

# The Islamic End Time Beast – Part 2

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Last time we began a two-part sermon series comparing the Biblical narrative of end-time events with the Islamic narrative of end-time events. And as we saw last time, when we look at the Biblical description of how end-time events will play out, the story very much revolves around two individuals that the Bible very clearly describes as the bad guys in the story. The Bible identifies them as the beast and the false prophet.

However, if we look at the Islamic view of end-time events, they have two significant characters in their end-time story as well. They refer to them as the Mahdi and the Islamic version of Jesus Christ. And if you compare the description of the beast and the false prophet with the Mahdi and the Islamic version of Jesus Christ -- not to be confused with the Biblical version -- there are striking similarities in the actions that these individuals will carry out. However, in the Islamic view of the story, these two individuals are the good guys rather than the bad guys. So, what we discover when we look at this is that they are basically describing the same basic story that the Bible lays out for us. They are just flipping it on its head. And then the bad guys become the good guys, and the good guys become the bad guys.

Well, today in the sermon what we are going to do is continue this series. And this time we are going to focus on the parallels between what the Bible tells us about the false prophet and what he will do in the end-time, and what Islamic writings tell us that their version of Jesus Christ is going to do at the end-time. And once again we are going to find there is a striking parallel, just like we found with the beast and what Islamic writings tell us the Mahdi will do. So, if you would like a title for this sermon, it is:

## The Islamic End Time Beast - Part 2

So, to start off with, let's turn back over to Revelation 19. We started here last time as well. But I would just like to start off noting these two individuals that the Bible tells us are definitely the bad guys in the end-time story. That's Revelation 19, and we will pick up 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)

Now, if you read through this chapter -- and later in this sermon we will go through a part of this -- this is describing the return of Jesus Christ back to the earth at the end of the Day of the LORD. And you can see Christ seizes both of these individuals and throws them in the lake of fire. They are fighting Christ. They basically organize an army

to come together and to battle Christ at His return. Very clearly, these individuals are the bad guys in the story.

And also take note of the fact that it describes here that Christ takes both of these individuals and destroys them by throwing them in the lake of fire at His return. Now you'll understand later in this sermon why I'm pointing out that that is a descriptor that applies to both of these individuals. But just take note of that because we are going to come back to this later.

Now, last time in part 1 we focused on comparing the description the Bible has of the beast -- the individual who will be the main leader of the end-time beast empire -- and then comparing that with what Islamic writings describe as what they say the Mahdi -- who they describe as their end-time messiah figure -- and what that individual will do. And we saw striking parallels between the two. Well, today what we are going to do is focus on the description of the false prophet and compare that with the Islamic version of Jesus Christ.

Now turn over to Revelation 13, and we'll pick up here about halfway through the chapter. Because as we saw last time, the first half of this chapter in verses 1 through 10, initially starts off just talking about the beast empires in general. All of the seven heads and ten horns, and the beast empires throughout time. Then, within a few verses, it begins to focus in specifically on the leader. The individual referred to as "the beast" who will be the main leader of the end-time beast empire. And it gives us a lot of specific details about what that individual will do. Well, we'll see when we go through the second half of this chapter, it's very similar. It gives us a lot of specific details about what the false prophet is going to do.

So, what we are going to do first of all is just read over the whole description here. And then we are going to go through this individually like we did last time. Taking the individual verses and their descriptions and then comparing the Biblical narrative with the Islamic narrative of events. And again, you see these striking parallels. So, let's start off in Revelation 13 in verse 11.

**Rev 13:11** *"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)

Now, we will talk more about this later but just notice that the false prophet here is basically a subordinate to the beast. He doesn't direct people to worship himself. He directs people to worship the beast. Pick up 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."* (NKJV)

Now, you'll notice it later as we break this down into the details, what we are seeing here is an escalation because the false prophet here is using miracles basically to deceive people. To have them willingly choose to follow him and to worship the beast. But then notice in the next couple of verses, he then escalates to coercion and forcing people by threat of death to comply. And this is in verse 15.

*“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, as I mentioned last time in this series, I'm not going to take time to go into the details of the mark of the beast and all the details of what that means. If you're interested in studying that subject, on my YouTube channel and on my website, I have a sermon specifically addressing the mark of the beast. I also have a study paper on my website that will go into that in a lot of detail as well. So, if you're not familiar with the details of that and want to study that subject, I would refer you there.

But just notice here, as I mentioned previously, the description that we have of the false prophet in the Biblical version of the story -- as we are going to see here -- has striking similarities to what the Islamic narrative of end-time events attributes to their version of Jesus Christ. But before we get into this, it is important to understand that if you're looking at the subject of Jesus Christ through Islamic eyes -- in other words, how they would describe Jesus Christ and their view and version of who He is and what He is about -- it's a completely different story than what you would find in the Bible. And that's very important to understand when we discuss this, so we don't confuse the two.

Now, to clarify this, I am going to quote from the same book I referred to in part 1. It is a book titled The Islamic Antichrist by Joel Richardson. As I mentioned in part 1, I highly recommend this book in terms of the good job that Joel did in documenting the comparisons between the Biblical version of the beast and the false prophet and documenting from Islamic sources how they described the Mahdi and their version of Jesus Christ and comparing the two. Now, I'm specific about that because I want to make it clear I am not endorsing every view that Joel Richardson has. I think there are a number of things he does get right. He is good at debunking the Roman Empire theory of the end-time beast. He also has some very good information showing the parallels here that all point toward an Islamic empire coming out of the Middle East being the end-time beast. But in saying that, I'm not endorsing every view that Joel has about prophecy and I'm certainly not endorsing all of his Protestant theology. But if you're interested in the book, you can get it off of Amazon. Or if you just want to get a free copy that is in a PDF form, that is available on his website. His website is [joelstrumpet.com](http://joelstrumpet.com), and there you can download it in PDF form, and it's totally free.

But to just give you some quotes here that will give you a clearer picture on how Muslims, from an Islamic point of view, view Jesus Christ, I am going to just read to you several quotes here I have taken from Joel's book. Now, these first quotes come from pages 51 and 52 of Joel's book.

*“After the emergence or the “rising” of the Mahdi, the second most important event among the Major Signs is the return of Jesus Christ...Unfortunately, the Islamic belief of just who this Jesus is that is coming, and what He does once He has arrived, is drastically different than what Christians believe about Jesus. The first thing that Christians need to understand regarding the Islamic belief about Jesus is that Muslims of course reject the idea that Jesus was or is the Son of God. According to Islam, Jesus is not, as the Bible articulates, God in the flesh. Second, in Islamic belief, Jesus never died on a cross for the sins of mankind. The Qur’an specifically denies that Jesus was ever crucified or that He ever experienced death. Muslims believe that after Allah miraculously delivered Jesus from death, He ascended into heaven alive.... Since then, Muslims believe, Jesus has remained with Allah, awaiting His opportunity to return to the earth to finish His ministry and complete His life. As such, to the Islamic mind, Jesus was not in any way a “savior.” To Muslims, Jesus was merely another prophet in the long line of prophets that Allah has sent to mankind....According to the sacred texts of Islam,...when Jesus returns, it most certainly will not be to restore the nation of Israel to the Jewish people. Nor will Jesus’ purpose be to save and deliver His faithful followers from the ongoing persecution of the Antichrist. In order to understand the Islamic concept of Jesus’ return, the first thing that needs to be realized is that when Jesus comes back, He comes back as a radical Muslim!”*

So, you can see that their view of Christ is dramatically different than the Biblical version of Jesus Christ. Now, I'm going to read you a couple more quotes here. This next one is from pages 53 and 54.

*“While the Mahdi, as the caliph (vice regent) and imam (leader) of the Muslims is clearly superior to Jesus in Islam, Jesus remains a leader of the Muslim community. According to the Islamic traditions, Jesus’ primary purpose will be to oversee the institution and the enforcement of Islamic shariah law all over the world.”*

So, see, their version of Jesus Christ is going to be someone who institutes Sharia all over the planet and forces people to comply with it. And now just one more quote on this subject. This comes from page 65 of Joel's book.

*“The Jesus who returns in the Muslim tradition makes Osama Bin Laden look like a novice. He is pictured as coming to establish Islamic law across the face of the planet and legalize the execution of anyone who refuses to convert to Islam.”*

And as we'll see as we go through this in detail, their version of events very much matches what we read here through Revelation 13. Because notice as we read through

that, I pointed out that there is an escalation in the description. Initially the false prophet uses miracles to deceive people and to get them to voluntarily choose to follow him and to worship the beast. Then he turns up the heat. And then it's cutting off their ability to buy and sell and killing those who refuse to comply and to go along and follow them. So, you can see that it's an escalation of coercion to force people to comply.

But as you can see here, when we look at this from the perspective that the end-time beast power doesn't come out of Europe and is not a resurrection of the Roman Empire. Because the theory associated with that has always been that the false religion associated with the beast would be Catholicism. And maybe a pope would be the false prophet associated with it. Well, if you look at this through Islamic eyes, then the false prophet is not someone who claims to be a representative of Christ. It's someone who claims to be Christ. It's a very different version of Jesus Christ than the Bible indicates. But again, this is an individual who literally claims to be Christ on the earth. Well, if you just look here now at Revelation 13:11, this gives us a much clearer understanding of exactly what this verse says.

**Rev 13:11** *“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.”* (NKJV)

Now, if we look at it through this perspective, we can see just how literal the description here is in the symbolism that is presented. Because if you are like me, I grew up from childhood being taught the idea that the end-time beast power was going to come out of Europe and was going to be a resurrection of the Roman Empire. So, if you look at it from that perspective, the false prophet, well, obviously he is someone who is deceiving and misleading people. And you take verse 11 to think, well, maybe he's someone who appears innocent and sincere -- like he is righteous to the world -- but he is really evil and deceiving and misleading people.

Well, while that is correct in a general sense, it is more specific than that. Because you notice it says he has the appearance of a lamb. He looks just like a lamb. One of the titles of Christ is “The Lamb of God”. This is an individual who's literally going to claim to be “The Lamb”. He is going to claim to be Jesus Christ. And just to notice this, turn over to John 1. We will see here that at the very beginning of Christ's ministry, John the Baptist introduces Christ with the title, “The Lamb of God”. This is John 1, and we'll start reading here in verse 29.

**John 1:29** *“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30) This is He of whom I said, “After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ 31) I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.” 32) And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. 33) I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He*

*who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34) And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.” (NKJV)*

Very clear who we are talking about here. This is obviously Christ.

*“35) Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. 36) And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” (NKJV)*

So, you can see when Revelation 13:11 is saying he looks just like a lamb, it is telling us this is an individual who is going to claim to be Christ. And he is going to deceive much of the world to believe that he is Christ. But he is going to speak like a dragon. Now we don't have to guess what the Bible means when it refers to a dragon. Just turn over to Revelation 12. We will see here, it directly tells us that the dragon is symbolism for Satan himself. This is Revelation 12, and we will start reading in verse 7.

**Rev 12:7** *“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8) but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9) So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (NKJV)*

So, you can see here what Revelation 13:11 is telling us. This is an individual that's going to have the appearance of Christ. He's going to claim to be Christ. He is going to deceive much of the world to believe that he is Christ. But he's going to speak like Satan. He's going to be totally misleading people into idolatry and sin and basically leading them off the cliff. But he's going to be claiming to be the Lamb of God while he is doing it. This is a warning that Christ Himself also gave us to be watching for. Individuals who would claim to be Him.

If you turn over here to Matthew 24, we'll see here where Christ gave a very specific warning. He even goes to the point of explaining when He returns, He's going to come down out of the sky where everyone can see Him. So, if you encounter someone who's claiming to be Him, and they did not come back in that manner -- like lightning out of the sky -- then they're a fraud and they are not the real Jesus Christ. And to notice here, this is Matthew 24 and verse 23.

**Matthew 24:23** *“Then if anyone says to you, “Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. 24) For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25) See, I have told you beforehand. 26) “Therefore if they say to you, “Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it. 27) For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” (NKJV)*

So, He makes it very clear what it is going to look like when He returns. He says if somebody comes claiming to be Him, even if they are performing miracles, do not

believe it. Because if they have not come down out of the sky, they're not Jesus Christ. That is a very clear warning He gave us. We can see now why, because the false prophet is literally going to claim to be Christ Himself.

But now let's turn back over to Revelation 13 and pick up with the next verse. Revelation 13, and this time we'll pick up in verse 12. Now this is also something to take note of. Because, as I mentioned, the way that this is going to play out with the false prophet is this is an individual who is going to literally claim to be Jesus Christ. But let's notice here in verse 12 that this is an individual who is going to be a subordinate to the beast. The individual leader of the empire. Because he's going to direct people not to worship himself, but to worship the beast. And notice this in verse 12.

**Rev 13:12** *“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)

Notice he's not directing people to worship himself. He's directing people to worship the beast. It's to another human being. Well, as you know, Jesus Christ -- if we look at what the Bible describes about Him -- the only individual He is subordinate to is the Father. He's above everything and everyone else. The only one that He is subordinate to is the Father. But again, what we are talking about here is the Islamic view of Jesus Christ. And in their view, He's just a prophet, and He will be a subordinate to the Mahdi. And to clarify this, I would like to read you a quote again from Joel's book. This is from pages 62 and 63.

*“...in the Islamic narrative of the last days, we do not find a lone character coming to rescue the world, but instead we find a team. We find both the Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus. And, as in the case of the Antichrist and the False Prophet, we find that one clearly fills a supporting role while the other leads. While the Mahdi is clearly described as “the vice regent [caliph] of Allah,” Jesus is described as one who will “espouse the cause of the Mahdi” and “follow him.” The partnership between the Mahdi and Jesus is one of a leader and his subordinate.”*

So, you can see once again the descriptions exactly match. It's just in the Islamic version, they have turned the beast and the false prophet -- or their version of them, the Mahdi and their version of Jesus Christ -- into the good guys rather than the bad guys. So now let's notice again verse 13 here. Because we are going to see here what the false prophet does to deceive the world into following them. This is again verse 13.

**Rev 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.”* (NKJV)

Now we find a very similar description in 2 Thessalonians 2. But before you turn over there, just take a brief moment and notice -- as we covered before -- in Revelation 13 the first half of the chapter focuses on the beast. The individual who is the leader of the end-time beast power. And the second half focuses on the false prophet.

Now, they both have unique descriptions attributed to them. The beast has attributed to him that the world will worship him. It doesn't say anything about him performing miracles to deceive people. It just talks about how he exalts himself above all that is called holy and that he is worshipped by the world. What we have in the description of the false prophet is an individual who is performing miracles to deceive people and then directing them to worship the beast. You'll understand in a minute when we turn to 2 Thessalonians why I'm pointing out these distinctions.

Now turn over to 2 Thessalonians 2. Because we will see here a very similar description of using powerful miracles at the end-time to deceive people, just like we just read in Revelation 13. We are going to read through the first 12 verses in 2 Thessalonians 2, and I want to point out to you something that I have to admit I myself never noticed until the last week or two when I was working on this particular sermon.

I've been a member of the Church of God since birth. And I have had an interest in these kinds of things and have studied them all of my life. But I would read over this, and I would see the two different titles that are mentioned in this particular chapter. And like most people, I just assumed that they both were describing one individual. Because what you're going to see here is it refers to two distinct titles that it gives. One is the "son of perdition", and the other is the "lawless one". But let's take note when we read through this. When it talks about the "son of perdition", this is the one that exalts himself above everything and that is worshipped. Then the "lawless one" is described as one who performs miracles to deceive everybody.

Now, if we just look at that through what we just covered in Revelation 13, we're talking about two different individuals here. Because if we parallel them together, what we have is the son of perdition matches the description of the beast. He's proclaiming himself greater than everything and is being worshipped. Then you have the lawless one -- as we're about to read here. And what is he doing? He's performing miracles and deceiving everyone. Well, again, if we read through Revelation 13, that is two different individuals. So now let us just 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, 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 worshipped by others. That is what is going to take place here. But now let's notice as we continue reading. When it talks about the lawless one, it is not going to say that he is worshipped. It is going to say that he performs miracles to deceive others. Just like we just read about the false prophet.

*“5) Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6) And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7) For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8) And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.” (NKJV)*

Now, remember when I first started this sermon -- when I read Revelation 19, verse 20 - - I made a big deal of pointing out that Christ destroys both of them at His return. So, that's a description that can apply to both of them. But oftentimes that statement is used to just lump them together. To conclude that both of these -- the son of perdition and the lawless one -- are the same individual. And they're both describing the beast. But let's continue reading here and notice how it talks about the lawless one performing miracles and deceiving everyone. Well, again, if we read Revelation 13, those are qualities attributed to the false prophet.

*“9) The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10) and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11) And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12) that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (NKJV)*

And then it also includes in this those who refuse to receive the love of the truth. Well, would you not have to have had the opportunity to have received the love of the truth to be held accountable for rejecting it? This certainly seems to indicate that there will be people who were called, who were given their opportunity to understand the truth, who will be sucked into this deception as well. Probably because they will be fooled by the miracles that take place. Because anyone can come along claiming that they are Christ. Or like we've seen in the Church of God in recent decades, individuals claiming that they are the two witnesses, and claiming that they are Apostles, or claiming all sorts of titles to themselves.

But you see all these individuals claiming to be the two witnesses. We haven't seen any of them that are performing the miracles that Revelation 11 tells us the two witnesses will do. So, most people that are thinkers, and compare this with the Bible, they just reject claims that people like that make. They conclude that they are just kooks because they are claiming to be the two witnesses, but they are not performing any miracles like the Bible says these individuals will do.

Well, if you study the subject of miracles throughout the Bible, oftentimes they were used to prove true credibility. Just like with Moses. When God told Moses, "I want you to go talk to Pharaoh, and talk to the Israelites, and tell them that I sent you. Go to Pharaoh and tell him, "Let My people go". Moses' first reaction is, "Well, they are not going to believe me. They are just going to think I am a nut." Well, then God gives him several miracles to perform. This will get people's attention and show that you're legitimate. God did the same thing when Christ was on the earth and with the Apostles.

Well, that can certainly be an indicator of legitimacy, but not always. And see, Moses warned about this in Deuteronomy 13. If you turn over to Deuteronomy 13, we'll see a warning that is important to heed. Particularly in light of what we know is going to happen in the future. This is a warning that Moses recorded for us that basically points out that even if someone prophesies and they foretell something and it comes true. Or they perform miracles and you're amazed by them. But then they are also telling you, let's go follow other gods. Let's go do obviously pagan things and follow other gods and turn away from the true God. Regardless of what miracles they have performed -- what impressive things they have done. If they foretold things and it actually came true. None of that counts if they're telling you to go follow some other God. And notice here in Deuteronomy 13 in verse 1.

**Deu 13:1** *"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, 2) and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—which you have not known—'and let us serve them,' 3) you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4) You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. 5) But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst."* (NKJV)

And so that's an important warning to heed. Because again, when all these events come about, and the false prophet comes on the scene claiming to be Jesus Christ, he's going to be performing miracles as well. And this could very well mislead people if they're not grounded in the truth. Because they can be tricked by that and say, "Well, this guy must be legitimate. I mean, look at the miracles he is performing." And that can really fool people.

But as I mentioned before, if we look at the parallels here between what the Bible describes and what Islamic sources say they're going to attribute to their version of Jesus Christ. Who, as we're going to see again, is a direct parallel with the false prophet. We find these striking comparisons here. Because as we are going to see here, as I read to you a few more quotes from Joel's book here. We are going to see

that basically the process plays out just like what we read previously in Revelation 13. Where it starts off with basically deceiving people and recruiting people to follow the false prophet and the beast by performing miracles and just basically willfully recruiting people. Then it escalates to coercion. But just to show you what a recruiter their version of Jesus Christ is going to be, this first quote comes from page 65 of Joel's book.

*“The False Muslim Jesus according to Islam will....be the greatest evangelist that the world has ever seen. He fulfills the description of the False Prophet in this regard to a T! We see that the false Muslim Jesus, like the False Prophet, comes to convert the Christian world to a new religion. In the case of the Muslim Jesus, the religion is, of course, Islam.”*

See, he's coming performing miracles. But he is saying, "Let's follow a different God. Follow Allah, a different God that you have not known." And here is another quote to further clarify this from page 55 of Joel's book.

*“Sheikh Kabbani, chairman of the Islamic Supreme Council of America, clearly articulates the Islamic perspective regarding Jesus’ evangelistic role when He returns: Like all prophets, Prophet Jesus came with the divine message of surrender to God Almighty, which is Islam. This verse shows that when Jesus returns he will personally correct the misrepresentations and misinterpretations about himself. He will affirm the true message that he brought in his time as a prophet, and that he never claimed to be the Son of God. Furthermore, he will reaffirm in his second coming what he prophesied in his first coming bearing witness to the seal of the Messenger, Prophet Muhammad. In his second coming many non-Muslims will accept Jesus as a servant of Allah Almighty, as a member of the community of Muhammad. Al-Sadr and Mutahhari likewise articulate this same expectation: Jesus will descend from heaven and espouse the cause of the Mahdi. The Christians and the Jews will see him and recognize his true status.”*

As you can see, the Muslim version of who Jesus Christ is is a radical departure from the picture that the Bible paints of Jesus Christ. Even if you take the Protestant and Catholic views of who Christ is. Even though they have this Trinitarian view and they get a lot of things wrong, they still hold the idea that He is the Son of God. That He died on the cross for the sins of mankind. These basic concepts still carry through. As you can imagine, it would be a massive paradigm shift to go from believing that to accepting the Islamic view of things. Well, if you've got an individual who is performing all of these miracles, you can imagine the deception and how people would look at that and think, "Well, he's got to be legitimate. Look at the impressive things he's doing." And they're just not heeding the warning that Moses recorded for us in Deuteronomy 13.

But as I mentioned previously, there's a process that plays out here. And if we turn back over to Revelation 13, we can see this. What I'm referring to here is basically an escalation process. Because this starts off as a process basically to recruit people voluntarily to following Islam. To try to sell them on the idea that following Allah and

following the false prophet – who is claiming to be to Christ -- and worshipping the beast is a good thing. Basically, trying to voluntarily recruit people to do it of their own free will.

Well, whenever you see an authoritarian government trying to force their will on the population, oftentimes it starts off with just trying to sell the people. Trying to convince them it's in their best interest to voluntarily do what you want them to do. Well, that typically only works on some percentage of the population. And there's others that always hold out. Well, then it escalates to coercion. Then you start making life difficult for them. And you make life more and more painful for them, if not just threaten them with death. Then you kill those who refuse to comply. Well, this is exactly the process that's going to play out here as well. And pick up here in Revelation 13 and verse 15.

**Rev 13:15** *“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.”* (NKJV)

Now, if you just logically think this through. If you could get all the population to just be wowed by the miracles and impressed and voluntarily comply, well, there's no reason to start shutting off people's ability to buy and sell. And then beyond that, to escalate to just killing them and murdering them if they won't comply. If you're having to escalate to those measures, obviously you're getting resistance. There's some percentage of the population who wouldn't just voluntarily be sold on the idea of voluntarily complying. So, then you have to escalate. And then go to threats. To making life painful for them, or just downright killing them if they won't comply.

What we'll see here -- if we read the parallel of the Islamic version of what their view of Jesus Christ will do -- this is exactly what he does. He starts off being a powerful recruiter for them and bringing lots of people to voluntarily convert to Islam. Then it escalates then to coercion and death threats. And notice here, again, I'm going to read to you a couple more quotes from Joel's book. This is from page 55.

*“It is crucial to understand that according to Islamic tradition and belief, when Jesus returns, He does not come to convert most Christians to Islam but to abolish Christianity entirely.”*

See, it's to make it impossible to be a Christian. And to even kill anyone who refuses to comply. And to further explain that this is a quote from page 65.

*“Just like the False Prophet, ....the Muslim Jesus refuses to take no for an answer. Along with the Mahdi, he institutes Islamic law all over the earth. In so doing, he abolishes the jizyah tax, which non-Muslims historically have had the option of paying as “protection” money, much like the “protection” money that Mafia bosses enforce onto businesses in their areas. After the jizyah tax is*

*abolished, "all people will be required to embrace Islam and there will be no other alternative." But what if some still refuse to convert? Then, as we have already seen, the leaders of the so-called "religion of peace," the Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus, will execute them.*

In other words, those who refuse to comply will just be killed. The description exactly matches what we read describing the false prophet. Well, as I mentioned from the very beginning of this series -- when I started part 1 -- I mentioned that once you understand the parallels between the beast and the Mahdi, and then the false prophet and the Islamic version of Jesus Christ. When you see just how thoroughly these are the same basic story, with these individuals performing basically the same acts and carrying out the same things. You're just reversing the narrative where the bad guys become the good guys. Well, this adds a lot of clarity on an issue that -- if you're like me -- has been a bit of a head-scratcher much of my life.

And the reason I say that is because you look at this and you look at all the events that are going to play out during the Day of the LORD. Just how horrific things are going to get. And the fact that it's not like mankind doesn't have any access to understand what's taking place. The two witnesses will be on the scene. They'll be actively telling people that what's playing out during the Day of the LORD is the wrath of the true God. That's what's taking place. They're foretelling the plagues that are taking place and these events are happening. The two witnesses themselves are performing miracles to get everybody's attention to realize that they're not just kooks that are just making wild claims. They're really representing the true God.

But then you scratch your head and wonder, "Why is mankind so incredibly resistant? Why, after the pain level gets so high, are they still just belligerent and refuse to even comply just out of their own personal self-preservation? Just to make the pain stop? Why would they not?" Well, when you understand this reversal in their viewpoints, you can see a little more insight as to what these individuals are thinking and why they behave the way they do.

So just to clarify this, turn over to Revelation 11. Let's first look at the fact that the two witnesses are going to be on the scene, and they're going to be basically telling the world what's taking place. They're going to be kind of similar to Moses and Aaron. And what I mean by that is Moses and Aaron -- part of what they did is they're going before Pharaoh and warning him what's going to happen. "You need to repent and let God's people go." Well, Pharaoh keeps refusing to comply. Well, then the plagues keep going. Well, what do Moses and Aaron do? They're constantly telling him, "Well, here's what's going to happen next." And then Pharaoh doesn't give in. "Well, here's what's going to happen next."

This stuff keeps happening. And you look at this and go, "Okay, well, why is he not catching on as to what's happening?" Well, as we know in the narrative in Exodus, God was hardening Pharaoh's heart so that he wouldn't give in all the way until after the death of the firstborn. But my point in this is that similar to Moses and Aaron, the two

witnesses fill a similar function. They're going to be informing the world of what's taking place. So, it's not a situation where all these calamities are happening to mankind and they have no idea what's taking place. No, God has sent His representatives there to inform the world of what's taking place. And to notice this, pick up in Revelation 11:3.

**Rev 11:3** *“And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”* 4) *These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.* 5) *And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.* 6) *These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.”* (NKJV)

So, they're going to be performing miracles too. So, what's going to be happening is the population of the earth is going to be seeing these two individuals performing miracles and the false prophet performing miracles as well. And they've got to choose between the two. Now, pick up here in verse 7.

*“7) When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. 8) And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9) Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 10) And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.”* (NKJV)

See, in their mind -- in their view watching this, the two witnesses are the bad guys. And the beast and the false prophet are the good guys. They're looking at all of this, but they have the narrative just completely flipped upside down. See, from that viewpoint, it gives us some insight as to why they just continually keep refusing to repent regardless of how severe events get.

Because if you just turn over to chapter 9 of Revelation, we'll see here the end of the sixth trumpet. Now by the time you get to the sixth trumpet, numerous plagues have played out. Much of the earth has been destroyed. The food supply has been severely limited. And we've even had a third of mankind dying within the course of an hour. These are events to get people's attention. Certainly, while all this is playing out, the two witnesses are explaining to them this is the wrath of the true God. And if you repent, that's the right response to all of this. But just notice here the reaction that mankind has. This is in verse 20 of chapter 9.

**Rev 9:20** *“But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor*

*walk. 21) And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.” (NKJV)*

And this continues all the way through Christ's return. So, turn over to chapter 16 and we'll see this. And we'll notice even as the plagues keep escalating, they just keep having this same very defiant response. Pick up here in chapter 16 in verse 8.

**Rev 16:8** *“Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. 9) And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.” (NKJV)*

See, they're still just defiant, refusing to repent. And continue in verse 10.

*“10) Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. 11) They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.” (NKJV)*

So, they're just continuing to be defiant. And this continues again all the way through Christ's actual return. Just look over at verse 21. We'll see this again.

**Rev 16:21** *“And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.” (NKJV)*

And this continues all the way through Christ's literal return to the earth. When they're literally seeing Christ coming out of the sky -- returning to earth -- just like He said in the Olivet Prophecy He was going to do. And to see this, turn over to Revelation 19. We'll pick up here in verse 11.

**Rev 19:11** *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12) His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13) He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14) And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15) Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16) And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” (NKJV)*

So, we're clearly referring to Christ Himself returning to the earth. But now notice their response when He's returning.

*“17) Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, 18) that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.” 19) And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.” (NKJV)*

Now they're gathering together to fight Christ. They're defiant to the very end.

*“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. 21) And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.” (NKJV)*

So, we can see here, this really gives us some insight as to why mankind will be this defiant. Literally to the point that they can watch Christ Himself descending out of the sky just like He said in the Olivet Prophecy that He was going to do. And yet they still want to fight Him. Because this is a population that's been indoctrinated and deceived into believing a completely reverse narrative of end-time events. Because in their view, all this makes sense. Because in their viewpoint, when they're watching the beast and the false prophet do exactly what the Bible describes, in their mind, this is the Mahdi, and this is their version of Jesus Christ. And they're doing exactly what Islam said they were going to do. And see, to them, it totally matches. This gives us insight as to why mankind would again be this defiant, this belligerent when Christ returns. They will refuse to repent all the way to the very end.

But it also -- as I mentioned in the introduction to this series -- it also gives us more weight to understanding that the Roman Empire narrative of the end-time beast power. In other words, the idea that the end-time beast power is going to be a resurrection of the Roman Empire. So therefore, we should be looking at Europe. And we should be looking to Europe to be the location where we would find the beast and the false prophet appearing as major leaders on the world scene. This gives us more weight to see that narrative is incorrect. In fact, the area of the world that we should be watching is the Middle East. We should be expecting the beast and the false prophet to be rising up out of the Middle East and espousing Islam.

So, as we go forward from this Sabbath, let's learn the lessons of this. Not only the insights that help us to understand why mankind will respond the way they will. But understand that as we see world events playing out as we go forward and get closer and closer to the end, the region of the world that we need to be watching is the Middle East. Because that's where the beast power will rise up out of. And so that's the area that we should be looking for the beast and the false prophet to rise out of.