

## ***The Islamic Churchoid Resurgence***

**A**s the twenty-first century opens the threat to world peace is not the religious and political ambitions of the two Western Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox Churchoids of the past two thousand years, but the resurgent threat of the third, or Islamic, Churchoid. The militant Islam of the “dark ages” died away with the dissolution of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires and was no longer a threat of any kind at the start of the twentieth century, religious or political. So, what makes Islam a threat now?

At the beginning of the twentieth century Winston Churchill wrote about Islam in his book *The River War*:

*“No stronger retrograde force exists in the world. Far from being moribund Mohammedanism is a militant and proselytizing faith. It has already spread throughout Central Africa, raising fearless warriors at every step, and were it not that Christianity is sheltered in the strong arms of science . . . the civilization of modern Europe might fall, as fell the civilization of ancient Rome.”*

Some thirty years later Hilaire Belloc wrote in *The Great Heresies*:

*“Will not perhaps the temporal power of Islam return and with it the menace of an armed Muhammedan world which will shake the dominion of Europeans – still nominally Christian – and reappear again as the prime*

*enemy of our civilization?... Since we have here a very great religion, physically paralyzed, but morally intensely alive, we are in the presence of an unstable equilibrium”.*

It all began with the competing claims of the two sons of Abraham: Ishmael (born 2080 BC), first-born but the offspring of a heathen Egyptian maidservant; and Isaac (born 2066 BC), the true “*son of promise*” from God through Sarah. It was through the later-born Isaac that the “*promises*” of God regarding the Twelve Tribes of Israel and the “*Promised Land*” of Canaan were fulfilled. But God also declared that the twelve sons of first-born Esau would be a “*great nation*” in the *Promised Land*, too, so long as they observed the divinely provided *Law of Moses*. Both sets of descendants eventually disobeyed the *Law of Moses*: the divinely-punished Remnant Jewish exiles returning from Babylon brought with them the rabbinical Judaism denounced by Jesus, who launched the universal *Kingdom of God* and the *Church of the Messiah*: the Arabian descendants of Esau through Mohammed eventually brought into the world the militant and murderous Islam in the seventh century AD in protest against what they saw as the betrayal of the divinely provided *Law of Moses* by Judaisers and Christians. Between the three religion off-shoots of Abraham—Judaism, Christianity and Islam - they created what the Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard in the nineteenth century termed the hydra-headed “*monstrous mental delusion*” of the historically counterfeit Churchoid. of Satan instead of the God-revealed Church of the Messiah.

In the thousand years following Mohammed’s death the Islamic religion spread from Arabia westwards to the Atlantic, and eastwards to the Pacific, in over thirty countries, in response to a failed Judaism and a failing Christendom. The unique emphasis in Islam of integrating the mundane with the spiritual, the observance of practice over correctness of doctrine, meant that the decisions of commitment were not made in terms of religious doctrine and political theory, Church and State, but between unquestioningly obeying God’s (Allah’s) way, and rejecting every other way as wrong. In fact, the classical Islamic languages had no equivalent

expression for “*religion*” and “*politics*”, so there were no internal “*frameworks*” such as Church and State, with their religious and political variables, to create such institutional tensions or rivalries within the parent oligarchic Churchoid. In Islamic military and imperial expansion, all political and religious allegiance was summed up and enforced in the single phrase, “*Convert to Islam, or Die.*”

The worldwide expansion of Islam peaked between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries due to a combination of the devastating catastrophe of the “*Black Death*” plague in both East and West nations, together with the limitations of the Middle East’s five thousand year-old collapsing tribal, agrarian and nomadic systems in the face of new sources of wealth, new sea-faring technology, new political and economic systems emerging in Europe and the Americas. The clash of tribal, agrarian, economic, political and religious systems produced unprecedented and increasing pressures on the Islamic Empire as the rural, tribal and Koran-based systems were not equipped to deal with the titanic economic and political convulsions taking place in the West.

There were attempts within the Moslem nations to imitate the West while still observing the teachings of Islam, but these were mostly superficial military and sea-faring adventures by ambitious *caliphs* and *sultans*, which lacked an adequate economic and political infrastructure to counter the rapidly expanding international commercial expertise of the Western nations. This decline accelerated until the nineteenth and twentieth centuries when oil was discovered in predominantly Moslem States in the Middle East and created new opportunities for Islam.

At the end of the nineteenth century ancient Israel—later called Judea after the Babylonian exile, and Palestine after Roman imperial occupation - was a barren, inhospitable country, much of it desert, inhabited mostly by Arab peasants ruled by the Ottoman Turks, who were also Islamic, and had only about 24,000 resident Jews. But the twentieth century was to radically transform not only Palestine and the “*Jewish Question*” but also the whole Mesopotamian “*Fertile Crescent*” region, and bring it once again into central geopolitical

importance. The Industrial Revolution in the West in the nineteenth century brought the Middle Eastern region into significant commercial and political focus with the creation of the Suez Canal, and the modernization of methods of transport—ocean-going liners, automobiles and airplanes. Oil became the “*black gold*”, and there was a frenzy of exploration. The greatest concentration of the coveted liquid was found in Mesopotamia—in Iran, in 1908; in Iraq, in 1927; in Bahrein, in 1932; in Saudi Arabia, in 1938.

At the same time, the emerging conflict between twentieth century “*Zionist*” Jewish religious and political groups in Europe, following the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust, produced a cynical demand for their own former God-Promised State of Israel. This was supported by leading world powers for their own financial and political interests, and was intensified and made infinitely more complex because of their insatiable and essential needs of oil supplies from the Islam dominated region. At the end of World War II, in 1948, the politicized “*Zionist*” Jews of Europe—a mostly secular combination of Jewish capitalists and socialists—launched terrorist raids against the reluctant British occupiers of Palestine. After Britain withdrew its deviously acquired Mandate, the *United Nations Organization* agreed to the partition of Palestine into an Arab State and Jewish State. This was acceptable to neither, and the seeds of future Biblical Armageddon were sown because of irreconcilable institutional religious and political interests. The Jews had their Promised Land of Israel and no oil; the Arabs had enormous supplies of oil and territory, but no “*sacred*” Jerusalem and Palestine.

In 1945 the Arabs had formed the “*Arab League*”, and oil was included in the constitutional terms of reference. With the post-war rise to power of President Nasser of Egypt, oil was moved to a central place in Arab policy—even although Egypt had none of its own. In his book, *The Philosophy of a Revolution*, published in 1954, Nasser described oil as one of the three components of Arab power: “*Petroleum is the vital nerve of civilization, without which all its means cannot possibly exist*”. In 1959, the oil-producing nations formed the “*Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)*” and, following a meeting in Baghdad, accepted a proposal by Iraq to use

their newly acquired powers of refusing oil to intimidate the world.

But it was against the newly occupied Zionist Israel that the Arabs directed their newly found oil-based economic coercion. In 1948 they had imposed what was described as “*a boycott*”, but was really blatant blackmail, against any company in the world trading with Israel or making any investment in the country; if they did then they were banned from doing any business with any Arab State—no oil deals, no investments, no exports, no imports, no construction contracts, nothing was excluded.

It was a crippling economic blow at Israel, as well as a serious limitation on many major multinational corporations, unless they were large enough or important enough—such as arms manufacturers, or the rapidly expanding telecommunication firms—for them to disregard the Arab blackmail. The blackmailing move was not successful at the time, but the pattern was clear - oil-producing Arabs were in a position to blackmail the world’s great nations unless they agreed to Arab terms. That threat still exists, and only disagreements among the Arabs themselves have blunted the edge of this formidable weapon.

The humiliating defeat of the Arabs in the 1967 *Six Days’ War*, and the increasing power and prominence of Israel in the Middle East region and the world, was a constant goad to the seventeen Islamic nations surrounding Israel. Their defeat, too, had exposed them to manipulation by the international superpowers for their own ends, and increased the Arab dependence on one or other of them—yet another humiliation. Their own obvious national weaknesses, despite the unifying religion of Islam, combined with the blatant greed and corruption in their various societies, also embarrassed them before the world.

These factors contributed towards the growth of Islamic militancy in the 1980s. If the Arab armies were inadequate, and their politics a myth, then at least, they thought, they could take pride in the theology and culture of their Islamic heritage—and the formidable military arsenals their great oil wealth helped them to purchase. When Ayatollah Komeini emerged from his exile in France in 1979 to overthrow the Shah of Iran and declare an Islamic Republic he

was greeted with hysterical fervour not only by Iranians but by the whole Arab world—especially when he defied the powerful United States of America as “*the Great Satan*.”

In neighbouring Iraq another revolution was also taking place, with Saddam Hussein ruthlessly consolidating his own *Ba'ath Party* power—a strange combination of “Christian” principles, with Nazi and Stalinist practices—with declared ambitions not only to be ruler of a powerful new Iraq but also a leader of all the Arab peoples. In a speech delivered in 1979, after he had consolidated his grip on dictatorial power, he said:

*“The glory of Arabs stems from the glory of Iraq. Throughout history, whenever Iraq became mighty and flourished, so did the Arab Nation. This is why we are striving to make Iraq mighty, formidable, able and developed, and why we shall spare nothing to improve welfare and to brighten the glory of Iraqis.”*

For eight years both Muslim Iraq and Iran countries fought a war for supremacy of their different political ideologies in the Middle East, their huge armies supplied by the most modern military equipment from the West and the Soviet Union, with Iraq finally defeating Iran. The United States was the major supplier to the Middle East countries, selling them \$30.7 billion worth of weapons from 1987 to 1990. The Middle East was then reckoned to be the largest arms market in the Third World, accounting for more than half of all arms purchases in the previous decade.

After the discovery of oil, the two most important developments of the twentieth century in the Middle East were the emergence of the two fanatically ambitious leaders, Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran, and Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The former launched a militant Islamic fundamentalism, and the latter launched the dream of a new Babylonian world empire. Between them, unconsciously, they prepared the world for the Biblical Armageddon. The problem for the fanatically fundamentalist Islamists of Iran in the turbulent Middle East was that while they were passionate advocates of Islam they were not Arabs. Saddam Hussein was not only an Arab, he was a man consumed with a vast ambition to restore the glory and power of the ancient Babylonian Empire. After oil was discovered in Iraq in

the early part of the twentieth century, with the oil revenues and with the rise to power of Saddam Hussein, Iraq by 1990 was reckoned militarily to be the fifth most powerful nation in the world. The internal religious problem of both nations, complicating their opposing political ambitions, was the rival claims of dominating sects within Islam and even within their own countries.

Islam had its first sectarian division within twenty years of Mohammed's death, the effects of which are still evident in Arab rivalries in the twenty-first century.. It was basically political but had its roots in religion; that is, two followers of the Prophet Mohammed contended for succession to the leadership, and when one of them agreed to submit his claims to arbitration a number of his followers promptly broke away in turn, saying that he should have appealed to the "*Book of God*."

This was the origin of the most important sectarian divisions in Islam - *Sunni*, *Shia* and *Khawarij*—over different views of leadership and militancy. The *Sunnis*, meaning "Path" or "Traditions"—by far the largest - believed that the Caliphate was an elective office and must be held by a member of the *Qurayah* tribe; the *Shi'ites*, meaning "Shiah" or "the party of Ali", regarded the descendants of Ali as the only rightful *Caliphs*, which was an Allah-bestowed office and not subject to human appointment. The third sect, the *Khawarij*—the smallest—believed that the *Caliphate* was open to believers fitted for the office. In the twentieth century, when the Middle East was being divided among contending Western powers, Saudi Arabia had been given what turned out to be the most productive and wealthiest oil region, and the royal family was of the extremist *Wahabhi* sect of Islam. Complicating all this, according to an early tradition, the Prophet Mohammed had said that Islam would eventually be divided into 73 sects of which 72 would perish and only one remain.

In 1979, Ayatollah Khomeini, a leading *Shi'ite*, after his victorious expulsion of the Shah, announced an Islamic campaign to purify Islam, to make Iran an Islamic State governed by Islamic *Law* and *Traditions*; then launched a religious crusade against the world of infidels and the "*Great Satan, America*". About the same time, a new type of Arab had emerged, young Islamic extremists inspired by the

successful Iranian revolution. They no longer respected or feared the quarrelling old oligarchic sheikhs whom they saw as betrayers of their religion, cultures and countries.

With money available from both renegade Arab and Soviet sources they formed groups whose main goal was to drive the Jews out of Palestine by whatever means were necessary. They conducted armed raids against Israel in a rising crescendo of terror. In response, the Israeli government stepped up their reprisals, which still continue. Seeking justification and support for their claims and actions the extreme groups of Arabs—led overtly or covertly by Iran, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Libya—financed an increasing number of terrorist activities in the West. This threat has grown in seriousness as the oil-financed military capability of the Arab nations expanded exponentially.

With the twentieth century combination of oil and its vast profits, plus religious extremism, together with *Zionist* political militancy and subsequent Jewish immigration to Israel/Palestine, there emerged a new aggressive Arab on the world scene. While Jewish nationalistic *Zionism* subconsciously contributed towards forging a cohesive Arab identity, a paradoxical spin-off from the oil wealth drove an envious and avaricious wedge between the have-and have-not Arab nations.

A small country like Kuwait had oil reserves of 90 billion barrels, while a large country like Egypt had none. Also, some of Kuwait's huge reserves were actually under Iraqi territory, and Kuwait had access to the sea and Iraq did not. Iraq had the greatest oil resources after Saudi Arabia, but the vast reserves lay under the deserts shared with Kuwait. Saudi Arabia had the largest immediate deposits of oil, but was ruled despotically by the extremist royal family of the *Wahabhi* sect of Islam. While the Western superpowers were dependent to a great extent on Middle Eastern oil, and Russian oil through Middle Eastern pipes, the two great Asian nations of China and India, with their resurgent and booming economies were posing a monumental economic threat in their rapidly expanding demands for oil.

When accused dictator Saddam Hussain of Iraq threatened to

corner the major control of Middle Eastern oil by invading Kuwait the major Western powers went to war against him in declared defence of “*Western values of freedom and democracy*”. Ironically, in the hindsight of history, the two leading vocal exponents of those values

leading the armies to enforce them on the upstart Islamists were the Methodist Churchoid US President George Bush and the Roman Churchoid UK Prime Minister Tony Blair. It appeared that neither of them was aware it had been Christian activists in the Middle East who first raised their voices in protest against Western lack of moral values in supporting Middle Eastern oligarchic rulers in the first place. It was Christians who were leaders in the Arab Communist parties, and who were supported in their policies and activities by Christians in Iraq and Palestine. It was Christians who founded and led many of the most militant groups in the Palestine freedom cause. It was Christians who founded the Arab nationalist *Ba'ath* movement in Iraq, and who were still prominent as advisers to the President of Syria at the close of the twentieth century. It was little wonder that these Middle Eastern “defenders of the faith” were highly sceptical of the Western “moral values” for declaring war on Iraq and “the axis of evil” in the Middle East and were convinced that the real reason was to safeguard their economic interest in Middle Eastern oil supplies.

While the world’s leading Western powers fight off the hovering spectre of economic catastrophe, and frantically engage in a deadly competition of out-selling and out-buying each other in oil sales and armaments purchases, the Middle East Muslim nations are leading buyers of all military weaponry with the monumental profits from soaring oil prices. More than four hundred Western companies are known to have sold war material to Saddam Hussein—missiles, bombs, poison gas, machine tools, and computerized artillery; and the US *Foreign Relations Committee* has compiled a list of corporations from 25 countries that sold Iraq materials and equipment or technology for nuclear, biological, and poison gas weapons. The great “moral” representatives of the West have been supplying the Arab oligarchic nations with everything martial, including—surreptitiously!—nuclear technology. Already there are reports that

some countries have been making enquiries regarding the availability of nuclear scientists and material from oil-potential Moslem Kazakhstan.

With the collapse of atheistic Marxism, what is emerging on the world scene is the rise of a greater threat than the politicized Roman Churchoids, or pseudo-religious Marxism: namely, a religious ecumenicism of a bland form of political Islam, Israel's pseudo-Biblical ambitions for a restored "*Promised Land*"; and the late Pope's ambitions for an authoritarian Roman Churchoid in Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America; all under the umbrella of an undefined "*moral and democratic theocracy*". This has given rise to a radical militant Islam in protest against the emerging tepid and traitorous form of the compromising Islamists, which was used by both Bush and Blair in their own joint campaign to justify their intervention in Iraq to defend the world against the "*terrorist*" wing of Islam and "*advance freedom and democracy in the Middle East.*" The West's self-confident rulers should have paid more attention to Rabindranath Tagore, the renowned Indian poet-philosopher winner of the Nobel Prize, who declared cogently: "*Freedom from the bondage of the soil is no liberty for the tree.*"

With the election of Mahmoud Ahmedinejad as President of Iran in 2005, his militant policy of nuclear weapon development, and his apocalyptic vision for Iran and Islam in the future, an explosive new crisis of possible catastrophic proportions was launched on the world. He has publicly declared his prophetic vision for Iran in the present and Islam in the future as a divine cause with himself as a prophet announcing the coming of the *Mahdi*, the Shia "Messiah", to this generation. According to this prophecy the *Madhi*, who was said to have disappeared in the ninth century will return to Qom in Iran during a time of world chaos to lead the battle for good against evil and establish the rule of Islam. According to this Islamic belief when the *Mahdi* returns Jesus will also return from heaven to support him, and Jesus will then declare Islam to be the true religion to fight against the Islamic Satan, *Dajjai*, and convert all Christians to Islam.

On the other hand, what is of intense interest to evangelical Christian scholars, and which contributed to the right-wing

conservative vote in the US 2004 Presidential election, is the increasing polarization of confrontation between Israel and the neighbouring Islamic nations. According to their interpretation this is the region defined by Daniel's prophecies—the Mediterranean coastal nations, and the world's geopolitical heart-land with Babylon as its centre. Nineteen Moslem nations stretch from the Atlantic to Iran; and at least seven more are in the former Soviet Union from there to the China Sea. As Marxism fades, and the Soviet Union has been divided among several Moslem-dominated states, they see the fundamentalist Islam of Iran and its proxy Hezbollah planning to take these over - especially in nuclear and oil-rich Central Asia—with a view to ultimate world domination.

The 2006 war in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah opened the door to the nightmare scenario of an end-of-the-world Armageddon. The cause is the millennial-old territorial conflict between Arabs and Israelis, and the equally millennial-old religious conflict between *Sunnis* and *Shias* for the control and leadership of Islam in the goal of world domination. With the success of Hezbollah over Israel the Islamic world is increasingly divided between Sunnis and Shias battling for domination in the Middle East, with the "*Shia Crescent*" of Islamic nations reaching from Turkey to Iran (80% Shia and 9% Sunnis), Iraq (65% Shia, and 20% Sunnis), Lebanon-Hezbollah (40% Shia and 20% Sunni), Palestine (5% Shia and 90% Sunni), and Syria (15% Shia, and 74% Sunni). Islam's newly acclaimed leader following on the recent conflict in Lebanon is Sheikh Hassan Nasrullah, who declared triumphantly on international television:

*"We are still at the beginning of the conflict. Our fighters are still there and they love the confrontation. They are looking to show the world a new vision of victory."*

The escalating terrorist attacks in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the confrontation between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, is viewed as positive evidence of an imminent Biblical Armageddon, with the nations of the world divided in their support of one or other of the Islam-Israel combatants, thereby escalating the tensions and

polarizing the conflict between an extremist Islam and Western involvement across the Middle East. In a book by a leading Arab journalist, *The Secret History of Al Qaeda* by Abdel Bari Atwan, editor-in-chief of the London-based *Al-Quds Al-Arabi* daily newspaper, he wrote:

*"Listening to him (Osama Bin Laden) during that visit to him ten years ago I realized he was no ordinary figure, but it didn't occur to me for one moment that this polite, soft-spoken, smiling and apparently gentle person would become the world's most dangerous man, terrorizing western capitals, inflicting hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of damage on the United States, threatening its economic stability and embroiling it in wars in Afghanistan and Iraq . . .*

*"We want to bring the Americans to fight us on Muslim land' he said as we walked the woods in the high mountains at Tora Bora. 'If we can fight them on our own territory we will beat them, because the battle will be on our terms in a land they neither know nor understand . . .'*

*"Civil war in Iraq could rapidly spread through the region. Many Sunni leaders are already unnerved by the growing influence of Iran in Iraqi internal affairs, and sectarian tensions have been brewing in several countries including Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon".*

In an article in the *Sunday Times*,<sup>13</sup> under the headline "We should fear Holland's silence", the journalist Douglas Murray reported:

*"Islam is stifling debate in what was Europe's freest country: All over Europe, debate on Islam is being stopped. Italy's greatest living writer, Oriana Fallaci, came up for trial in her home country. And in Britain the government seems intent on pushing through laws that would make truths about Islam and the conduct of its followers impossible to voice."*

This apocalyptic scenario is no wild utopian myth as was evident from the serious convictions of Winston Churchill and Hilaire Belloc mentioned earlier. Also, more recently, one Islamic historian, Bat Ye'or, has written of Europe becoming a possible "Eurabia":

*"Europe has evolved from a Judean-Christian civilization with important post-Enlightenment secular elements to (become) a secular Muslim transitional society with its Judeo-Christian mores rapidly disappearing".*

<sup>13</sup>February 26, 2006

In the mid-twentieth century there were only a handful of mosques throughout Europe, but it is now reckoned that every leading country has around a thousand mosques, France and Germany have around five or six thousand, and in Britain alone there are a thousand mosques and over three hundred Muslim organizations of one kind or another. In British mosques some clerics openly discuss *"bringing the West to its knees"* through infiltration of its social structures. Abdullah Faisal, an imam in North London, was jailed for nine years in 2003 for racial incitement and soliciting murder by quoting such declarations from the Koran (*Surah 9.4*) as:

*"When the sacred months are over slay the idolaters wherever you find them. Arrest them, besiege them and lie in ambush everywhere for them"*

After the July, 2005, bombings in London a *YouGov* poll found six percent of British Muslims considered the attacks were justified, that is an estimated 100,000 Muslims. One in four of all British Muslims expressed some measure of understanding for what drove the bombers to commit the acts. Nearly one in five (18 per cent) said they had no primary loyalty to this country, giving as their reason that *"western society is decadent and immoral"*.

In the United States recently, the political journal *Commentary*, carried a prominent article entitled *"The Islamization of Europe"*<sup>14</sup> written by a prominent British political analyst, David Pryce Jones, in which he summarized;

*"In the meantime, a battle of a different but no less decisive kind has been taking place within Europe, where some twenty million Muslims have settled. Thanks on one hand to their high birth-rate, and on the other hand to the sub-replacement birth-rate that has become the norm among other Europeans, the demographic facts alone suggest a continent ripe for a determined effort to advance the Islamist agenda . . .*

*"Those in Europe who have striven in ways great and small to extend special privileges to Muslims, while subtly deprecating their own national identity and culture, have indeed opened the way to Islamist separation and Islamist agitation. They have thereby hastened the very clash of civilizations that they (or some of them) foolishly claim they are avoiding.*

<sup>14</sup>December, 2004

*If Bassam Tibi is correct in stating 'either Islam gets Europeanized or Europe gets Islamicized' powerful forces are at work to foreclose the question."*

In an article in the *The Spectator*<sup>15</sup>, Dr Patrick Sookdheo, the Director of the *Institute for the Study of Islam and Christianity*, stated:

*"The Muslim community (in Britain) now inhabits principally the urban centres of England as well as some part of Scotland and Wales. It forms a spine running down the centre of England from Bradford to London, with the ribs extending east and west. It is said that within 10 to 15 years most British cities in these areas will have Muslim-majority populations, and will be under local Islamic political control, with the Muslim community living under Sharia . . . For some time now the British government has been quoting a figure of 1.6 million for the Muslim population. Muslims themselves claim around 3 million, and this is likely to be far nearer to the truth. The growth of the Muslim community comes from their high birth rate, primary immigration, and asylum seekers both official and unofficial . . ."*

There is alarm also in Russia where it is estimated that the Muslim population is increasing rapidly, now 23 million in a total population of 144 million. In addition to the 3 to 4 million immigrants from former Soviet states, such as Azeris and Kazakhs, there are reported increasing numbers of intelligent but disillusioned Russian youth who are converting to Islam. In 1991 Russia had around 500 mosques, but a recent figure is given as 5,000 mosques, helped by funds from the Middle East.

Meanwhile, with an emerging militant Islam in al-Qaeda spreading in the Middle East supplemented by Hezbollah in Lebanon, the ambitions of fundamentalist Islam have been accelerated by the belligerent statement by Osama bin Laden's second-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahiri, declaring in a world-wide media broadcast:

*"O nations of the crusade alliance, we proposed that you at least stop your aggression against the Muslims. The lion of Islam, mujahid Sheikh Osama bin Laden, may God preserve him, offered you a truce until you*

<sup>15</sup>30 July, 2005

*leave the land of Islam. Has Sheikh Osama bin Laden not informed you that you will not dream of security until we live it in reality in Palestine and before all infidel armies leave the land of (the prophet) Muhammad, may peace be upon him. You, however, shed rivers of blood in our land so we exploded volcanoes of anger in your land".*

With all the centralizing of pro-Islam and pro-Israel conflict in regional and international politics, one of the most intriguing of Biblical prophecies is the Israeli Prophet Daniel's revelations of the "last days of the world" is concentrated around a Babylon-Jerusalem axis. It was revealed to him as part of a vision reaching from his own time to the final catastrophe of the world-ending Battle of Armageddon,<sup>16</sup> the divinely prophesied post-Armageddon Millennium reign of Israel's Messiah. The pivotal country and character of Daniel's prophesied "last days" are Babylon/Iraq and its Nebuchadnezzar-like dictatorial world ruler confronting an implacable Israel.

It raises the intriguing question for conservative evangelical scholars in the West's Churchoids of Satan: Are these signs of the polarization of the Biblically prophesied "end times" of the world, with the nations of the world gathering in confrontation in the Mesopotamian/Mediterranean region over the issue of Israel/Islam; and will Israel's enemies be Islam and its supporters led by a nemesis like a greater Saddam Hussein or Osama bin Laden?

## **Chapter 10**

**will be available on this site on the 1st July 2012**

<sup>16</sup>The three near-future great empires of his vision, Babylon, Medo-Persian and Greece, all had Babylon as their goal and centre of world rule; and Mark Anthony of Rome was on his way to Babylon when he was distracted by Cleopatra of Egypt