

**BANNER OF TRUTH**

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**THE FALSE RELIGION OF ISLAM**

In a world of false religions, ISLAM is now emerging from a somewhat decadent state of past centuries to an active religious force of great dimension. Not only is Islam a force of evil against God and His will for man, it is a force of evil in the physical sense, as we have seen recently.

The term "Religion" is often used in a very broad sense. One definition by *Webster* is, "something a person believes in and follows devotedly." Though it is a common thing for people to think of "Religion" as it relates to God and His will as recorded in the Bible, it is often used to refer to a wide variety of beliefs which are not based upon the true God and His will. In the following discussion we shall consider Religion which is not based upon the true God and His will for man, as a False Religion. Of the many false religions, Islam is an important one.

True religion, as it pertains to God and the worship of Him in accordance with His will, goes all the way back to the family of Adam and Eve. Since that time, only the religion authorized by God has been acceptable to God. But history has recorded a multitude of FALSE religions. From the coming of Christ and the bringing into force the New Covenant, there has been only one True Religion, Christianity. There have been, as is the case today, many "so-called" Christian religions. They are False Religions. In fact, in today's religious world only a minuscule part of it is the true God-approved religion of Christianity.

The New Testament is replete with warnings concerning false religions. Even our Lord said, "Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing..." (Ma. 7:15). To Timothy Paul wrote, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith..." (I Tim. 4:1). "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine;...and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and be turned unto fables" (2 Tim.. 4:3-4). Peter said, "But there were false prophets among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you" (2 Pet. 2:1). John said, "...but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (I Jno. 4:1). Jude speaks of "...ungodly men, turning the grace of God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 4). The above are only part of the warnings concerning false religion.

We are discussing **The False Religion Of Islam** because it is a rapidly growing false religion, and that growth is very pronounced here in our own country. Not only is it a False Religion, but it is a very militant one at that, as demonstrated by the evil and tragic acts of terrorism on September 11th, when several thousand innocent lives were taken, and property destroyed to the tune of billions of dollars. In addition, there is no way to measure the emotional and physical suffering

brought on by that evil act. We are not the only country to suffer from Islamic terrorism. Others have as well.

It is not my intention to leave the impression that all Islamic adherents are as evil as those involved in the recent terrorist attacks. I'm sure they aren't. But it is a fact that from that false religion has come incomprehensible wickedness in the form of terrorism and the subjugating of millions of people, as has been so amply demonstrated in Afghanistan. That more than a few of the Muslims are radicals was evidenced by the multitudes who were so jubilant when they learned of the evil acts against our country by their fellow Muslims, on September 11th. Thousands were euphoric, as shown by their demonstrations, not only in Afghanistan but in other countries as well.

But an even greater wickedness than the terrorist activities, is that of the deluding of millions of souls by false teaching, which will result in the eternal destruction of their souls. While some Muslims do not engage in physical evil acts against others, no Muslim is a "good person" by God's standards. No one who follows a false religion is good in God's sight, since such people are denying God and His will for man. All false religions are in opposition to God and our Savior who died to make men free, through obedience to their will.

In our discussion of The False Religion of Islam we shall give some attention to its beginning and some happenings over the centuries. But our main concern is what Islam is today and what influence it can have upon us, and upon the church. It is much more important to understand what Islam is now than what it was centuries ago. The continued advance of liberalism within the denominational world makes Islam an even greater threat. Since a great many of our own brethren are drifting farther and farther into denominationalism, the chances are greater that some of them will come to have an affinity for Islam as they have for other false religions. As threats to the Lord and His church increase, our responsibility to "stand fast in the faith" is even more urgent.

### **THE BEGINNING OF ISLAM**

The information as to the time, place, and persons involved in the beginning of Islam, seems to be quite uniform. Most encyclopedias provide that information. Therefore, we will not give much attention to the beginning of this false religion. One thing it has in common with many other false religions is the claim of inspired revelation other than the Bible.

The story of Islam begins in the central part of the Arabian peninsula in 570 A.D. at a place called Mecca, where Mohammed was born. His father was Abdulla and his mother was Aminah. Abdulla died before Mohammed's birth and Mohammed's mother died when he was six years old. He was raised by an uncle and his grandfather, who was said to be a high priest in a pagan religion.

The religion of Arabia was dominated by the Semitic influence, which included a wide variety of idolatry. Although the religion was overwhelmingly pagan, there were some Jews and "Christians" in Arabia. Even among the pagans there was an idea emerging of one god, the creator of all things, Allah. In Mecca was a sanctuary called the Kaaba. The Arabian tribes visited the Kaaba, a cubical building which was known as "House of Allah." Though it was the House of Allah, it contained 360 idols. It also contained a black stone which had supposedly been brought down from heaven. Muslims now believe the original Kabba was built by Abraham and the black stone placed there by him. Of course the Bible knows nothing of such a story. When Mohammed declared himself a prophet of Allah, things were somewhat favorable to the acceptance of Allah and Mohammed as his prophet.

Mohammed was a person of little education. He was given to moods and restlessness, spending much time in meditation. When he was about 25 he married a wealthy widow, some fifteen years older than himself. After her death he had several wives, one reportedly only seven years old.

When Mohammed was around 40 years old he claimed that the angel Gabriel appeared to him in a cave when he was meditating, and told him that he was God's messenger. Some say that he was not "at himself" when he supposedly received the revelations. From this point onward for about 22 years, Mohammed claimed to receive revelations from God (Allah). These supposed revelations make up what is called the Qur'an, or Koran as it is often written. This is the Muslim's "Holy Book."

In his first few years as a so-called prophet, Mohammed had little success. In fact, he met with some stiff opposition. When he made plans to destroy the 360 idols of the Kaaba his opposition was so intense that he had to flee to Medina. This flight to Medina in 622 A.D. was of such importance that it became known as the beginning of Islam, the "Hijra." The Islam calendar begins at this date, using A. H. as a designation of the years from the flight to Medina. Muhammad's death in 632 is known to Muslims as 10 A.H.

At Medina, Mohammad had great success and converted the most of the city. He reportedly had all those who would not convert to his teaching murdered. In 630 A.D., he gathered an army of several thousand and set out to take Mecca. Most of the city agreed to accept his teaching, thereby preventing warfare. One source says that Mohammad claimed he had been commissioned to steal from the caravans which passed through the country. The Koran reportedly records 66 battles by the Muslims, whereby many thousands were murdered. This shows from early on that the Muslims have been known for their murders and evil deeds against those who are not Muslims. As we go back and review the history of Islam, there is good reason to be concerned with what the Muslims are thinking and planning, to say nothing of the evidence which has been brought to bear so heavily in recent times. All Muslims are not alike, but how does one know what the individual Muslim is like?

### ***"THE GLORIOUS KORAN"***

As stated earlier, the supposed revelations received by Mohammed over a period of 22 years make up the Koran. The Koran, which means "The Reading," is supposed to be a revelation "direct from God." But as is the case with virtually all false religions, their supposed revelations from God are lacking in proof of their authenticity. The Koran is supposed to be the final authority from God, so Muslims claim, but this is not according to fact. I have a copy of *The Meaning Of The Glorious Quran, Text & Explanatory Translation* by Marmaduke Pickthall. This volume, printed by TaJ Company Ltd., in Karachi, Pakistan, is considered to be the a most reliable translation of the Koran.

In addition to the Koran, the Muslims have an additional authority to suit their desires. This source of authority is known as *The Sunnah* or the *Hadith*. This has reference to the "tradition" of the prophet or what others heard him say, and the opinions of certain theologians of the second century. When the Muslims looked for a tradition to suit their desires and needs and couldn't find one, they simply made up one to suit them, or what they wanted. This same principle is seen today in religion. This is especially true of the Catholic Church. They contend that tradition is as authoritative as is God's word. By "tradition" just about anything can be justified. It is clear that Muslims of today make great use of the *Sunna* to justify many things which are not taught in the

Koran, though it teaches much error and advocates a great deal of evil which is contrary to God's will. Later we will give some examples of teaching of the Koran and the *Sunna* which are in conflict with the clear teaching of the Bible.

### SOME MUSLIM TERMS

**Koran, some times Qur'an.** As noted before the word means "The Reading," referring to the revelations supposedly received by Muhammad. The book, about the size of the New Testament, is divided into 114 chapters or *suras*. It is accepted by Muslims as a direct revelation from God to Muhammad, by the angel Gabriel. It is revered as the foundation of Islamic law, religion, culture, and politics. As noted above, it is not the only source of authority accepted by Muslims. It could be said of all false religions, that they receive something as authority other than the complete revelation of God.

**Islam.** This term was used by Muhammad to describe the religion he founded. The term is an Arabic word which means 'acceptance', 'surrender', 'submission', or 'commitment.' The term is used to denote man's supposed proper relationship to God (Allah).

**Muhammadanism.** This term is used to designate the faith of Muslims. It is derived from the fact that Muhammad or Mohammed, claims to be a prophet of God. Muslims do not like to be called Muhammadians.

**Mosque.** This is a Muslim temple or place of public worship. Some of these are very large and greatly embellished in various ways. I had the opportunity to be in the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, and it was an elaborate place dedicated to the leading of people into soul-destroying error.

**Ali** (Ali ibn Abi). Muhammad's first cousin and adopted son. Husband of Fatima.

**Allah.** The one god of the Muslims, and claimed to be the one true God, Jehovah. Muslims do not believe in the trinity.

**Minaret.** The tall steeple which is a part of every mosque. The **Muezzin** is the crier whose voice is heard over the speakers from the minaret.

**Ka'ba.** The square building in the great Mosque in Mecca. Pilgrims to Mecca are to march around this building seven times and kiss the sacred black stone, which some believe to be a meteor.

**Ramadan.** The anniversary of the first month of the Muslim calendar year which was established in 622 A.D. Muslims are to fast from food, drink and sex during daylight hours of that month.

**Jihad.** This term means "holy war." It is said that Muhammad led a group of men in an attack on a caravan of traders to take their possessions, and the battle at first went against the Muslims. When Muhammad told his troops that it was not they, but God, who killed, the battle went in their favor. One source said that the sword became the motivating force that spread Islam throughout the Arabian peninsula and into Africa and Asia.

### EARLY AND LATER SPREAD OF ISLAM

It was no less than amazing at the rapidity at which the new religion of Islam conquered by military might the nations near Arabia and then more distant ones. The first Muslim expeditions into Palestine and Syria, primarily for plunder, did extend Islam. In 633 virtually all of Palestine and Syria came under Muslim control. All of Iraq was under Muslim control in 637. Egypt was invaded in 639 and within two years all the country except Alexandria had fallen. It, too, was soon to fall. In 641 the Iranian plateau and adjoining areas fell to Islam. The Muslim military

power then went westward across North Africa and into Spain in 711 A.D. The Muslim advance into Europe was stopped by the French king, Charles Martel in 732 A. D. A most amazing thing about the above conquest is that those countries, other than Spain and Sicily, are still under Islamic control.

Early in the eleventh century some conquests were made into India, but it would be the middle of the twelfth century before northern India would come under Muslim control. Conquests in Indonesia were more peaceful, through trade, teaching and intermarriages. Today Indonesia has the largest Muslim population of any country, about 165 million. The Turks took Constantinople in 1453, and then made forays into the Balkan states. Eastern Europe prevented the Turks from gaining control of those states. Therefore, the Muslim population is not as great as in many other places.

The growth of Islam, especially in the African countries, has been at the expense of the so-called Christians. The greatest number of conversions to Islam in those countries has been among the black population, a subject we shall discuss later.

### **THE WANING OF ISLAM**

In the 1700s and the 1800s, Islam saw a real decline, a real setback. The growth which was so characteristic early on and for several centuries thereafter was no longer a reality. The religion had lost its vitality. Reasons are given for this decline. First, the three great Muslim powers of the seventeenth century: Ottoman in Turkey, the Mogul in India, and the Persian in Iran, had fallen under the influence of Europe by 1850. There were several positive things which influenced the European influence. The result of the Renaissance brought strength. The New World had been discovered. The Industrial Revolution enabled the Europeans to make great advances and extend their political influence in those three areas mentioned above. Therefore, the European influence somewhat overshadowed the influence of Islam which had been so strong for so long. In fact, in Egypt and North Africa the British and French gained control of sizable territories. The British established themselves in southern Arabia and the Persian Gulf. The Dutch were in control of Indonesia. The British were also in control of Singapore and Malaysia. This put Islam at a great disadvantage, which would last for quite some time, that is until the domination and influence of the European countries ceased.

### **THE RESURGENCE OF ISLAM**

Some efforts to revive Islam were being put forth as early as the late 1700s. The nineteenth century would see greater efforts devoted to this accomplishment. More serious efforts were put forth to throw off outside domination and enjoy independence. The twentieth century would see an increase of opposition to British rule in India.

Between World War I and World War II, pressure for independence from foreign domination grew as never before, among Muslims. With the Arabs a spirit of nationalism had been growing for quite some time.

After World War II, a powerful spirit of revival became a reality in Islam. A number of countries gained their independence from the British and others. The independent states now had the opportunity to contribute to the resurgence of Islam in a powerful way through political control and other means. They took advantage of that opportunity. Some have called this a renaissance of Islam. The present growth of Islam far outstrips anything seen by anyone living today.

Efforts to expand Islam for a few decades after World War II, took on a somewhat new form.

Whereas in many centuries past the expansion of Islam was by the sword, there was less emphasis on this in the above period. Efforts were made to make progress through education, political influence, and evangelism. Efforts were more peaceful than before.

However, in the past decade or so, the old means of making gains by force are being seen. The acts of terrorism have increased dramatically, the September 11th episode being the greatest terrorist attack ever brought upon our country. This danger is so great that it has called for “A Global War On Terrorism.” For several weeks now we have seen the beginning of that war in Afghanistan. The evil and radical Taliban, and those who support it, both in Afghanistan and other countries, is the strongest of evidence that Islam is at least in part resorting to its old ways. A great matter of concern! The way of life for Americans will, or has changed. Americans would do well to educate themselves with regard to Islam. Because some Muslims are not as radical as others, doesn’t mean that there is no danger in the Islamic religion.

## TWO MAIN DIVISIONS OF ISLAM

There are many sects within Islam, but there are two which make up most of Islam. It is to these two divisions that we are giving some attention.

**The Sunni.** This group makes up 85 to 90 percent of Islam. The Sunni accepts the Koran and the *Sunna*, “Tradition of the prophets,” as their guide. Most of the Islamic nations are controlled by these Muslims. They are generally more peaceful than the Shiites, but they are still a false religion.

**The Shiites.** About 10 or 15 percent of Muslims are Shiites. They consider themselves to be “The true believers,” and accept the Koran as their complete guide. They do not accept the “Saying of the Prophet” as authentic. These are the more radical of the Muslims, and are dominant in Iran.

With all the variant beliefs of Islam, just about any action, regardless of how evil it may be, can be justified by some. If most of the Muslims are peaceful, as some claim, why don’t they expel from their ranks and isolate those who are so radical and so evil? This is a serious question.

## THE PILLARS OF ISLAM

There are five things, called “Pillars,” which every Muslim is supposed to do. They are:

1. Recite the following statement: “There is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet.”
2. Pray five times each day, facing Mecca.
3. All Muslims are to give alms to help their needy fellow Muslims.
4. In the month of Ramadan the Muslim must fast, abstaining from food, drink and sex during the daylight hours of each day.
5. If physically and financially able, a Muslim is to make a pilgrimage to Mecca once in a lifetime.

To the above “pillars” some have added another, a sixth. It is known as “**Jihad**,” or “The Holy War.” This is in no sense of the term a “Holy War,” since it is used for the expansion and defense of Islam. In recent times we have heard much about Holy War. A prime example is that of Bin Laden and his evil cohorts in Afghanistan. Many Muslims have declared a “Holy War” against America. A powerful strike in behalf of that evil objective was the murder of thousands of innocent Americans, the destruction of property to the tune of billions of dollars, and the bringing of untold physical and mental suffering. This “strike” of “Holy War” occurred on September 11th.

## FIVE ARTICLES OF FAITH

The five articles of faith, very briefly stated, are as follow: (1) Belief in only one true God. (2) Belief in angels, that each person has two. (3) There are four inspired books accepted by Muslims: The Koran (the greatest) (4) God has spoken through many prophets: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, with Muhammad the last and greatest. (5) There will be a resurrection and a judgment of the good and evil. Some add a 6th article of faith, that is belief in predestination, that all things are controlled by Allah, not by man.

One of the great inconsistencies of these Five Articles of Faith is that of the supposed acceptance of Jesus, with Muhammad being greater than Jesus. In Islam there are so many things which are in direct opposition to the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Others claim to believe in Christ but they relegate Him to a place which is far beneath His position as God's Son. The JW's claim to believe in Jesus but they make Him a little god in John 1:1, by calling Him "a god."

In our coming discussion we are going to give attention to Islam and its influence upon society in general and upon our own society in particular. The history of Islam in the past, even from its beginning, is worthwhile, but it is not due the concern of present day Islam. As Christians we should be especially concerned, but those who aren't Christians have a right to be concerned. We need to bear in mind that to the Muslim all people who are not Muslims are "unbelievers," or "infidels." It has been the objective of many Muslims to rid the world of unbelievers and infidels by violence and that includes us. It is not unreasonable to believe that the objective of the resurgence of Islam is the conquest of the world, to bring it all under Muslim control.

### **PRESENT DAY ISLAM WORLDWIDE**

The extent of Islam worldwide has increased to the point that it is a major religion, second only to so-called Christianity. Whereas a couple of centuries ago a sizable presence of Islam was found primarily in the Middle East, today most countries of the world have more than "just a few" Muslims, and their numbers are increasing at a rapid pace.

Microsoft Encarta Online Encyclopedia 2001, has an article by Ahamad S. Dallal, associate professor of Islam Studies at Yale University, which is very informative. It says there are a billion Muslims in 40 predominately Muslim countries in five continents. Their numbers are said to be growing at a rate unmatched by any other religion in the world. In spite of the wide diversity of Islam, a core of beliefs is said to provide a basis for identity and affinity among Muslims. The modern expression of Islam is as diverse as the countries in which Muslims live, the article said.

The AP carried an article by *The Washington Times*, published 11/17/2001, entitled "Faith, politics collide at start of Ramadan." This article gives some examples of present day thinking of Muslims. We shall note a few brief examples.

In Saudi, Arabia, Sheik Mohammed Tawwash asked God to protect innocent Muslims and give them victory over the infidels and enemies of Islam. In Jordan, Abdul-Wahah Kassabeh asked God to wreak vengeance on: Americans, Jews, their allies and whosoever stands behind them. He prayed to God to disperse them and give a great victory to the holy warriors in Palestine, Afghanistan and Chechnya.

In Lebanon, a senior Shiite Muslim Cleric told worshippers that the U.S. was trying to crush the Taliban in order to establish a strategic base in Central Asia. Away from the pulpit there was no shortage of statements in favor of bin Laden and the al Qaeda terrorist. In Kohbar, in Arabia, Ahmed (first name not given), 25, said the Americans are digging their own graves and, God willing, the holy warriors in Afghanistan would bury them soon.

On a different note from Muslims, Mr. Sadiq said, in the northern town of Taloquan in Afghanistan, the Northern Alliance would bring good government, granting the rights of women, and the rights of educated people to bring a real Islam. These Muslims are also of a false religion.

### ISLAM IN OUR AMERICA

In our day of such fantastic communication we learn of matters of concern virtually as they happen. It is good to know what is going on in our shrinking world; we are often affected by the same. But when things happen here at home, **In Our America**, it is somewhat different. I can't think of a better example of this than the terrorist attacks which we have already mentioned a number of times. Since this terrible act was perpetrated and carried out by Muslims, we have the more reason to be concerned about Islam In Our America.

We have seen by the horrendous acts of terrorism on September 11th what Islam can do, and was willing to do, to America. Were all the Muslims in America involved in this evil act? Of course not. It is a matter of fact, however, that some had a part. It is not known, and may never be, just how many Muslims were involved. This makes the matter even more serious because it is impossible to ferret out all of those who are our enemies.

We are currently hearing a lot about "profiling." To give special attention to Muslims would be opposed by some as "religious profiling." But if people of any particular group are much more likely to be our enemies, then common sense tells us to give more attention and scrutiny to that group.

From what we are now hearing, we as a country have been woefully remiss by allowing thousands of Muslims into our country and then not keeping track of them, as we should of others who pose a danger. Thousands of Muslims have entered this country on student visas, yet many of them have never entered a school. This should have made them suspect in the first place. Yet, we have not kept up with their whereabouts and their actions!

Some may ask, "What does this have to do with those of us who are Christians, and why give so much space in *Banner of Truth*?" This is a very easy question to answer, and we shall do so. Islam in our country has much to do with us from a religious standpoint, to say nothing of the physical danger that it poses. You see, Muslims, according to their teaching, are supposed to be the enemies of Christians. To them we are "unbelievers" or "infidels." They are supposed to oppose us and if they don't they are not true to their religion. If Muslims had control of our country, and this could happen as it has happened in many countries, Christianity would be strongly opposed, making the practice of it extremely difficult. What, you may ask, is the basis of my conclusion? My response — Just look at the countries which are now under Islamic control! Under Islamic control, freedom of religion often ceases to exist! Talk to our brethren who have been involved in missionary efforts in predominately Muslim countries.

Please let it be understood that I am not in any way opposed to teaching and trying to convert Muslims. They stand in need of salvation as do the adherents of other false religions. More than thirty years ago I had an opportunity to speak to the Lord's church in Jerusalem. It was made up primarily of Arabs, who were converted. The Great Commission is to "go into all the world." But at the same time, we are making a huge mistake if we fail to see the serious threat against Christianity which is posed by Islam in general, especially radicals.

As we continue our discussion of Islam in our country we shall give some attention to its early beginnings and its rapid spread in the past century, especially in the last half of that century.

### THE RISE OF ISLAM IN AMERICA



Some sources say that there are now in America some five million Muslims, though an accurate count is almost impossible. They have very active programs to proselyte additional members. One estimation is that Muslims are increasing by as much as 135,000 each year. At that rate, it will not take many years before there is a very sizable number, which can begin to exert more influence. A Muslim, Louis Farrakhan, is the leading spokesman for Black Muslims at present. We all remember the “Million Man March,” of a few years ago, with Farrakhan as the leader. Few may have realized the significance of this event as it relates to the propagation of Islam. A great percentage of the converts to Islam are from the black population.

If I remember correctly, there are said to be about 600 Muslim mosques or temples in the U.S. I heard a report from one who has done an extensive study of Islam in the U.S. This man had video clips from Muslim services where there were very militant attitudes toward non-Muslims being advocated. This is understandable due to the basic teachings of the Muslims, and actions in the past.

One cannot do justice to the rise of Islam in the U.S. without considering a movement which took place within the black population, beginning in a very forceful way about the middle of the past century. We shall discuss that movement under the heading of:

### **THE BLACK MUSLIMS**

William H. Banks, Jr. is the author of a book, *The Black Muslims*, copyrighted 1997. To this volume I am indebted for much of the following information about The Black Muslims.

The Black Muslim movement was also known as “The Nation of Islam.” The extent of the growth of this movement was evidenced on October 16, 1995, when thousands and thousands of black people from all over the U. S., arriving by virtually every means of transportation, met in Washington, DC, in behalf of the “Million Man March,” led by Muslim, Louis Farrakhan. The program began in front of the Capitol steps. Some fifty or more African-Americans of some note, including Jesse Jackson, spoke. Later in the day, Louis Farrakhan spoke for more than two hours.

Farrakhan urged the people to be more like Jesus, Muhammad, and Moses. Though the “Million Man March” was supposed to encourage positive activities among the black population, the urging of people to be like Muhammad, shows the strong Muslim emphasis. Farrakhan also asked that women not attend the rally. This is in keeping with the superiority of men over women by Islam.

As the head of the Nation of Islam, Farrakhan had spoken out against the wickedness of the whites. He had also delivered attacks against Jews. The Nation of Islam, of which Farrakhan is now the leader, contended that blacks were the “Original Men” and destined to rule the earth.

### **NATION OF ISLAM, EARLY BACKGROUND**

Due to lack of space we can only touch upon the high points of this movement. This early background involves a time when many of the black people from the south had gone or were going to the industrial north, with the hopes of finding a better way of life. Under the guise of good intentions, some leaders led thousands to accept a form of Islam. This accounts for many of the Muslims in the U. S., and especially among the black population.

An advocate of racial separatism, Marcus Garvey, founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). By 1919, a claim of two million members was made. Garvey traveled extensively through the U. S. and Canada. Garvey published a paper, *Negro World*, which reached a circulation of 60,000. Garvey opposed integration and favored separatism. The UNIA failed, and

in 1922, Garvey joined hands with the KKK. The next year Garvey was imprisoned for mail fraud.

About this same time another leader, Noble Drew, established the Moorish Temple of America. In a visit to Morocco, the king supposedly told Drew to teach Islam to African Americans. Drew, who also claimed that blacks were superior to whites, founded his first temple in 1915, in Newark, New Jersey. Drew issued national ID cards to his followers, which declared the holder believed in Divine prophets: Jesus, Muhammad, Buddha, and Confucius. Many of Drew's followers were former followers of Garvey.

In the beginning of the 1930's depression, Wallace Fard led a movement in Detroit, called the Lost-Found Nation of Islam. Fard claimed to be a prophet from Arabia to help black Americans find their dual African and Islamic heritage's. Fard said the white man was the devil himself and the embodiment of evil.

A devout follower of Fard was Elijah Poole, who had moved to Detroit in 1923. Through the influence of Abdul Mohammed, a former member of the Moorish Temple, Poole was converted to the Nation of Islam in 1930. Pool would in time become the leader of the Nation of Islam. The extent of Pool's devotion to Fard is shown in a statement that he recognized him to be "God in person." Fard would accept the role of Allah, declaring himself the Jesus. Poole's name would be changed to the Islamic name of Elijah Muhammed. He would later produce a "guidebook" for the Nation of Islam which Black Muslims are said to follow to this day. He established Temple Number One in Detroit and Temple Number Two in Chicago.

Around 1934, Fard mysteriously disappeared. It was then that Elijah Muhammad assumed much power, but there was some suspicion aroused. He condemned Christianity as the white man's religion and supported Islam.

In 1941, with the coming of World War II, a hundred Black Muslims, including Muhammad, were arrested by the FBI for failure to register for the draft. Muhammad was imprisoned along with others. Released from prison in 1946, Muhammad renewed his influence among Black Muslims. He started a number of enterprises, and encouraged black businesses. Muhammad would maintain control of the Nation of Islam until his death in 1975, a follower of his, Mark Little, would take the spotlight from 1952 and onward for a number of years.

**Malcolm Little.** Malcolm started out early in disrespect for authority. He had been in trouble with the law more than once when he was eleven years old. He was sent to a juvenile detention facility when he was 13. He was sent to prison when he was 20 for bank robbery. Influenced by one of his brothers, Malcolm became interested in the Nation of Islam. When he was released from prison in 1952 he became involved in the operation of Nation's Temple Number One in Detroit. By now he had changed his name to **Malcolm X**. Within his first few months with Temple One the membership had tripled, and he became the assistant minister. By the end of the 1950s, 50 temples were in operation.

With an increased audience, now **Malcolm X** increases his verbal attacks against "the white devil," the white man But when journalist Mike Wallace narrated a television program entitled, "The Hate that Hate Produced," many eyes were opened to the reality of the hatred of whites by the Black Muslims and their supporters. The bitter and harsh words of Malcolm X created fear and distrust. At this time Martin Luther King, Jr. was fighting for the rights of blacks by integration, but Malcolm X would have no part in a goal of integration. He had only dislike for the whites and the blacks who favored integration. He favored a separate state for blacks, a country of their own. Malcolm called on blacks to fight for their rights, and if necessary use "bullet for bullet." He attacked African-American clergymen, and Christianity as tools of the white man. This

proved a great setback for the Nation of Islam.

With Muhammad's health failing, Malcolm X was appointed national minister of the movement and became the official spokesman for the Nation of Islam. Though Muhammad was officially in control, he was out of the spotlight, and moved to Arizona. With the absence of Muhammad in the Chicago office, trouble soon developed between Malcolm X and others of note.

Malcolm X began to realize that his methods were not accomplishing his objectives, while those fighting for civil rights and integration had accomplished some worthwhile things. He urged Muhammad to make some changes and allow the Nation of Islam to protest against the civil rights advocates. Soon the Nation removed Malcolm X as editor of their paper *Muhammad Speaks*. His coverage by the paper was also reduced. Later, he was not allowed to appear on television news broadcasts.

Malcolm X was stunned in 1963 by a suit brought against Elijah Muhammad, the supposed divine Messenger of Allah, by two of his former secretaries. The paternity suits claimed that Muhammad was the father of their four children. He never denied this, but rather justified it on the basis that he was a prophet. This shows the hypocrisy of the so-called prophet.

The breach between Muhammad and Malcolm X continued to widen. Muhammad suspended Malcolm X's duties as national minister for 90 days. With the idea of making a comeback, Malcolm got in contact with a prize fighter, Cassius Clay, who was to convert to Islam. Helping Clay to prepare for a fight which he won, did little for Malcolm. In 1964, Malcolm X was relieved of his duties as minister of Temple Number Seven. He was surprised to learn that a Muslim official had ordered his assassination. Malcolm X announced his departure from the Nation of Islam. He went about to establish his own revolutionary group, Muslim Mosque. He made a pilgrimage to Mecca and a number of other Muslim countries. Upon his return he changed his name to declare his conversion to Orthodox Islam. Malcolm declared that he had changed his mind about some of his beliefs, but the differences between him and others did not diminish. In February 1965, Malcolm X was killed by gunmen as he was preparing to speak.

Five days after the killing of Malcolm X, Elijah Muhammad declared that Malcolm was a "star who had gone astray." On this "Savior's Day," former Black Muslims who had been devoted to Malcolm's activism at one time were gathered. In their midst was a young minister whom Malcolm had called "little brother." That little brother was Louis Farrakhan. To him we shall give some attention.

### **LOUIS FARRAKHAN — LOUIS X**

Farrakhan spent his early years in Boston, where some of his family had been acquainted with Marcus Garvey's UNIA. Through an uncle he became interested in the teaching of Islam. In 1952, Farrakhan heard Elijah Muhammad speak in Chicago. Due to a prearranged plan, Muhammad gave special attention to Farrakhan, impressing him greatly. In fact, he was so impressed that he joined the Nation of Islam immediately. Soon afterward he heard Malcolm X speak and was further impressed with Islam. Louis X's faith in Muhammad remained steadfast in spite of Muhammad's immoral actions.

Before the death of Malcolm X, Farrakhan would become his bitter enemy. The rift between them widened. After the death of Malcolm X, Farrakhan admitted that his strong opposition may have created a condition which led to his murder.

Soon after the death of Malcolm X, Farrakhan was appointed minister of Temple Number Seven in New York, where Malcolm X had preached for years. Louis' critics accused him of fi-

nancial mismanagement, and the FBI was concerned and launched an investigation, but didn't prosecute him.

Conflicts over the Nation of Islam's leadership arose in the early 1970s. Within a short time well over a dozen murders were committed. It was believed these were revenge killings. Some believed Farrakhan was involved. He did express his belief that anyone who killed a Muslim should be killed. At this period, though Elijah Muhammad was still in control of the Nation of Islam, Farrakhan was exercising considerable influence.

In 1972, the Nation of Islam received a \$3-million loan from the Libyan government for a temple in Chicago. The countries of Abu Dahhi and Qatar provided funds for the cause of Islam in America. Jumping ahead several years, in 1986 Farrakhan set about to develop closer ties with Orthodox Islam. In defiance of an executive order by President Ronald Reagan, he visited Libya and met with Muhammad El-Qaddafi. After his return home he got a five million dollar loan from El-Qaddafi. A question which arises in my mind with regard to Farrakhan's ties with Libya and El-Qaddafi. That question is — Would they have supplied this kind of money for the advancement of Islam in the U. S. if they thought it would be for the betterment of our country? Of course not, is my answer. This was an effort to advance Islam in another country, ours.

After the death of Elijah Muhammad in 1975, his son, Wallace, was appointed as Supreme Minister of the Nation of Islam. Wallace began to speak of reconciliation between blacks and whites, as Elijah Muhammad had begun to do in his later years. Differences soon arose between Wallace and Farrakhan, who was gaining influence. Due to sweeping changes by Muhammad Wallace, the Nation of Islam ceased to exist in October 1976. In its place would be "World Community of al-Islam in the West (WCIW).

In 1978, Farrakhan severed all ties with Muhammad Wallace and the WCIW, and soon announced his revival of the Nation of Islam. Both Farrakhan and Wallace declared themselves the spiritual heir of Elijah Muhammad. Farrakhan came out the winner, inheriting much of the property of the Nation of Islam. In 1978, Wallace resigned as leader of the WCIW. In 1984, Wallace initiated a voter registration program. Jesse Jackson was campaigning for presidency of the U. S.

Farrakhan was excited about Jackson's run for president, and registered to vote for the first time. Jackson's run was severely damaged when it was revealed that he had referred to Jews as "Hymies" and New York as "Hymietown." Farrakhan continued his criticism of Jews. He also compared himself to "a very great man — Adolph Hitler."

In 1985, Farrakhan went on a tour in the U. S. to establish black economic independence. It was in this connection that he got a five million dollar loan from El-Qaddafi in 1986. He encouraged the study of the Koran and sought to develop closer ties with Orthodox Islam.

Farrakhan gained considerable attention from the "Million Man March" which he advocated in 1994, and took place on October 16, 1995. We referred to this earlier under the heading of The Black Muslims. I would agree with William H. Banks, Jr, author of *The Black Muslims*, in his statement relative to Farrakhan that, "His remarks against non-blacks and his talk of a 'final battle' between good and evil—that is, blacks and whites—may upset many people." The hatred between blacks and whites is not the way to peace between them. The black Muslims have contributed greatly to problems within our society, and Christians should be concerned with any influence which creates a condition which is less conducive to the propagation of true Christianity, whether it be religious or otherwise.

**NOTE:** In our discussion of **The False Religion Of Islam** we have come to realize that more is involved than originally anticipated. Therefore, due to lack of space we are not continuing the

discussion until the next issue of *Banner of Truth*. We want to give more attention to the influence of Islam in our country at the present time. Though it is helpful to know about Islam in the past, by learning some of its characteristics, it is very important to understand what influence it is having now, and what can be expected in the future if it continues its present growth. All Americans should be concerned, but Christians have an even greater reason to be.

- - - Walter W. Pigg

## Christ's Word Will Judge

*Marvin L. Weir*

Some scoff at the concept of a Day of Judgment but it is just as sure as the resurrection of Christ. God's Word declares, *"The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent: inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead"* (Acts 17:30-31). People will continue to doubt and mock the idea of a universal judgment, but the Holy Scriptures do not lie. Jesus warns, *"But when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats; and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left"* (Mt.25:31-33).

**The Judgment will be both sudden and complete.** The judgment is coming, but no one on earth knows when. Many *claim* there are signs that suggest the date of the Judgment and thus dates are announced for the Lord's return. All that have been announced thus far have been wrong! The Bible states that only the Father knows the day and hour that the Son will come (Mt. 24:36), and reminds all to *watch* (Mt. 24:42), as He will come *in an hour that ye think not* (Mt. 24:44). Just as one does not know when a thief will strike, one does not know when Christ will return (Mt. 24:43).

The Judgment will be complete in that all the age of accountability will be judged (2 Cor. 5:10). Each person will be judged as an individual, and thus it matters not what others may or may not have done (Rev. 20:12; 22:12). The Judgment will be based upon whether you were obedient or disobedient to the will of God.

**The standard for the Judgment is the Word of God.** Jesus clearly states, *"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day"* (John 12:48). An ever growing number strongly **feel** that God's Word will not read the same in Judgment as it now reads. Friends, Acts 2:38 will still be the answer to "what must I do to be saved?" Repentance and baptism are prerequisites to salvation. Mark 16:15-16 will still read the same in the Day of Judgment: *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned."*

It will still be true that only Jesus is *"the way, the truth and the life"* (Jno. 14:6), and that no one will reach the Father but by Him. It will also be true that not everyone that saith unto Him,

*“Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven...”* (Mt. 7:21; Lk. 6:46).

Romans 6:4 will still be **burial**, and not a sprinkling. The Scripture reads and will read, *“We were buried therefore with him through baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.”* Obedience to the gospel will mean the same thing then as it means now. The apostle John said, *“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous”* (I Jno. 5:3). Those who choose to travel the *broad way* will lose their soul and those who choose to travel the *straitened way* will enjoy eternal life (Mt. 7:13-14). Nothing that the Bible states will change.

**All should be thankful that it is the Word of God that will judge them.** False and man-made standards will judge no one. If it were not for God’s Word it would be impossible to discern which man-made standard is correct. The reason there are so many human religious standards is because they are not based on God’s word, and it alone. Will one be judged by the catechism or the book of discipline? Will you be judged by what you think? Will a person be judged by a church manual or creed, or by the decree of some synod or council? Will your conscience be your judge, or will you be judged by what the majority thinks?

Friends, God *“hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his Son”* (Heb. 1:2). God no longer speaks to people through the fathers or prophets *“by divers portions and in divers manners”* (Heb. 1:1). Listen to the Psalmist as he declares, *“The sum of thy word is truth; and every one of thy righteous ordinances endureth for ever”* (Psa. 119:160).

The Father and the Son do not change (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8), and neither does their Word. In view of the coming Day of Judgment, do not forget the words of Christ: *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day”* (Jno. 12:48).

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## **Why Aren’t We Consistent?**

I went to see my doctor recently. I asked him what he thought about **anthrax**. In a humorous note he said someone asked, “What to you think about Amtrak?” My doctor went on to make a point, pointing out that (at that time) only four had died from anthrax, and that it was not easily spread, therefore lessening its danger. But people are so frightened. Though the use of tobacco kills four hundred thousand people each year (400,000), more than alcohol, aids, and two or three other major killers combined. Yet there is not as much concern about the danger of tobacco as there is about anthrax. Are we thinking seriously? Surely not!

God’s word teaches that we are to take care of our physical bodies (Cf. I Cor. 3:16-17; I Cor. 6:19-20). It cannot be right for us to allow any power to gain such control over us that we are willing to give up years of life rather than resist that power. I’ve known a number of Christians who died because of smoking. They knew it was killing them. Some quit too late. Others did not even try to quit. How sad! - - *Editor*

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

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**We extend our sincere wishes for a happy and safe Holiday Season to all our readers, our good supporters, the contributors of articles, those who have encouraged us in our work, and those who have given hours of labor to make *Banner of Truth* possible. May the Lord richly bless all our fellowhelpers to the truth.**

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**A special thanks goes to the  
Hickory Grove congregation  
which serves as the sponsor  
of *Banner of Truth*, and to**

***Dexter and Hickory Grove for their much labor.***

***In Christian love,***

***Walter and Naomi Pigg***

**Freed-Hardeman  
University**

Beginning in 1953, I spent almost three years in F-HC. Bro. H. A. Dixon was President of the school. I had great respect and appreciation for him, and will always be grateful for the things I was taught. Most of my subjects were Bible or Bible related; things I would need to preach. Both my wife and I helped to raise several thousand dollars for F-HC.

Some time after the death of brother Dixon, things began slowly to change. The greatest changes have occurred under the presidency of bro. Milton Sewell. Those changes are occurring more frequently now. The school is so different now when compared with what it was when I attended and helped raise support for it. These changes have been of great concern, since they have evidenced a departure from the plan of the founders of the school, and their emphasis upon teaching God's word and preparing men to preach, as well as teaching secular subjects.

There was a time (it is not so now) when a preacher from Freed-Hardeman could be counted on to stand for God's truth without compromise, with very few exceptions.

Things have happened in relatively recent times which indicate that the concern which used to prevail with regard to following God's word is no longer a concern of those who are now in control. This is a most serious matter and one with which brethren who are concerned about the truth should give serious attention. The sad thing about it, however, is that few brethren seem to care what happens. Brethren who contribute to the school could demand changes and see those changes take place, if only they wanted those changes. Obviously they do not.

Other schools: Lipscomb, Abilene, and Pepperdine turned away from the truth years ago. Freed-Hardeman has not changed as quickly, but change it has, and that change is speeding up with the passing of time. But even this does not change the minds of a great many; they will support it regardless of what direction is taken. Where is our brethren's loyalty? To schools or to Christ?

Your attention is called to the Freed-Hardeman University article on the opposite page. This is offered as additional evidence as to the direction FHU is taking. J. Wayne Kilpatrick is a liberal of

the liberals. Way back in 1984, at the Joplin Restoration Summit, where some one hundred preachers from Christian Churches and churches of Christ met, Wayne advocated bringing Christian Church preachers into Bible classes and then easing them into our pulpits. Under his name a retraction was made by another person. A speaker on the Nashville *Jubilee*, he has fellowshipped the rankest of liberals. there as well as at other places.

In 1992, Wayne sent out a letter to: “Dear Fellow Preachers,” singing his praises for the Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago. He wanted others to know what he had discovered. True and faithful brethren don’t accept the errors of the Community Church, or other denominations.

The church at Homewood, where Kilpatrick was the pulpit preacher, has had denominational people there to teach the members. On various occasions they have had such people as Jeff Walling, Acappella, and others.

J. Wayne Kilpatrick was the “commencement speaker” for the May 12 graduation at FHU. this year. This must be what the school now stands for.

The appointment of John Dale as a member of the Board at FHU with unanimous approval, According to bro. Milton Sewell, says a lot. John had preached in an evangelistic meeting at the Catholic Church here in Murray. I heard what he preached and have a tape of it. He simply participated in the Catholic’s *Jubilee Revival 2,000*, and didn’t even take issue with the false doctrines of the Catholics. Since that time Glendale Road had Jay Lockhart scheduled for a meeting. Just days ago they had Jimmy Allen scheduled. John encourages people to hear the false teachers at the Lipscomb Lectures.

Brother Adron Doran, recently deceased, wrote me under date of 8/10/93, concerning FHU. He said: : “the board is still in control. Please don’t give up on us until we have time to chart Milton’s course for him.” Bless his heart, brother Doran was never able to see that for which he had hoped.

- - - Walter W. Pigg

**SECOND ANNUAL  
BANNER OF TRUTH LECTURES June 24-27  
Curris Center - Murray State Univ.  
THEME:  
CHURCH GROWTH  
AS GOD WOULD HAVE IT  
MAKE PLANS NOW !!!**

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**Readers Response**

“Thanks for having Rick Warren’s letter from Purpose Driven Church. We used it in our community paper and had 25 people receive Christ at our service. Not bad for a letter written by a ‘heretic’. Please don’t crush our community church. . .I guess we should tell everyone to quit our ‘watered down liberal church right.’ (sic). We are the churches helping the people heart by relig-



ion and its politics (sic). Church boards running churches, politics voting over pastoral leadership, snubbing those who don't fit the self centered church. Check you heart man. I preach Christ and the whole truth just because our methods are different doesn't mean our message is. (sic). Religion doesn't save, relationships do Acts 2:42-47. Reach out to the lost and stop shooting at your fellow soldiers - **Pastor Ramey.**" (*"Pastor Ramey," I'm not trying to crush your community church. I do wish, however, that you would start listening to Jesus Christ and inspired New Testament writers instead of Rick Warren. We will be judged by the words of Christ (John 12:48), not by the words of Rick Warren. It is strange that you say your are helping people by "religion and its politics," and then say that "Religion doesn't save..." I will agree that religion doesn't save, but God's truth does (John 8:32). I note that Rick Warren is a member of a religion, but there is no indication that he is a New Testament Christian. His religion is unknown to God's saving power, the gospel. You say, "stop shooting at your fellow soldiers." It seems that you have blasted away at me! It is my prayer that you will forget Rick Warren and look to the Savior. Come to know his will and obey it. That is the only "relationship" which can save you or anyone. - Editor).*

*"Please discontinue our subscription to 'Banner of Truth' - **Jason Duncan.**" - NE. (Thanks for letting us know you no longer want Banner of Truth. - Ed.) >>>*

*"Please accept the enclosed donation to help in the publishing of 'Banner of Truth.' I appreciate receiving it. Thank you - **Jimmy L. Clark.**" - TX.*

*"Please drop. Thank you - **Byron Nichols.**" - MO.*

*"Would you please put me on the mailing list for your paper, Banner of Truth. I understand there is no charge for it. I saw a copy not long ago and appreciated the articles. I preached full time for 30 years, but my wife and I started a business. It had become extremely difficult to find a congregation where I could preach the whole counsel of God. I have gotten back into part-time preaching.....I look forward to receive your paper. I pray that God will continue to bless your work - **Kenneth Jarrett.**" - TN. (*We are glad to know that you are now preaching. There is such a need for men who declare the "whole counsel of God." I know what you mean by it being difficult to find a place where the whole counsel of God can be preached. When I began preaching, in the mid-1950s, the whole truth could be preached in most places, but it is so different now. - Editor).**

*"Please put me on your mailing list that I may receive your brotherhood paper....I would also like to add my mother. She recently obeyed the gospel, but is surrounded by friends that are well intentioned, but are denominational in their religious affiliation. Thank you very much for your consideration - **Michael Matusiak.**"*

*"I would appreciate receiving your publication 'Banner of Truth,'...May the Lord bless you in your stand for truth - **Dnald Finney.**" - MI.*

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