

# The Islamic End Time Beast – Part 1

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If you've ever studied end time events -- what the Bible describes as all the major events that will take place at the end time leading up to the return of Jesus Christ -- you've probably noticed the fact that a lot of the narrative of the story revolves around two main individuals that the Bible pictures as very much the bad guys. These two individuals are the beast and the false prophet.

Now, if you're like me, you've probably heard the theory most of your life that the end time beast power will be a resurrection of the Roman Empire. Based upon this theory, you'd logically be looking for this empire to arise out of Europe. And, of course, logically then you'd also be looking for these two main individuals, the beast and the false prophet. You'd be looking for these two individuals to come on to the world scene out of Europe.

Now, if you follow much of my sermons, you may be aware of the fact that about a year and a half ago, I did a sermon challenging this popular theory that the end time beast power will be a resurrection of the Roman Empire. And I demonstrated in that sermon that there's quite a number of very obvious disconnects when you look at that theory and you directly compare it to what scripture says. In fact, there's a lot of mental gymnastics you have to engage in to try to make that theory match with what scripture says. And I made the argument in that sermon that it certainly appears to make more sense to come to the conclusion that the end time beast power will be an empire that rises out of the Middle East and that the false religion that this empire will force upon the rest of the world will be Islam. Well, based upon this theory, then logically we would be expecting the beast and the false prophet to be individuals that would come on the scene out of the Middle East, and they would be Islamic related.

Well, interestingly enough, if we look at Islam's view of end time events and what they describe as events that will happen at the end time -- they have their own narrative and version of events as well. But interestingly enough, if you compare their version of events with the Biblical version, there's a lot of similarities. A lot of the same basic story plays out. However, their story basically inverts the Biblical account. And what I mean by that is in their story, these two individuals, the beast and the false prophet -- or at least their two individuals that they describe -- are actually the good guys rather than the bad guys. In their story, the good guys are the bad guys, and the bad guys are the good guys. It basically takes the whole Biblical narrative and turns it on its head.

What we're going to do today in the sermon is start a two-part series examining this particular fact. And what we're going to see is not only does this strengthen the theory that the end time beast will come out of the Middle East and be an Islamic empire. It also sheds some light on another puzzling issue that oftentimes people ponder over.

I know I have many times in studying end time prophecy. And that is why the world is so incredibly resistant to repenting after the two witnesses' message all throughout the Day of the LORD. They just keep refusing to repent. And then all the way up to the return of Christ, even when Christ returns, they're still actively wanting to fight Him.

Well, see, what we're going to see as we go through this, once you understand this inversion of the views, it sheds some light on why they would have this type of resistance. So, as I mentioned, today what we're going to do is start a two-part series addressing these particular issues. So, if you'd like a title for this sermon, it's:

### The Islamic End Time Beast - Part 1

So, to start off with, let's turn over to Revelation 19. Because Revelation 19 tells us about these two individuals and makes it very obvious that they're obviously the bad guys in the story. It's Revelation 19, and we're going to read here verse 20. Now, just to set the context, this is in the latter part of the Day of the LORD. This is literally at the point where Christ is returning to the earth. And the beast and the false prophet here have basically assembled an army of people to fight Christ. To battle Him at His return. Let's just notice here in verse 20.

**Rev 19:20** *“Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”* (NKJV)

See, it makes it unquestionable here that these are definitely the bad guys. They're directly battling and fighting Christ at His return, and then Christ throws them in the lake of fire. It couldn't be any more clear that these are the bad guys. But as I said, as we go through this sermon, what we're going to see is, from an Islamic point of view, they describe two major individuals as well that have a strikingly similar description in terms of what these individuals will do and how events will play out. But they characterize them as the good guys rather than the bad guys.

But first of all, before we dig into the details of this, I'd like to again just briefly address this issue of where the end-time beast is going to come from. Because as I mentioned, a lot of you hearing this are probably like myself, in that most of your life what you've heard is kind of a unified agreement amongst those that you listen to that the end-time beast power would come out of Europe. Therefore, it would be a resurrection of the Roman Empire, and you should be looking in that region for these individuals to arise.

Well, let's just briefly look at some of the rather obvious disconnects here of how that really doesn't fit the Biblical description and some of the mental gymnastics you have to engage in to support that theory. I think if we just briefly address some of this, this may give some of you hearing this a more open-minded perspective in listening to the rest of what we have to address.

So, look over in Revelation 17. We're going to start in verse 7. You're probably familiar with the fact that Revelation 17 and Revelation 13 both speak about the beast. They

both give a similar description of this beast with seven heads and ten horns, and then they go into describing additional details. But I know particularly when you look at Church of God literature, when we discuss these two chapters, what you'll typically notice is they basically have completely different explanations for these two chapters for what the seven heads and ten horns picture. And the reason for that is these are some of the mental gymnastics that you have to engage in to come up with the Roman Empire as the end-time beast. And let me demonstrate why that's the case here. To start off here in Revelation 17 in verse 7.

**Rev 17:7** *“But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.” (NKJV)*

Notice that description. We're going to look at Revelation 13 here in a minute and see the exact same thing. A beast with seven heads and ten horns.

*“8) The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. 9) “Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 10) There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. 11) The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.” (NKJV)*

Now just notice there in verse 10. Now again, we don't have to do any mental gymnastics with what I'm about to explain to you here. If we just avoid any creative mental gymnastics and we just read this the way it's written, what we have is an angel and he's talking to the Apostle John, and the time setting is in the first century. Again, that's just simply what's on the page. We don't have to get creative to come up with that at all. And the angel says to John, there's these seven heads, they're seven kings and seven kingdoms. Now five of them have already fallen. In other words, five of them had their time of reigning prior to this conversation. One “is” -- one's current -- and one's in the future. Now how would the Apostle John interpret that statement?

John would understand that as the one that “is”, well, that must be the Roman Empire that he's experiencing in his lifetime. That's how John would interpret that. It's just common sense. And John would think, well, if five were prior to me, well, the one that “is” is Rome, and there's a different one that's coming later. That's the conclusion that John would come to.

And if we just follow that, notice here it talks about the seven, and then there is the eighth that is “of the seven”. That's because there were seven and then there's a gap, and that eighth one is really just a resurrection of the seventh one. That is what it's talking about. Well, if you just look at history, what came after the Roman Empire as far as major empires in that part of the world? The Islamic Caliphate Empire is what came

next. And if you just look at a map today of the general Middle East, in terms of religion - you've probably seen these maps online where they show modern day Israel. This tiny little nation that's called Israel today. And they show you that Israel is this one Jewish nation here, and everything else around it in the greater area is all Islamic nations. Now, it's all busted into individual nations today, but it's this huge Islamic area. The reason being is because the Islamic Caliphate Empire ruled that whole area, and that's why that's all Islamic today.

Now, as I mentioned, Revelation 13 is the other chapter that talks about the beast. And throughout my lifetime what I've always experienced looking at Church of God literature and sermons that talk about it is we come up with completely different explanations for what the seven heads and ten horns are in Revelation 17 versus Revelation 13. And the reason is you have to engage in these creative mental gymnastics to get this theory to work. And let me show you why. If we start in Revelation 13 in verse 1.

**Rev 13:1** *“Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.”* (NKJV)

Notice that description is very similar to what we just read in Revelation 17. But now, notice verse 2.

*“2) Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.”* (NKJV)

Now we won't take the time to go through Daniel 2 and Daniel 7. But in both those chapters, what you see is four empires that are described there. Now, if you look particularly in Daniel 7 and compare that to the description in verse 2 here, they strikingly match. So that obviously tells you, when we look at these seven heads, we've got to go back and include all that Daniel is talking about there in Daniel 7 in this picture.

Well, if we just assume that the Bible is consistent in Revelation 13 and Revelation 17, we're talking about the same seven heads in both chapters. There's just no way we can logically conclude that head number seven is going to be Rome. No, from what the angel said to John, Rome has got to be number six. So, number seven has got to be some other empire. And again, logically, if we just look at history, the Islamic Caliphate Empire is what would fit.

Now that officially ended with the fall of the Ottoman Empire. That was part of a string of Islamic kingdoms that were in succession, but they are often lumped together. If you just Google the term “Islamic Caliphate Empire”, you'll see they're kind of lumped together in that sense and viewed as a whole. Well, that officially ended in the early 1900s when the Ottoman Empire officially fell.

Well, again, we're going to see as we continue reading here in chapter 13, just like chapter 17 talked about that there were seven and then there's an eighth and it's of the seven, it's going to talk about a deadly wound and a beast that its deadly wound is

healed. Well, that's again the Islamic Caliphate Empire officially coming to an end with the fall of the Ottoman Empire. And then in the end time, there's a resurrection of it. And notice here in verse 3.

*“3) And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.” (NKJV)*

So, it's talking about after the fall of the Islamic Caliphate Empire with the end of the Ottoman Empire, there's a gap in time. We've had about a hundred years now that's officially been out of the picture. Well, when it's revived, its deadly wound is healed. Now, as we read through the rest of the chapter here, what we're going to see is it gets into a more detailed description, describing the two individuals that we started off talking about, the beast and the false prophet. It's going to give us more details about them.

But understand as we go through this chapter, you have to understand the term “the beast”. There are times it's used in a couple different ways, and context kind of makes that clear as you read through it. But realize the term “beast” can be used collectively referring to all seven empires that it refers to with all seven heads of the beast. It can be used to refer specifically to one of them. And there's also times -- as we just read previously in Revelation 19 -- where the term is used to refer to an individual who is the main leader of an empire. So, realize that that term can be used a couple of ways, and sometimes when it's talked about, it jumps between definitions.

But now let's pick up with verse 4. And we'll see here verses 4 through 10 start focusing in specifically on the individual leader referred to as “the beast”. The individual that was referred to in Revelation 19 that Christ is throwing in the lake of fire. It's going to give us some specific details about him. And then we're going to see from verse 11 down through verse 18, it's going to talk more about the false prophet and the role that he fulfills. Now in part 2 we're going to go into much more detail addressing the false prophet and the Islamic version of that. We're going to address that more next time. This time we're going to focus more on the individual who is the leader of the beast power and again what the Islamic equivalent of that is. But pick up now in verse 4.

*“4) So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”” (NKJV)*

And notice as we read through this, one of the characteristics of the beast -- the individual who is the main leader of the end-time beast power -- he's going to be worshipped by mankind. And we'll see as we put this puzzle together why that's important. He's going to be looked at as a messiah figure by the world, and they're going to be worshipping him. Now, as we'll see as we read through the description here, when it talks about the false prophet, he basically leads mankind to worship the beast. The false prophet's going to basically lead mankind to worship the beast -- the individual, not just the empire. But now pick up in verse 5.

*“5) And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.” (NKJV)*

Now if you do the math there, that's three and a half years. That correlates with the three and a half years of the end-time.

*“6) Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 7) It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.” (NKJV)*

Now that's the Bible's way of saying he has authority over the whole earth. Because every tribe, tongue, and nation, that's like everybody on the planet. This guy's going to wind up with authority that stretches over the whole world. That is what we're talking about. Now in verse 8.

*“8) All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. 9) If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10) He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.” (NKJV)*

Now notice as we go through verse 11 through 18, this is going to give us a description of the false prophet. Now again, we'll dig into more detail on the latter half of this chapter here in part 2. But just notice as we go through this, the false prophet is subordinate, he's basically a number two person to the beast. The beast is the primary leader who will be worshipped. The false prophet is basically subservient to him. He's the number two guy. And he basically directs the world to worship the beast. And just notice that as we read through this.

*“11) Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. 12) And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.” (NKJV)*

And notice again, he's directing everyone to worship the first beast. And again, we're speaking about the leader of this empire. In verse 13.

*“13) He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14) And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 15) He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. 16) He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17) and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18) Here*

*is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.” (NKJV)*

Now I won't go into detail in this series on the mark of the beast. There's a sermon on my website and on my YouTube channel, and there's also a study paper on my website specifically addressing that subject. So, if you're wanting to study that in more detail, I would refer you there. Also again, in terms of just the beast in general, the whole greater subject, I have a study paper on my website called "The Beast of Revelation". It goes through the whole subject from all seven heads and ten horns, and what all that means, covering the whole greater subject. So, if you're wanting to study that, I would refer you to that as well.

Now, as I mentioned from the introduction of this sermon, if you look at Islamic views of the end time -- because they have their own eschatology as well, of how they describe major events that will take place during the end time -- and they talk about two prominent individuals as well. But in their view, these individuals are the good guys rather than the bad guys. Now, the two individuals that they talk about are the Mahdi and also Jesus Christ.

But keep in mind that their version of who Jesus Christ is, is very different than the Biblical version. Now, they claim that it's basically the same individual, historically, that Christians look to. But their narrative of who Christ is, is completely different than the Biblical view. They don't view Jesus Christ as a God being who came down and lived and died for the sins of mankind. They have a completely different view. In their view, He's just a prophet. But again, we'll get more into that in part 2.

But just understand that the two individuals we're talking about, from an Islamic point of view, are the Mahdi and Jesus Christ. And again, I'm talking about the Islamic view of Jesus Christ, not the Biblical view. But again, if you look at the Mahdi and some of their narrative of what the Mahdi will do, it bears a striking resemblance to what we just read here in the Bible and additional scriptures we're going to read later in this sermon that describe the beast and what the beast will do. And as you obviously know, as we go through this from the Biblical point of view, this is the bad guy, and it will describe the specific events that he's going to do. But notice as we go through this, they're going to talk about the Mahdi -- who they think is the good guy -- but he's doing very much the same thing. The narrative and the general story are mirror images of each other. It's just turned on its head.

Now, to further clarify this, I'd like to quote from a book titled The Islamic Antichrist by Joel Richardson. Now, if you're interested in studying this subject, I'd highly recommend this book. Now, let me also give a disclaimer here. Joel is a Protestant teacher. I certainly do not endorse all of his Protestant theology. And I don't even endorse all of his prophetic views, because he has a number of views that I would disagree with. But I think he does a very good job of documenting what Islamic teachings are. Because he goes extensively into quoting the Quran, Hadith, and other Islamic writings. So, he's quoting directly from their own writings, not just opinions about them. And he purposely

goes into a lot of detail quoting Islamic scholars and such. So, he's getting it directly from what they themselves say that they believe.

Now, a lot of what I'm going to read to you today is quotes from his book in this sermon. They're going to be more his summations of things, because it's just easier to make quick sound bites to give you the overview of what they're saying. But if you want to look at this in detail, I'd highly recommend Joel's book, because he did a great job of documenting this. And again, the book is titled The Islamic Antichrist by Joel Richardson. If you're wanting to buy a hard copy, you can get it on Amazon. Or if you just want a PDF copy and you want to get it for free, you can get it off of his website, which is [joelstrumpet.com](http://joelstrumpet.com).

But just to read you some quotes, just summarizing the Islamic view of the Mahdi, this first section I'm going to read to you comes -- these are just different snippets I pulled out from pages 20 through 25 of this book. And I'll just read here from Joel.

*"... the most anticipated and central sign that Muslims await is the coming of a man known as "the Mahdi." In Arabic, al-Mahdi means "the Guided One." He is also sometimes referred to by Shi'a Muslims as Sahib Al-Zaman or Al-Mahdi al-Muntadhar, which translated mean "the Lord of the Age" and "the Awaited Savior."....The coming of the Mahdi is the central crowning element of all Islamic end-time narratives....According to Shaykh Muhammad Hisham Kabbani, chairman of the Islamic Supreme Council of America, "The coming of the Mahdi is established doctrine for both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims, and indeed for all humanity."....it is fair to say that the "rising" of the Mahdi is to the majority of Muslims what the return of Jesus is to Christians. While Christians await the return of Jesus the Messiah to fulfill all of God's prophetic promises to the people of God, Muslims await the appearance of the Mahdi to fulfill these purposes. Sheikh Kabbani likewise identifies the Mahdi as Islam's primary messiah figure: "Jews are waiting for the Messiah, Christians are waiting for Jesus, and Muslims are waiting for both the Mahdi and Jesus."...."*

Again, their version of Jesus, not the Biblical version.

*"....The Mahdi is believed to be a future Muslim world leader who will not only rule over the Islamic world, but the non-Muslim world as well. The Mahdi is said to lead a world revolution that will establish a new Islamic world order throughout the entire earth:....The Mahdi's means and method of accomplishing this world revolution will include multiple military campaigns, or holy wars (jihad). While some Muslims believe that most of the non-Muslims of the world will convert to Islam peaceably during the reign of the Mahdi, most traditions picture the non-Muslim world coming to Islam as a result of conquest by the Mahdi."*

Now, jumping down to page 37 in Joel's book.

*“As we have seen from the Islamic traditions and Muslim scholars, the Mahdi...is also prophesied to be a political and military world leader unparalleled by any other throughout world history. The Mahdi is said to “fight against the forces of evil, lead a world revolution, and set up a new world order based on justice, righteousness, and virtue.” At this time, according to Islamic tradition, the Mahdi is said to preside over the entire earth as the final caliph of Islam.... the Muslims will “take the world administration in their hands and Islam will be victorious over all the religions.” Without question, Islam views the Mahdi as one whose rule will extend over all the earth.”*

Now, if you notice at the beginning of that quote, Joel mentions having gone through Islamic traditions and scholars and such. As I mentioned, throughout his book, he has a lot of quotes and research he's done from the Quran and from other Islamic writings. So, he goes to great effort to prove everything he's saying specifically from Islamic writings. So, he's not just stating opinions about what they believe. He's quoting their own writings to prove what they believe. But as I mentioned, for ease of communicating this in a snapshot of quotes, I've chosen to quote more of Joel's summation of things, because it gives an easier, less time-consuming explanation of it all. But if you want to read it in detail, you can get his book and go through all the finer details.

But again, notice as we read through this, that their description of the Mahdi is he's going to become a world leader, and basically push Islam on the rest of the world. It also described him as a messiah figure. Now notice that that matches exactly with the general description we got out of Revelation 13. Because how is the beast described? As a messiah type figure that the world will be worshipping, and he'll have authority over every tribe, tongue, and nation. In other words, over the entire world. Notice these descriptions exactly match.

It's just in the Muslim version of this it's the good guys rather than the bad guys. Notice, as we keep going through this, there are numerous similarities, and the general gist of the story continues to match. Because the next thing we're going to notice here is that not only the Biblical account of the beast, but the Islamic account of the Mahdi both tell us that these individuals at the end time will set up their headquarters in Jerusalem. And these match exactly.

And to see this, turn over to Daniel 11. Now in a moment here we're going to read through verses 40 through 45, which specifically address the end time and again tell us that the beast power is going to wind up setting up their headquarters in Jerusalem. But just to give a greater context here, I mentioned at the beginning of this sermon that one of the more common theories -- in fact what I've heard taught most of my life -- is the idea that the end time beast power would come out of the Roman Empire. And as I've mentioned several times throughout this sermon, there's a lot of very obvious disconnects with this and a lot of mental gymnastics that you have to engage in to basically support that particular theory. And Daniel 11 is a classic example of that.

Now, if you're familiar with Daniel 11, it's oftentimes referred to as the "Middle East in prophecy", because it's a prophecy that covers multiple hundreds of years of history. Now, the beginning of the chapter starts off mentioning what you can easily interpret to be speaking of Alexander the Great, and him conquering the whole Middle East region. Well, then he dies, and his empire busts up into multiple fragments. Well, then two of those fragments are then referred to as the "King of the North" and the "King of the South" in this chapter. And then the rest of the chapter is basically a description of multiple hundreds of years of history of these two empires fighting with each other.

Now, what you'll find when you look into this -- not only in Church of God literature, but in most commentaries -- it's just widely agreed upon that the King of the North is the Seleucid Kingdom, and the King of the South is the Ptolemaic Kingdom. Now, if you look at a map as to where these were located, the Seleucid Kingdom was basically in the area of the eastern edge of what we today would call Turkey, and then down through Syria, and then Iraq, Iran, over to Afghanistan. That whole area across the northern edge of the Middle East. Well, the Ptolemaic Kingdom -- you can easily verify all of this on Google if you just look at the maps -- was in what we today call Egypt, stretching down to what today is called Ethiopia. And again, this is widely agreed upon by everyone as to geographically where these two kingdoms are identified.

And again, this is multiple centuries of history of these two kingdoms fighting with each other for various reasons. Now, the reason I point all of this out is what typically happens is they get to the very end of the chapter, and then we get to verse 40 and beyond, and then they insert massive mental gymnastics. Because if you want the end-time beast power to be the Roman Empire, you've got to get the Roman Empire somehow in the story. And they're not in the story at all if you're talking about the area of what was the Seleucid Kingdom -- the northern sections of the Middle East -- and then the southern area down to Egypt, down towards Ethiopia. Europe's not in this story at all.

So, what happens is they go through various mental gymnastics to make the King of the North be the Roman Empire. And then oftentimes the speculation goes, well, the King of the South is speculated to be Iran, which is right in the middle of the geographic region for where the King of the North is. So, it becomes this disjointed mental gymnastics to get all this to fit. Well, if you just stick with the definitions that everybody agrees upon from the beginning of the chapter and just don't do any mental gymnastics at the end of it, what you have is a story of two Middle Eastern powers that are battling with each other. It's generally agreed upon that the King of the North is the end-time beast. I totally agree with that as well. But what that does is place the northern section of the Middle East as the region you'd be looking for the beast to come from.

But now, with all that in mind, let's read through here verses 40 through 45, because you'll see that when it talks about the King of the North coming against the King of the South here, it's even going to specifically mention Egypt as one of the areas the King of the North conquers. Because Egypt was the King of the South if we just stick with the definitions that everyone agrees upon throughout the first half of the chapter. And then

we're going to see here that the King of the North sets up their headquarters in Jerusalem. And see, that's going to directly match with what we're going to see described about the Mahdi. But just to start off here in verse 40 of Daniel 11.

**Dan 11:40** *“At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. 41) He shall also enter the Glorious Land,...”* (NKJV)

Now that's a reference, obviously, to Israel.

*“...and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. 42) He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43) He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels.”* (NKJV)

And notice how I mentioned before that, again, if you just look at a map of where the Ptolemaic Kingdom was -- the King of the South. Well, Egypt and Ethiopia, that was the geographical region where the King of the South was. So, it totally fits to stick with the definitions established at the beginning of the chapter. In verse 44.

*“44) But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.”* (NKJV)

Now notice in particular verse 45.

*“45) And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.”* (NKJV)

Notice he's basically planting his headquarters in this area it describes as “between the seas”. Well, if you look at a map of the Middle East, what you're going to see is Jerusalem sits between the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea. So, it totally matches the description. And to add to that, notice it says the “glorious holy mountain”. Well, that's referring to Mount Moriah. Now, if you look in the book of Chronicles where it's describing Solomon initially building the temple of God, it tells you he built the temple on Mount Moriah. *That's the glorious holy mountain.* And if you also notice here -- I'm reading from the New King James here, and it says, “He shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain.” If you look in the regular King James there, it says “in the glorious holy mountain”. In other words, between the seas -- basically on Mount Moriah -- is what we're talking about here. It's where the beast is going to wind up running its headquarters. And you'll find that very interesting when we look here in a minute at the Islamic version of this and what they describe, because it's the exact same description.

But just let's just notice one more Biblical account of this. Turn over to 2 Thessalonians. And remember, as we turn to this, as we just saw, the temple of God was built on Mount Moriah. So obviously a restored temple, before Christ's return, we would expect it to be on Mount Moriah as well. But now let's notice here in 2 Thessalonians 2, in verse 1.

**2 Thess 2:1** *“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2) not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3) Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,” (NKJV)*

Now, we're talking about the beast here. Again, the leader of the end-time beast empire. In verse 4.

*“4) who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” (NKJV)*

In other words, he's directing the world to worship him. This is exactly what we read in Revelation 13. But notice it mentions him being in the temple of God. That would be on Mount Moriah. So, notice here, the Biblical description of the beast is he's going to wind up having his headquarters there on Mount Moriah, right in that area where the temple is. And we even have a description of him basically being in the temple, declaring himself to be worshipped.

So now let's compare that with the Islamic version of events and notice that the Mahdi is described as doing something very similar that matches exactly with this description. And this is again from Joel Richardson's book, The Islamic Antichrist, and this first quote here comes from pages 26 and 27.

*“Islamic tradition pictures the Mahdi as joining the army of Muslim warriors carrying black flags. The Mahdi will lead this army to Israel and re-conquer it for Islam. The Muslims will slaughter Jews until very few remain and Jerusalem will serve as the location of the Mahdi's rule over the earth: Rasulullah [Muhammad] said: “Armies carrying black flags will come from Khurasan. No power will be able to stop them and they will finally reach Eela [Baitul Maqdas in Jerusalem] where they will erect their flags.” It is important to note here the reference to Baitul Maqdas. In Arabic this means “the holy house.” This is referring to the Dome of the Rock Mosque located on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.”*

In other words, it's right there on Mount Moriah as well. Now, jumping down to page 45. This is a quote addressing the same subject, just on page 45.

*“....the Mahdi is said to attack Jerusalem and reconquer it for Islam in order to establish Islamic rule over the earth from Jerusalem: [Armies carrying] black flags*

*will come from Khurasan [Iran]. No power will be able to stop them and they will finally reach Eela [the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem] where they will erect their flags. Jerusalem will be the location of the rightly guided caliphate and the center of Islamic rule, which will be headed by Imam al-Mahdi.”*

So, you can see these descriptions are strikingly similar. It's just taking the Biblical story and turning it upside down. It's basically taking the bad guys and turning them into the good guys.

Well, there's another striking resemblance as well. If you'll turn over to Daniel 9 here, we're going to notice that the 70 Weeks Prophecy ends with telling us about a seven year treaty that's instituted that obviously affects the area of Jerusalem. About maybe a year ago -- I forget the exact timing now -- I did a sermon addressing the 70 Weeks Prophecy. It was a 2 part series, and it went into that in a lot more detail than we're going to address today. But if you go through chapter 9, what you'll see is the 70 Weeks Prophecy is delivered to Daniel by an angel. And it's as a result of Daniel praying and inquiring about when God's going to restore Jerusalem. That was the question that resulted in the 70 Weeks Prophecy being given to him as the answer to his question.

Now, if you're like me, you've probably heard the theory taught a lot of your life that that final week of the 70 weeks -- because if you read through this, it's broken down into 7, 62, and then 1 for the total of 70. But oftentimes that last week is explained as being related to the ministry of Jesus Christ. And the way the argument goes is that the first three and a half years of that seven year period, well, that's Christ's ministry while He's on earth. And then He dies, and that explains the reference to ending sacrifices. But then there's all manner of speculation as to how do you fill in those last three and a half years?

Well, again, just because a lot of you have probably been taught that theory before, let me just kind of briefly address this. We're going to start reading in verse 26. And what I want you to notice is, to get that theory to work, Christ would have to die twice. Because it's going to tell us here that Christ dies at the end of 62 weeks. Well, the 7 weeks are mentioned before the 62 and together that would be 69. Well, He can't die after the 69 weeks and then die again in the middle of the 70th week. That just doesn't make any sense. So, let's notice here, and start reading in verse 26.

**Dan 9:26** *“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;...”* (NKJV)

Now, that's a very obvious reference to Jesus Christ. He's “cut off”. And in fact, in my New King James here, where it says “be cut off”, there's a little “1” next to it, and in the margin, it says “suffer the death penalty”. Because that's what it's referring to. He would suffer the death penalty, but He suffers it not for Himself. Christ died for us to atone for our sins. That's obviously what we're referring to here. But notice that's after 62 weeks. In other words, if we put it together, the 7 and the 62, well, that's at the end of the 69 weeks that He's going to die. *He can't die again in the middle of the 70th week.*

Because if we just keep reading here, notice it's going to mention more events that take place. And then in verse 27, it's going to tell us about the seven-year covenant. It can't be about Christ. But let's just keep reading here.

*"...And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined." (NKJV)*

And then notice verse 27.

*"27) Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate." (NKJV)*

Now, as I mentioned, oftentimes, the theory is put forward. In fact, I've heard it taught most of my life. The idea that the "he who shall confirm a covenant" mentioned at the beginning of verse 27, well, that's Christ. And the logic that's presented is, well, in the middle of the week, He makes an end to sacrificing. They think, well, Christ's sacrifice replaced the animal sacrifices. And that's how they explain the logic.

Again, first of all, let's notice that requires Christ to die twice. And that just can't make any sense. But let's also read this verse from the New Revised Standard Version, because it words it a little more clearly. And then we'll understand the second half of the verse and realize there's just no way this can be referring to Christ. And this is, again, verse 27 from the New Revised Standard Version.

**Dan 9:27** *"He shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall make sacrifice and offering cease, and in their place shall be an abomination that desolates, until the decreed end is poured out upon the desolator." (NRSV)*

See, it's saying he's going to make sacrifices stop, and he's going to replace the sacrifices with the abomination of desolation. That's not something Jesus Christ does. That's something the end-time beast does. That's one of the signs Christ mentions in the Olivet Prophecy. The stopping of the sacrifices and the setting off the abomination of desolation. Well, that's something done by the end-time beast.

Well, that tells us this seven-year treaty here, this seven-year covenant -- if you look up the Hebrew word, it can also mean "treaty" or "agreement". This is something that the beast does. And again, if you look at the whole context of what this prophecy is about, Daniel is praying and asking God about the restoration of Jerusalem. So obviously this has got to be something that relates to Jerusalem.

Well, now if we read the description of what Muslims say that the Mahdi is going to do at the end time, it involves a seven-year treaty as well. And it's a peace treaty that's

basically made with Israel. And notice here, this is from pages 28 and 29, again from Joel Richardson's book.

*“While there is more than one tradition regarding the nature and timing of the Mahdi’s ascendancy to power, one particular hadith places this event at the time of a final peace agreement between the Arabs and the Romans. (“Romans” refers to Christians, or, more generally, the West.) Although this peace agreement is made with the “Romans,” it is presumably mediated through a Jew from the priestly lineage of Aaron. The peace agreement will be made for a period of seven years. Rasulallah [Muhammad] said: “There will be four peace agreements between you and the Romans [Christians]. The fourth agreement will be mediated through a person who will be from the progeny of Hadrat Haroon [Honorable Aaron—Moses’s brother] and will be upheld for seven years.”*

Now this next quote, again addressing the same subject, is from pages 46 and 47.

*“Again, similarly, the Mahdi is said to initiate Islam’s fourth and final treaty between “the Romans” and the Muslims. (Again, “Romans” should be interpreted as Christians or the West in general—the executioners of Nicholas Berg in their pre-execution statement addressed President Bush as “You, O dog of the Romans.”) Interestingly enough, this fourth treaty is said to be made with a descendant of Moses’s brother, Aaron the Priest. Such a descendant would be a cohen. That is to say, he would be a priest. Only cohanim among Jews can officiate the priestly duties of the Temple. This is important in light of the fact that many Christian prophecy teachers and theologians have speculated that the treaty that the Antichrist will initiate with Israel will include an agreement to allow the Jews to rebuild their Temple. But probably the most amazing aspect of this treaty that the Mahdi makes with this Jew of priestly lineage is its timeframe. The specific timeframe given for the treaty is exactly the same as the Antichrist’s peace treaty—seven years!”*

Now another interesting detail of what I just read there is Joel speculated -- and again this is just opinion and speculation. The Bible does not say this. But he speculated that maybe this particular seven year treaty would be what enables modern day Israel to rebuild the temple prior to Christ's return. Because if you're like me, that's been a subject that there's been a lot of head scratching over many years. I know all of my life, one of the things that we've puzzled over in studying this subject is you look at all the scriptures that talk about the sacrifices before Christ returns and those sacrifices being stopped. And there are several references in the Bible to a temple existing at the end time. So, you put all that together and you go, "Okay, well, obviously Israel has to rebuild a temple before Christ returns."

But then you look at the fact that what's currently sitting on Mount Moriah today -- the site that's commonly referred to as the Temple Mount -- well, the Dome of the Rock sits there and also the Al-Asqa Mosque. If you watch events around that at all, there's always great controversy and conflict about things there around the whole Mount

Moriah area. So then one of the big questions comes, how would Israel be able to then build a temple in that vicinity without creating a religious war taking place and without just immediately exploding into conflict? How would they be able to get all this successfully built, have the sacrifices going for a while, to then later have them stopped? How would things stay peaceable long enough for them to carry this out? Well, again, this is obviously just opinion and speculation, but I think it makes a great deal of sense to think, well, maybe that happens as a result of this seven year treaty. Because it's hard to imagine outside of a situation like that where Islam's primary leader made this peace treaty, where Israel could pull that off and not immediately incite a war as a result.

Well, just to get back to the Biblical parallels here, there's another interesting detail if you turn over to Daniel 7. As you know, Daniel 7 speaks about four different empires here, and again I won't go into detail about all of that. If you look at the paper I did and also the sermon that I gave about a year and a half ago titled, "A Fresh Look at the End Time Beast", it specifically goes into covering a whole lot more detail of why the fourth kingdoms there in Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 match much better with a resurrection of the Islamic Caliphate Empire than they do with the Roman Empire. But I won't go into that at this point. But just notice here, starting in Daniel 7 in verse 23, it starts giving us some more details about this fourth kingdom and what this fourth kingdom will do. And notice here when we get to verse 25, it's going to talk about what this kingdom and what this leader is going to institute is changing "times and laws". And we're going to see that this again directly matches with the theory that this is an Islamic empire as well. Now pick up here in Daniel 7 in verse 23.

**Dan 7:23** *"Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces. 24) The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings. 25) He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.'" (NKJV)*

Now again, that's a reference to three and a half years. So, we're obviously again talking about an end time timeframe here. But it mentions changing "times and laws". Now if you've kept up at all with news events around the Islamic migration of people, particularly into Europe or the US and Canada or Australia, one of the things you've probably seen come up when these types of situations are talked about is the issue of Sharia law. In other words, wherever there's an area where you get an Islamic majority. Where enough people move in and you wind up with the majority of the population of the area being Muslims. This has happened in the Dearborn, Michigan area, here in the US. Well, whenever this happens, you also hear about controversies of them wanting to institute Sharia law in the area where they've become the majority, and that becoming a source of conflict for the others that may live in the area who don't share the same viewpoints and don't follow Islamic rules. Well, that's because for Islam and for Muslims,

they have Sharia law. Their own total set of laws that they want to live by and also force upon all the others that happen to be in their area.

Well, in addition to that, they also have their own unique calendar as well. Now, this is different than the Gregorian calendar -- what most nations tend to follow today. Your typical January through December calendar that most nations follow and we here in the US follow. It's totally different from that. And it's also totally different from the Biblical calendar. There's lots of debate and argument about what's exactly the correct Biblical calendar. But if you just look at the general structure, the Muslim calendar is completely different from those.

And just to give you kind of a brief explanation for that. If you look at the Gregorian calendar -- your typical January through December calendar -- it's a 12-month calendar. But it's more of a solar calendar. In other words, it's based on 365 days in a year, and then you're working in a day for leap year every four years. But the months are not correlated with the cycles of the moon. Whereas the Bible describes the definition of a month as new moon to new moon. Now again, different individuals will debate exactly how you determine that, but regardless of what your view on that is, you still acknowledge the fact that the definition of a month is based on the cycles of the moon. And the new moon again starts and ends every single month.

Well, in the Biblical version of this, it's not just 12 months in a row and then just repeat another 12 and just continue that cycle. What happens is, every few years -- approximately about every three years -- there's a 13th month added in. Now again, the different calendar theories will argue exactly how you determine that, but the point I want you to understand here is by adding in that 13th month periodically, what that does is keep the months and the seasons in sync with each other. Well, that's not how the Muslim calendar works.

The way the Muslim calendar works is they go by the moon to where each month is a lunar cycle, with the new moon being the start and end of each month. But they just do 12 months in a row, and then they start another 12 months in a row again. Well, what this means is you go through numerous years and the months and the seasons don't stay in sync. For example, a common holiday, or you might say "holy day" in the views of Muslims, is Ramadan. That's kind of their big event that they do religiously each year. Well, that's on a set time on their calendar, but in terms of the seasons and compared to the Gregorian calendar, it shifts all throughout the year as the years go by. Well, that's what happens when you just put just 12 straight months and you don't add in a 13th month, and you're doing your months based upon the cycles of the moon. So, it's a totally different structure.

But let's notice how Muslims view this. They view following that calendar as a requirement for following Islam. And again, just to back this up, I'm going to quote from pages 48 and 49 again of Joel Richardson's book here.

*“Now we have already seen that the Mahdi will change the law by instituting Islamic shariah law all over the earth, but we have not seen any evidence in Islamic apocalyptic literature of him changing the “times.” The simple question, however, is: who else other than a Muslim would desire to change the “times and the laws”? Besides the Gregorian calendar used by the West, there are also Jewish, Hindu, and Muslim calendars, among others. Jews and Hindus, however, would not desire to impose their religious laws or calendars onto the rest of the world. Islam, however, has both its own laws and its own calendar, both of which it would desire to impose onto the entire world. The Islamic calendar is based on the career of Muhammad. It begins at the migration (hijra) of Muhammad from Mecca to Medina. The Muslim calendar is mandatory for all Muslims to observe. Dr. Waleed Mahanna articulates the Islamic position regarding the Islamic hijra calendar: It is considered a divine command to use a [hijra] calendar with twelve [purely] lunar months without intercalation, as evident from...the Holy Qur’an. Not only does Islam view as a divine imperative the use of a unique religious calendar, it also has its own week. Unlike the Western rhythm of a week—Monday through Friday being the body of the workweek followed by Saturday and Sunday as the weekend,...Islam holds Friday as its sacred day of prayer. This is the day that Muslims meet at the mosque to pray and listen to a sermon. Thus it quite plausible that the biblical reference to the Antichrist who will “try to change the set times and the laws” describes a Muslim. As we look at the full picture, only Islam fits the bill of a system that has its own unique calendar, a week based on its own religious history, and a clear system of law that it wishes to impose onto the entire earth.”*

So, you can see here, if you look at the Islamic view of eschatology -- basically their view of end time events and the narrative of the story of how that will play out -- it basically very closely matches the Biblical view. It just turns it on its head. And the bad guys become the good guys, and the good guys become the bad guys.

As we'll see as we go through part 2 of this series -- in part 2 we're going to look more at their version of the false prophet, which again is their view of Jesus Christ. And once again we're going to see the scriptures that describe what the false prophet is going to do, and what they say their version of Jesus Christ is going to do is again a striking mirror image. The general events that play out and the actions that this individual will take very much match. Again. they're just turning the bad guys into the good guys.

And what we'll also see as we put all this picture completely together is this gives us a lot of insight as to why, in the description that Revelation gives us of the Day of the LORD, you keep seeing this repeated reference that in spite of all of the plagues that God's wrath brings upon mankind, and the two witnesses there telling people that they need to repent of their sins and turn to the true God, they just keep repeatedly refusing to do so. And even when Christ returns, they gather an army to fight Him. The reason for that is that they're viewing all of these events flipped on its head. And they're seeing this story through the eyes that, again, the bad guys are the good guys, and the good guys are the bad guys.

Well, that's all we have time for today. As I mentioned, next time in part 2, we're going to dig into the Islamic view of Jesus Christ and see how that directly correlates with what the Bible describes about the false prophet. And again, we'll also see the scriptures that describe mankind's refusal to repent at the end time. And we'll see that when we put all of this together, we can get a clearer picture as to why that is. So, we'll conclude with this at this point and just say tune in next time for part 2.