to very dangerous to both democracy and Christianity.

1. Islam wants to become the universal religion. Its avowed aim is to convert all mankind to the worship of their god, Allah, as pictured in the Qur'am. They will do it peacefully by persuasion if possible, but if not, they are more than willing to use force to obtain their goal of universal domination.

2. Islam wants a universal Islamic state. Their avowed objective is to replace all forms of government that do not have the Qur'am as their primary constitution. They will do this through

peaceful means or through conflict. Past history, as well as the Qur'am reveals this. The present ferment and turmoil we see daily coming from the Mideast is a harbinger of their aim to rule the world. "Islam was born in bloodshed, nurtured on violence and matured in conquest. It thrives when militarily challenged." Ney Reiber, "A Resource...", p.1. Militant Muslims view Western Democracy as the very antithesis of Islam. People who value their freedom and faith should become alarmed.

3. Islam wants a society based upon Islamic morals. Muslims view the Islamic culture as the perfect society.

4. Islam wants to govern all affairs in one's life. Their religion not only wants to govern all mankind politically and religiously, but also in day to day society by imposing their Sharia law on all. Christianity seeks to convert and govern people out of love, not force. Christians teach people the precepts and commandments of Jehovah through the Bible, and then leaves the choice to obey or disobey out of conviction, not force. On the other hand Islam wants to convert through national legislation.

The religion of Islam leaves no room for criticism. In countries where the Qur'am and Islam rule, any criticism of Islam is considered blasphemy and carries the death penalty.

Muslims believe that Islam as revealed in the Qur'am (Koran) should be the universal theocratic religion of the world. So they seek to supplant every other religion. Muslims realized years ago that they would not be able to conquer the Western countries militarily and politically, but because of indifference the people would allow themselves to be infiltrated and perhaps conquered through "freedom of religion." We can see this happening at the present time all over Europe and America.

Even though the majority of people in the Western countries still profess a belief in God and Jesus Christ they have very little knowledge and conviction about what they believe or why. While they "have a form (fluff without substance) of godliness they are denying its power (ability)" 2.Tim.3:5. It hasn't changed their lives or their conduct. They do not allow God's word to transform and motivate them to practice Christianity. As Paul put it, "they profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient and disqualified for every good work" Tit.1:16. Muslims use this lack of conviction and tolerance under the guise of "freedom of religion" to make great gains among the peoples of the Western world. They know that people who possess such little conviction of faith that they do not practice it can be easily persuaded to accept almost anything that pretends a semblance of religious belief in a higher being.

Because of widespread unbelief, ignorance and indifference among nominal Christians for true Christian values some have formed an unholy alliance with Muslims termed "Chrislam." This movement seeks to unite so called Christians who profess to believe in God, Christ and the Bible with Muslims who believe in Allah, Mohammed and the Qur'am. But this cannot be. Jesus left no room for compromise. With Him it is an either or choice, one or the other, it cannot be both. He said, "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad" Matt.12:30. Later Paul clearly condemned any compromise between true Christianity and any false religion, including Islam. He wrote: "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?" 2Cor. 6:14-16.

Because of people's tendency to compromise their faith, as in "Chrislam," Islam is making great inroads in America. Note the following quote I copied a few years ago from a Muslim paper:

"Islam will become the predominant religion, although it may not become the only religion. We expect differences to exist for as long as the earth exists. Only Allah will settle the matter ... Although it is said that Christians are still in the majority, I do not believe it. They will have to prove it to me. Right here in America we do not have a majority of Christians, we have

a minority of Christians. They just wear the Christian names they got from their fore-parents, but they are not true Christians ... It is wonderful to know that we (Muslims) are the best religion and that we are in the majority." (Bilalian News, 4/1/77)

This statement should wake up Christians to the necessity of living the proper life and setting the right example. If the spread of Islam is to be stopped it must be done by people who not only talk the talk, but walk the walk.

Christians must fight Islam as they do any false religion. Islam is a religion that denies the divinity of Jesus Christ and the inspiration of the Holy Bible. Any religion that denies the deity of Christ and the inerrancy of the word of God cannot be of God. But, even if we prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus is truly God, manifested to man in the flesh, and the word of God is God's final, completed revelation to us, it will not refute Islam or any other false religion if those who claim to believe it do not live the life. Don't just say it, live it. Remember, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved and gave Himself for me" Gal. 2:20.

In my way of thinking one of the most dangerous tenants, if not the most dangerous one, of Islam is the denial of the deity of Christ. Christ's deity is the foundation for the whole of Christianity. This is evidenced by what occurred when Jesus asked His disciples; "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered for all by saying "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus then replied, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" Matt.16:15-18. We understand the rock to be the statement Peter made "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Muslims know this is the foundation (bed rock) upon which Christianity rests so they attack the deity of Christ, not with a frontal attack, (a complete denial of Jesus Christ) but through compromise. They know it cannot be denied that Jesus lived, so they simply try to make Him into "a messenger" of God. They deny that He possessed the nature of deity while on earth, and never made the claim to be "The Son Of God," that He was simply "a servant and apostle of God" in the same sense as other prophets who lived before Him such as Moses. That is why Islam in an "antichrist" as we shall see in the next lesson.