

Islamic Insanity #2

Introduction. The Islamic State is committed to purifying the world by killing vast numbers of people. Social-media posts suggest that individual executions happen more or less continually, and mass executions every few weeks. Muslim “apostates” are the most common victims, although James Wright Foley, an American, was killed in 2014.

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, “commander of the faithful,” was declared caliph (a successor of Muhammad) on June 29. The last caliphate was the Ottoman empire, which finally ended in 1924. Some believe that true Islam has been reestablished by the caliphate. According to Muslims, there will be only 12 legitimate caliphs (Baghdadi is the eighth). During the reign of the 12th, the armies of Rome will mass to meet the armies of Islam in Dabiq, Syria. Islam’s final showdown with an anti-Messiah (Dajjal) will occur in Jerusalem. Just as Dajjal prepares to finish them off, Jesus will return to Earth, spear Dajjal, and lead the Muslims to victory.

Bernard Haykel, the foremost secular authority on the Islamic State’s ideology, says, “There is an assiduous, obsessive seriousness about the group’s dedication to the text of the Koran.” The fighters of the Islamic State are authentic throwbacks to early Islam and are faithfully reproducing its norms of war. The Islamic State has already taken up what Islamic law refers to as “offensive jihad,” the forcible expansion into countries that are ruled by non-Muslims.

Before we can entertain any hope of holding our own in a discussion with any Muslim, much less converting one, we must try to understand why they think as they do.

I. General Observations About Islam

- A. It contains elements of heathenism.
 - 1. The Moon-god (al-ilah, i.e., “the god”) was shortened to “Allah” in pre-Islamic times. Pagan Arabs used “Allah” in naming children. Muhammad’s father and uncle had “Allah” in their names.
 - 2. Muhammad declared the chief pagan moon deity within the pantheon in Arabia the only true god and banned the worship of all other idols in Mecca. Islam “is heathenism in monotheistic form.”
 - 3. Islam’s basic confession is “Allah is greater [than all other idols]. There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet.”
- B. It contains elements of Judaism.
 - 1. Muslims rely on the Old Testament, salvation by works, and polygamy.
 - a) Muhammad gave polygamy the sanction of religion.
 - b) Ordinary believers are restricted to four wives (not counting slaves).
 - c) Concubinage with female slaves is allowed without limit.
 - 2. Muslims substitute Friday for the Sabbath as their sacred day.
 - 3. Muslims strictly forbid the use of pork and wine.
 - 4. Prayer carries man halfway to God, fasting brings him to the door of God’s palace, and alms secure admittance.
- C. It contains elements of Catholicism.
 - 1. Mosques, like Catholic buildings, are always open.

2. Prayers are rote and repetitive. They pray five times a day. A former Muslim said, "It's hardly intimate communication with Allah ... it's done more to escape the punishment due to those who neglect prayer."
3. Prayer beads were a part of Islamic devotion long before "St. Dominic" in the 13th century. They were a stock item in ancient and modern paganism.
4. Pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj).
 - a) The Hajj is the largest annual pilgrimage in the world. It is an obligation in which every able-bodied Muslim must participate at least once in their life.
 - b) The ritual includes walking seven times around the Kaaba, running back and forth between two hills, drinking from a well, going to Mount Arafat to stand in vigil, and throwing stones in a ritual stoning of the Devil.

II. The Jesus Of The Qur'an

- A. Virgin birth.
 1. Zacharias and John the Baptist (Surah 19:10; cp. Luke 1:18-20, 24, 63-64).
 2. Mary and Gabriel (Surah 19:20-34).
 - a) Mary gave birth under a palm tree (vs. 23).
 - b) The baby spoke to her (vv. 24-26).
 - c) He defended her reputation (vv. 29-34).
 - d) The story is of Ebionite (a heretical Jewish/Christian sect) origin. Matthew 1:16, 18, 25 and Luke 2:7 shows the true account of Christ's birth.
- B. Claim to be the Son of God.
 1. He was no more than a messenger (Surah 4:171).
 2. He was created from dust like Adam (Surah 3:59).
 3. However, the Jews understood His claim (Matthew 16:13-17; 26:63-65; cp. John 10:33).
- C. Death by crucifixion.
 1. Someone who resembled Jesus died on the cross (Surah 4:157).
 2. Jesus and Peter both proclaimed the truth of the crucifixion (Mark 8:31; Acts 2:36).

III. The God Of The Qur'an

- A. The Qur'an credits God with many admirable attributes, but it also describes Him in ways that are less than flattering.
- B. Cancellation and abrogation makes God capricious (Surah 2:106; 16:101; cp. Ephesians 3:10-11; 1 Peter 1:10-12).
- C. He "reveals" after the fact. Muhammad would transgress the law of God, then get a revelation justifying the sin.
 1. Surah 2:217 justifies war in the sacred month after they attacked a caravan going to Mecca (cp. 9:36).
 2. Muhammad married Zainab, the wife of an adopted son (Surah 66:1-5), and received a revelation justifying it (33:37; cp. Galatians 2:11-13).
- D. He approves of apostasy under duress (Surah 16:106; cp. Revelation 2:10, 13; 21:8).
- E. He causes some to go astray (Surah 35:8; 45:23; cp. Genesis 18:25).

IV. Muhammad Replaces The Holy Spirit In The Qur'an

- A. Muhammad is the other comforter (Surah 61:6). The comforter would teach and remind them (John 14:25-26) — 500 years later?
 - 1. Muslims claim that “Ahmed” or “Muhammad,” meaning “the one who praises” or “the praised one,” is the word *pericytytos* in the Greek.
 - 2. John, however, uses the word *parakletos* for “Comforter.” Muslims claim *parakletos* is the warped reading for *pericytytos*. Jesus actually prophesied Muhammad by name.
 - 3. They also claim that John says that only if Jesus departs will the Comforter come. The Holy Spirit was already present on earth; therefore, it must not refer to Him.
- B. Jesus spoke to the apostles who had been with Him (John 15:26-27). Muhammad was born in 570 — he never spent any time with an apostle (1 Corinthians 9:1).
- C. The Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into all truth (John 16:7-13). This is the opposite of Islam.
 - 1. The Holy Spirit would not speak of Himself, but Muhammad did!
 - 2. The Holy Spirit would glorify Jesus, not Muhammad!
- D. The Holy Spirit enabled the apostles to work miracles to prove their claims, not Muhammad (Hebrews 2:3-4; 1 Kings 17:24). In the Qur'an, Muhammad expressly disclaims the power of miracles!

V. Islam And Salvation

- A. Everyone is judged on a scale of deeds (Surah 23:102-103; cp. Acts 15:11; Ephesians 2:5; 2 Timothy 1:9).
- B. The only sure way to Paradise is by fighting (Surah 47:4; cp. Matthew 26:52; John 18:36; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5).
- C. There are three types of Muslims: Secularists, moderates (friendly to unbelievers), and fundamentalists (hostile to unbelievers). Hell is reserved for non-fighters (Surah 9:81; cp. Romans 12:19-21).

VI. Three Reasons For Islamic Jihad

- A. Greed.
 - 1. In Jedwabne, Poland, 1,600 Poles and 1,600 Jews lived peacefully for many generations. The Nazis occupied it in June, 1941. Within days, the Poles slaughtered the Jews in one day; only seven survived.
 - a) They were beheaded, drowned, tortured; mothers were brutally beaten with infants in arms; one Jew was stoned to death with bricks; one Jew was slashed with a knife, his eyes and tongue cut out.
 - b) They herded the rest into a barn, doused it with kerosene and set it on fire. The Nazi army did not participate. In fact, the Nazis tried to persuade the Poles to keep one Jewish family from each profession. The Poles responded, “We have enough of our own craftsmen, we have to destroy all the Jews, none should stay alive.”
 - 2. The explanation was that the Nazis had said, “You can kill them if you want and take their land and possessions” (*Neighbors*, Jan T. Gross). The Middle

East is the richest land on earth with fertile soil, oil, and mineral wealth — good reasons for jihad!

B. Religion.

1. Radical Islamics unified 22 countries into the Arab league. They believed that war was the only valid way to win converts (“Convert or die”). They even kill other Muslims who do not embrace their fanaticism. They killed 100,000 Algerian Muslims who disagreed with their brand of Islam. The majority will not speak out.
 - a) Of 1.6 billion Muslims, probably 10-15% are fanatics. After September 11, 2001, our media and academia asked, “What did we do to make them hate us?” The real problem is their ideology, yet they make people think we are a threat.
 - b) The Arabic reaction to the attacks was delight. They praised the “Magnificent Nineteen.” They openly pray for the destruction of Israel, Britain, and the U.S.
 - c) Anyone who disputes the Qur’an is an enemy.
 - (1) Under Islamic law, Muslim women are worth half a man. But Muslims view the non-Muslim world as worth less than Muslim women!
 - (2) They claim that the White House will become the Muslim House, and the Qur’an will replace the Constitution.
 - d) Palestinian suicide bombers first began their attacks against Israel in 1994. Yasser Arafat openly condemned terrorism, but still said, “Peace for us means the destruction of Israel.” Polls say that as many as 80% of Palestinians support suicide bombings.
 - (1) Arabs are taught to glorify martyrdom.
 - (a) Mohammed al-Durra, a 13-year-old Palestinian boy, was killed in shootout in Israel.
 - (b) His mother said, “I am happy he has been martyred.” She gave him a snack before he went to the shootout.
 - (2) Martyrs are recruited as young as age five. “We like to grow them from kindergarten through college.”
 - (3) A Palestinian TV program for children, The Children’s Club, modeled after Sesame Street features the song, “When I wander into Jerusalem, I will become a suicide bomber.”
 - (4) Hamas-run kindergartens display signs on the walls which read, “The children of the kindergarten are the shaheeds (holy martyrs) of tomorrow.”
 - (5) Signs at Al-Najah University read, “Israel has nuclear bombs, we have human bombs.”
2. The Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran taught that Israel is a judgment from Allah for the backslidden condition of Muslims. Barbara Richmond wrote, “The defeat of Israel, therefore, has become the primary sign of Allah’s pleasure with faithful Muslims. When Israel pulled out of Lebanon ... it was heralded as the first Arab victory in more than 50 years of conflict. It was a confirmation that Allah finally is pleased with the violent path of the Iranian backed fanatical Muslim guerilla Hezb’Allah (Allah’s Party).”

C. Sensuality.

1. After the death of a suicide bomber, members of a terrorist group hold a celebration and speak of a martyr's death as a wedding. Why? Their destiny is paradise where 72 dark-eyed virgins will make paradise an eternal orgy.
2. Ahmed, an 11-year-old Palestinian, said, "I will make my body a bomb that will blast the flesh of Zionists, the sons of pigs and monkeys. I will tear their bodies into little pieces and cause them more pain than they will ever know." His classmates shout in response, "Allahu Akbar" (God is great). The teacher yells, "May the virgins give you pleasure." The principal smiles and nods his approval.

Conclusion. Properly contained, the Islamic State is likely to be its own undoing. The land it controls, while expansive, is mostly uninhabited and poor. As it stagnates or slowly shrinks, its claim that it is the agent of God will weaken, and fewer believers will emigrate. And as more reports of misery within it leak out, radical Islamist movements elsewhere will be discredited: No one has tried harder to implement strict Sharia by violence, and this is what it looks like.

At the end of these lessons, you might be asking, "What can I do?" Pray for this country (1 Timothy 2:1-2), pray for your enemies (Matthew 5:44), defend the gospel (Philippians 1:16), live godly lives (Genesis 18:32), do not lean on this world (1 Corinthians 7:29-31), and trust God (Habakkuk 2:4).