

Mauz Israel

R E P O R T

AN ISRAELI PROFESSOR OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION SPEAKS OUT:

Understanding the Language of Islam

The following speech was given by Professor Moshe Sharon at the Feast of Tabernacles Celebration, 2001, presented by the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem. While Professor Sharon does not present a very pretty picture, it is one that every Christian and Jew must know. The Battle of the Ages is shaping up, and we, as believers in Yeshua, may either face it or ignore it. Sharon is a leading orientalist in the Middle East, and was advisor on Arab affairs to the former Prime Minister Menachem Begin. He is currently professor of Islamic History and Middle Eastern Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and is, therefore, able to give western Christians and Jews credible information. This is information that no western television network would dare produce. Please read prayerfully. Ari & Shira Sorko-Ram

The war has started a long time ago between two civilizations - between the civilization based on the Bible and between the civilization based on the Koran. And this must be clear. There is no fundamental Islam. "Fundamentalism" is a word that came from the heart of the Christian religion. It means a faith that goes by the word of the Bible. Fundamental Christianity, or going with the Bible, does not mean going around and killing people. There is no fundamental Islam. There is only Islam full stop. The question is how the Koran is interpreted. All of a sudden we see that the greatest interpreters of Islam are politicians in the western world.



PAKISTANI PROTESTORS SHOUTING "ALLAH IS GREAT" RALLY AGAINST THE U.S.-LED ATTACKS ON AFGHANISTAN



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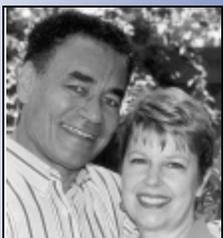
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Ari & Shira Sorko-Ram

They know better than all the speakers in the mosques, all those who deliver terrible sermons against anything that is either Christian or Jewish. These western politicians know that there is good Islam and bad Islam. They know even how to differentiate between the two, except that none of them know how to read a word of Arabic.

You see, so much is covered by politically correct language that, in fact, the truth has been lost. For example, when we speak about Islam in the west, we try to use our own language and terminology. We speak about Islam in terms of democracy and fundamentalism, in terms of parliamentarism and all kinds of terms, which we take from our own dictionary. One of my professors and one of the greatest orientalis in the world says that doing so is like a cricket reporter describing a cricket game in baseball terms. We cannot use for one culture or civilization the language of another. For Islam, you've got to use the language of Islam.

Let me explain the principles that are driving the religion of Islam. Of course, every Moslem has to acknowledge the fact that there is only one God. But it's not enough to say that there is only one God. A Moslem has to acknowledge the fact that there is one God *and* Mohammed is his prophet. These are the two fundamentals of the religion that without them, one cannot be a Moslem. But beyond that, Islam is a civilization. It is a religion that gave first and foremost a wide and unique legal system that engulfs the individual, society and nations with rules of behavior. If you are a Moslem, you have to behave according to the rules of Islam which are set down in the Koran and which are very different than the teachings of the Bible.

"THE BIBLE TEACHES SALVATION"

Let me explain the difference. The Bible is the creation of the spirit of a nation over a very, very long period, if we talk from the point of view of the scholar, and let me remain scholarly. But there is one thing that is important in the Bible. It leads to salvation. It leads to salvation in two ways. In Judaism, it leads to *national* salvation - not just a nation that wants to have a state, but a nation that wants to serve God. That's the idea behind the Hebrew text of the Bible. The New Testament that took the Hebrew Bible moves us toward *personal* salvation. So we have got these two kinds of salvation which, from time to time, meet each other. But the key word is salvation. Personal salvation means that each individual is looked after by God, Himself, who leads a person through His word to salvation. This is

the idea in the Bible, whether we are talking about the Old or the New Testament.

All the laws in the Bible, even to the minutest ones, are in fact directed towards this fact of salvation. Secondly, there is another point in the Bible, which is highly important. This is the idea that man was created in the image of God. Therefore, you don't just walk around and obliterate the image of God. Many people, of course, used Biblical rules and turned them upside down. History has seen a lot of massacres in the name of God and in the name of Jesus. But as religions, both Judaism and Christianity in their fundamentals speak about honoring the image of God and the hope of salvation. These are the two basic fundamentals.

ISLAM: BORN TO RULE

Now let's move to the essence of Islam. Islam was born with the idea that it should rule the world. Let's look, then, at the differences between these three religions. Judaism speaks about national salvation - namely that at the end of the story, when the world becomes a better place, Israel will be in its own land, ruled by its own king and serving God. Christianity speaks about the idea that every single person in the world can be saved from his sins, while Islam speaks about ruling the world. I can quote here in Arabic, but there is no point in quoting in Arabic, so let me quote a verse in English. "Allah sent Mohammed with the true religion so that it should rule over all the religions."

The idea, then, is not that the whole world would become a Moslem world at this time, but that the whole world would be subdued under the rule of Islam.

When the Islamic empire was established in 634 A.D., within seven years - 640 - the core of the empire was created. The rules that were taken from the Koran and from the tradition that was ascribed to the prophet Mohammed, were translated into a real legal system. Jews and Christians could live under Islam provided they paid poll tax and accepted Islamic superiority. Of course, they had to be humiliated. And Jews and Christians living under Islam are humiliated to this very day.

Mohammed did accept the existence of all the Biblical prophets before him. However he also said that all these prophets were Moslems. Abraham was a Moslem. In fact, Adam himself was the first Moslem. Isaac and Jacob and David and Solomon and Moses and Jesus were all Moslems, and all of them had writings similar to the Koran. Therefore, world history is Islamic history because all the heroes of history were Moslems. Furthermore, Moslems accept the fact that each of these prophets brought with him



some kind of a revelation. Moses, brought the Taurat, which is the Torah, and Jesus brought the Injeel, which is the Evangelion or Gospel - namely the New Testament.

Why then is the Bible not similar to the Koran? Mohammed explains that the Jews and Christians forged their books. Had they not been changed and forged, they would have been identical to the Koran. But because Christians and Jews do have some truth, Islam concedes that they cannot be *completely* destroyed by war [for now]. Nevertheless, the laws are very clear - Jews and Christians have no rights whatsoever to independent existence. They can live under Islamic rule provided they keep to the rules that Islam promulgates for them.

FIGHTING JEWS AND CHRISTIANS IS CALLED *JIHAD*

What happens if Jews and Christians don't want to live under the rules of Islam? Then Islam has to fight them and this fighting is called *jihad*. *Jihad* means war against those people who don't want to accept the Islamic superior rule. That's *jihad*. They may be Jews, they may be Christians, they may be Polytheists. But since we don't have too many Polytheists left, at least not in the Middle East - their war is against the Jews and Christians. A few days ago, I received a pamphlet that was distributed in the world by bin Laden. He calls for *jihad* against America as the leader of the Christian world, not because America is the supporter of Israel, but because Americans are desecrating Arabia with their filthy feet. There are Americans in Arabia where no Christians should be. In this pamphlet there is not a single word about Israel. Only that Americans are desecrating the home of the prophet.

The Koran sees the world as divided into two - one part which has come under Islamic rule and one part which is supposed to come under Islamic rule in the future. There is a division of the world which is very clear. Every single person who starts studying Islam knows it. The world is described as *Dar al-Islam* (the house of Islam) - that's the place where Islam rules - and the other part which is called *Dar al-Harb* - the house of war. Not the house of non-Muslims, but the house of war. It is this house of war which has to be, at the end of time, conquered. The world will continue to be in the house of war until it comes under Islamic rule.

This is the norm. Why? Because Allah says it's so in the Koran. God has sent Mohammed with the true religion in order that the truth will overcome all other religions.

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HANBALI LAW, THE STRICTEST INTERPRETATION OF ISLAM

Within the Islamic vision of this world, there are rules that govern the lives of the Moslems themselves, and these rules are very strict. In fundamentals, there are no differences between the schools of law. However, there are four streams or factions within Islam with differences between them concerning the minutiae of the laws. All over the Islamic world, countries have favored one or another of these schools of laws. The strictest school of law is called Hanbali, mainly coming out of Saudi Arabia. There are no games there, no playing around with the meanings of words. If the Koran speaks about war, then it's war. There are various perspectives in Islam with different interpretations over the centuries. There were good people that were very enlightened in Islam that tried to understand things differently. They even brought traditions from the mouth of the prophet Mohammed that women and children should not be killed in war. These more liberal streams do exist, but there is one thing that is very important for us to remember. The Hanbali school of law is extremely strict, and today this is the school that is behind most of the terrorist powers. Even if we talk about the existence of other schools of Islamic law, when we're talking about fighting against the Jews, or fighting against the Christian world led by America, it is the Hanbali school of law that is being followed.

LAND ONCE OCCUPIED BY ISLAM CAN NEVER BE RELEASED

This civilization created one very important, fundamental rule about territory. Any territory that comes under Islamic rule cannot be de-Islamized. Even if at one time or another, the [non-Moslem] enemy takes over territory that was under Islamic rule, it is considered perpetually Islamic. This is why whenever you hear about the Arab/Israeli conflict, you hear - territory, territory, territory. There are other aspects to the conflict, but territory is highly important.

The Christian civilization has not only been seen as a religious opponent, but as a dam stopping Islam from achieving its final goal for which it was created. Islam was created to be the army of God, the army of Allah. Every single Moslem is a soldier in this army. Every single Moslem that dies in fighting for the spread of Islam is a shahid (martyr) no matter how he dies, because - and this is very important - this is an eternal war between the two civilizations. It's not a war that stops. The war is there because it was created by Allah. Islam must be the ruler. This is a war that will not end.

Peace in Islam can exist only *within* the Islamic world; peace can be only between Moslem and Moslem. With the non-Moslem world or non-Moslem opponents, there can be

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only one solution - a cease-fire until Moslems can gain more power. It is an eternal war until the end of days. Peace can only come if the Islamic side wins. The two civilizations can only have periods of cease-fires. And this idea of cease-fire is based on a very important historical precedent, which, incidentally, Yasser Arafat referred to when he spoke in Johannesburg after he signed the Oslo agreement with Israel. Let me remind you that that document speaks of peace - you wouldn't believe what you are reading! You would think that you were reading some science-fiction piece. I mean when you read it, you can't believe that this was signed by Israelis who are actually acquainted with Islamic policies and civilization.

AGREEMENTS ARE MADE TO BREAK

A few weeks after the Oslo agreement was signed, Arafat went to Johannesburg, and in a mosque there he made a speech in which he apologized, saying, "Do you think I signed something with the Jews which is contrary to the rules of Islam?" (I have obtained a copy of Arafat's recorded speech so I heard it from his own mouth.) Arafat continued, "That's not so. I'm doing exactly what the prophet Mohammed did."

Whatever the prophet is supposed to have done becomes a precedent. What Arafat was saying was, "Remember the story of Hodaybiya." The prophet had made an agreement there with the tribe of Kuraish for 10 years. But then he trained 10,000 soldiers and within two years marched on their city of Mecca. He, of course, found some kind of a pretext. Thus, in Islamic jurisdiction, it became a legal precedent which states that you are only allowed to make peace for a maximum of 10 years. Secondly, at the first instance that you are able, you must renew the *jihad* [thus breaking the "peace" agreement].

In Israel, it has taken over 50 years in this country for our people to understand that they cannot speak about [permanent] peace with Moslems. It will take another 50 years for the western world to understand that they have got a state of war with the Islamic civilization that is virile and strong. This should be understood: When we talk about war and peace, we are not talking in Belgian, French, English, or German terms. We are talking about war and peace in Islamic terms.

What makes Islam accept cease-fire? Only one thing - when the enemy is too strong. It is a tactical choice. Sometimes, he may have to agree to a cease-fire in the most humiliating conditions. It's allowed because Mohammed accepted a cease-fire under humiliating conditions. That's what Arafat said to them in Johannesburg.

When western policy makers hear these things, they

answer, "What are you talking about? You are in the Middle Ages. You don't understand the mechanisms of politics." Which mechanisms of politics? There are no mechanisms of politics where power is. And I want to tell you one thing - we haven't seen the end of it, because the minute a radical Moslem power has atomic, chemical or biological weapons, they will use it. I have no doubt about that.

Now, since we face war and we know that we cannot get more than an impermanent cease-fire, one has to ask himself what is the major component of an Israeli/Arab cease-fire. It is that the Islamic side is weak and your side is strong. The relations between Israel and the Arab world in the last 50 years since the establishment of our State has been based only on this idea, the deterrent power. The reason that we have what we have in Yugoslavia and other places is because Islam succeeded into entering these countries. Wherever you have Islam, you will have war. It grows out of the attitude of Islamic civilization.

What are the poor people in the Philippines being killed for? What's happening between Pakistan and India?

Furthermore, there is another fact that must be remembered. The Islamic world has not only the attitude of open war, but there's also war by infiltration. One of the things which the western world is not paying enough attention to is the tremendous growth of Islamic power in the western world.

What happened in America and the Twin Towers is not something that only came from the outside. And if America doesn't wake up, one day the Americans will find themselves in a chemical war and most likely in an atomic war - inside the U.S.

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THREE VIEWS OF THE END OF DAYS

It is highly important to understand how a civilization sees the end of days. In Christianity and in Judaism, we know exactly what is the vision of the end of days. In Judaism, it is going to be as in Isaiah - peace between nations, not just one nation, but between all nations. People will not have any more need for weapons and nature will be changed - a beautiful end of days and the kingdom of God on earth. Christianity goes as far as Revelation to see a day that Satan himself is obliterated. There are no more powers of evil. That's the vision.

I'm speaking now as a historian. I try to understand how Islam sees the end of days. In the end of days, Islam sees a world that is totally Moslem, completely Moslem under the rule of Islam. Complete and final victory. Christians will not exist, because according to many Islamic traditions, the Moslems who are in hell will have to be replaced by somebody and they'll be replaced by the Christians. The Jews will no longer exist, because before the coming of the end

OUR **FREE GIFT** TO YOU!



Would you like to know more about what the Koran teaches concerning Islam? Avner Boskey, a Messianic Jew and Israeli citizen, has written a 36 page booklet called 'A Perspective on Islam'. Clear and readable, this booklet will give you

easy access to accurate quotes from the Koran and Islamic sources. You will be able to understand the spiritual roots of Islam, the development of various schools of interpretation of the Koran, the roots of the conflict between Jews and Arabs, and how believers can respond to the increasing role that Islam is playing in the modern world.

Avner is a graduate of Hebrew University and McGill (B.A. in Jewish Studies) and Dallas Theological Seminary (ThM), and has pastored in Israel, Russia and the USA, and 1986-93 was associate editor of the theological journal, "Mishkan."

**Just ask us for a free copy of
*A Perspective on Islam***

and we will send it as our gift to you. We at Maoz feel we must do whatever possible to equip believers with the truth about one of Israel's (and now the entire "Christian" civilization's) most daunting enemies.

Nazereth:

MUSLIMS ORDERED TO STOP BUILDING MOSQUE NEAR CHURCH

Muslim activists invaded a plot of land next to the Basilica of the Nativity in Nazareth, reportedly the largest church in the Middle East. Christian leaders had been planning to use the land to build a plaza that would serve the thousands of Christian pilgrims who visit the town annually.

But in 1998, Muslims squatted on the land, built a tent and began to pray there, claiming that a Moslem tomb was on the property. The Israeli government, afraid of riots by Muslims at first had agreed to let the Muslims have the plot, even though it bordered the church. Though the Muslim Wakf (religious authority) had not yet received permits, they recently began building the foundations of a mosque.

In a massive and unusual display of Christian unity, Roman Catholics joined with evangelical Protestants in an effort to stop construction. After mounting protests from Christian groups in Israel and abroad - including a conversation between President Bush and Prime Minister Sharon - on January 9, 2002, the Israeli cabinet courageously decided to halt construction.

Nazareth's Deputy Mayor Salman Abu Ahmed said that the decision was "miserable persecution of Muslims and the government and church leaders will pay the consequences for what could happen. We know how to struggle." Police sources said they hope the area would remain calm, although they were prepared for any eventuality.



of days, there is going to be a war against the Jews where all Jews should be killed. I'm quoting now from the heart of Islamic tradition, from the books that are read by every child in school. The Jews will all be killed. They'll be running away and they'll be hiding behind trees and rocks, and on that day Allah will give mouths to the rocks and trees and they will say, "Oh Moslem come here, there is a Jew behind me, kill him." Without this, the end of days cannot come. This is a fundamental of Islam.

The question which we in Israel are asking ourselves is what will happen to our country? Is there a possibility to end this dance of war? The answer is no. Not in the foreseeable future. What we can do is to reach a situation where for a few years we may have relative quiet. But for Islam, the establishment of the state of Israel is a reverse of Islamic history. First, Islamic territory was taken away from Islam by Jews. You know by now that this can never be accepted,

not even one meter. So everyone who thinks that Tel Aviv is safe is making a grave mistake. Territory, which at one time was dominated by Islamic rule, now has become non-Moslem. Non-Moslems are independent of Islamic rule; Jews have created their own independent state. It is anathema. And (this is the worst) Israel, a non-Moslem state, is ruling over Moslems. It is unthinkable that non-Moslems should rule over Moslems.

I believe that Western civilization should hold together and support each other. Whether this will happen or not, I don't know. Israel finds itself on the front lines of this war. It needs the help of its sister civilization. It needs the help of America and Europe. It needs, the help of the Christian world. One thing I am sure about, this help can be given by individual Christians who see this as the road to salvation.

*Adapted from Prof. Sharon's speech.
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February 2002

Dear Maoz Partners,

Do we send you these newsletters to scare you? Absolutely not! Our prophets have already warned us that "darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people." But the most important part follows: "But the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you." Isaiah 60:2

Yeshua revealed to us that in these troublesome last days, "this Gospel must be preached as a witness to all nations." So, the real issue is, how can we help more people find Yeshua, the salvation of the world?

For some six months now we have been contributing monthly support of \$400 to an Israeli Arab pastor, Yosef Haddad, who is pioneering in ministry to Lebanese refugees who fled from Lebanon to Israel when Israel's army pulled out of southern Lebanon. When we started supporting Yosef, he had about 50 Lebanese coming to a home group, a marvelous break-through.

Yosef's meetings have since outgrown the house and they are renting the chapel in a Christian Kibbutz where they have doubled in number. Over 100 adults and 100 children are now attending. In December, the Carmel Congregation in Haifa blessed all the children of these Arab families with Christmas presents. In that same service, over 30 raised their hand to receive salvation.

Furthermore, Yosef has started a congregation among the Israeli Druze - a mystical offshoot of Islam who consider Jethro (Moses' father-in-law) to be the founder of their religion. Few Druze have ever been converted. Now Yosef has pierced the darkness. Three Druze women with their children and one brave man, his wife and children have been born again. Yosef said, "I could never have imagined seeing Druze in their traditional clothing coming to services to hear the Gospel." Just a few days ago, Yosef baptized two young Druze men in secret, as this step is almost unheard of among Druze.

Six months ago, Yosef left a paying job (rehabilitating addicts) to go full-time into ministering to Lebanese Arabs and Druze. For six months he received unemployment, but starting last January, the \$400 Maoz is sending him now is the only committed monthly funds he and his family is receiving. (An average family in Israel makes about \$2,000 per month)

Israel is by far the freest country in the Middle East to preach the Gospel to Muslims and Arabs of all religions. Certainly, this is a door that is open right now to reach virtually unreached Arab groups. Would you like to see the Lebanese, Druze and other Arabs of Israel receive eternal life? Perhaps you would like to support Yosef on a monthly basis. All funds that you designate for Yosef Haddad will be forwarded to him. We invite you to participate!

For the Glory of the God of Israel,

Ari & Shira Sorko-Ram

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