

THE TENTS OF KEDAR – THE ISLAMIC STATE IN PROPHECY



INTRODUCTION

In 2006 the world witnessed the birth of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). ISIL is a nation of radical jihadist Moslems who: pledge absolute loyalty to a Caliph (military and spiritual leader); force conquered people to choose between death and conversion to Allah; kill other Moslems who do not subscribe to their interpretation of the Quran; and whose ambition it is to conquer all other states in the name of Mohamed.

ISIL is only the latest incarnation of Islamic Caliphates that have ravaged the world since the 7th century AD when Mohamed led the first one. The main purpose of this paper is to show that Islamic States or Islamic Caliphates are spoken of in prophecy. We will also provide evidence (see Appendix) to show: (1) the Islamic State we see today in Iraq and the Levant reflects the purest spirit of Islam insofar as it mimics the deeds and words of Mohamed, and; (2) a review of past Islamic States demonstrates the latest Islamic State is not an historic aberration.

THE PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH

Jeremiah cried out that the King of Babylon was coming to destroy Jerusalem. His warning from God came with a command to totally surrender: (chapter 27)

"With my great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and its animals, and I give it to anyone I please." (v.5)

"Now I will hand over your countries to my servant Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon... all nations will serve him and his son and his grandson." (v.6-7)

"If any nation does not serve Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon or bow its neck under his yoke I will punish that nation with the sword, famine, and plague, until I destroy it..." (v.8)

"I gave that same message to Zedekiah king of Judah. I said 'Bow your neck under the yoke of the King of Babylon; serve him and his people, and you will live.'" (v.12)

What connection is there between the ancient King of Babylon and ISIL? The Caliph of ISIL is Abu-Bakr al-Baghdadi. His name tells us his home town is Baghdad, which is just a short distance from the ruins of ancient Babylon. Furthermore, Baghdad is the capital city of Iraq, which occupies the historic lands of the ancient kingdom of Babylon.

Abu-Bakr al-Baghdadi had declared his intention to attack Baghdad and establish it as his capital city. If you have faith to receive it, Abu-Bakr is a prophetic fulfillment of the 'King of Babylon' spoken of through Jeremiah the prophet.

In prophecy 'Babylon' represents world power in the hands of an absolute military ruler. Nebuchadnezzar was both the King of Babylon, in a geographic sense, and the King of Babylon in a prophetic sense. Nebuchadnezzar was the head of Gold on the statue of world conquerors (Daniel 2:31-49). But all the world conquerors after Nebuchadnezzar: Cyrus the Great (torso of silver), Alexander the Great (mid-rift of brass), and the Caesars of Rome (legs of iron) were also prophetic 'Kings of Babylon', worldly successors to the original King of Kings, Nebuchadnezzar.

Our thesis in this paper is the wheels of history will return from whence they came, and the final King of Babylon to appear will be like unto the first: he will wield absolute control of the world as a military conqueror and the capital city of his empire will be located in the ancient lands of the historic kingdom of Babylon, in the place we now call Baghdad, Iraq.

Before Nebuchadnezzar attained his glory there were other kings of the Chaldees. In the same way Abu-Bakr al-Baghdadi may be merely the predecessor of the ultimate King of Babylon in Bible Prophecy, the Beast. We will watch events in the Middle East with great interest!

THE PROPHECY OF DAVID

Jeremiah foretold that the holy people of God, the Jews, would be humiliated. Their royal city would be destroyed and they would be taken captive by the idolatrous Babylonians.

Before Jeremiah had uttered those words, David had prophesied of another humiliation of God's holy people: tribes from the Arabian territory would conquer and subject them.

We believe that the prophecies of both Jeremiah and David will find their ultimate fulfillment in the last days, when Christians will be subjected to the authority of militant Islamic jihadists.

Importantly, David declared not only the punishment, the subjection of God's holy people to warlike tribes from Arabia, but the crime that brought this awful judgment of God.

We turn our attention to Psalm 120. The spiritual number **120** means '**Man of Peace**'.

The first 4 verses explain why the saints of God are brought low and utterly humiliated: the crime that causes God to bring retribution on their heads.

Our interpretation of Psalm 120 will rely on three witnesses: the plain words of Scripture, the meanings of the spiritual numbers of the Hebrew letters in the words of the Scripture, and on historical evidences supporting the prophetic interpretation of certain words in the passage.

PSALM 120

A Song of Ascents.

Verse 1 "**I call on the LORD in distress and he answers me.**"

The gematria of verse 1 is **2,762** = **2** x **1,381** [**221st** prime] which means '**Twice**'(**2**) '**God Forsakes Them**'(**221**). More than once God has forsaken his people. He did it when he permitted the King of Babylon to destroy Jerusalem in the day of Jeremiah. He will do it again in the last days before the Great Tribulation when nation rises against nation and many Christians will perish.

Verse 2 "**Save me, O Lord, from lying lips and from deceitful tongues.**"

The gematria of verse 2 is **2,707** [**394th** prime]. The spiritual number **394** means '**Rents Collected from Tenants**'. Here is the heart of how God finds fault with his people. A clergy class of religious princes has taken authority over the sheep of the pasture of the Lord and has burdened those saints with rents, with tithing and all manner of other religious obligations. These false prophets proclaim that believers in Jesus, who are free by the blood of Jesus, have not yet 'paid in full' unless they give money to the church and sustain her with a perpetual indenture of servitude. These are the 'lying lips' and 'deceitful tongues' that God detests!

Verse 3 "**What will he do to you and more besides, O deceitful tongue?**"

The gematria of verse 3 is **1,457** = **47** x **31** which means '**Abasement**' (**47**) of the '**Family**' (**31**). God is declaring to the wicked clergy church: if you abase my family, I will abase you! If you enslave my people, rule over them like tyrants, and impose taxes and tithes upon them: then I will do the same to you! Prepare to be invaded and conquered and subjected!

Verse 4 "**He will punish you with a warrior's sharp arrows, with burning coals of the broom tree.**"

The gematria of verse 4 is **1,626 = 6 x 271** which means '**Flesh**' (6) of '**Rivals Assassinated**' (271). The professional clergy church is a rival of the true church, the 'Jerusalem that is above' (Galatians 4:26). The clergy church seeks to snare, to trap, and to enslave saints for the purpose of exalting the church and her religious princes. The true church sets the prisoners free from worldly religious obligation to serve the living God. God is going to destroy his rival, the wicked clergy church. He is going to do it with a military overthrow and oppression: sharp arrows and burning coals. Barbaric warriors of Islam!

Having demonstrated the reasons for the judgment of God, we turn to the punishment. These are the key verses in our prophetic study.

Verse 5 "**Woe to me that I dwell in Meshech, that I live in the tents of Kedar!**" (Part A)

The gematria of **Meshech** is **360** and means '**Church Unified: Bows to the Earthly King**'. This speaks of the heresy of saints gathering under the authority of clergy. Interestingly, because the last Hebrew letter of Meshech is the Sophit {or enlarged letter} Kaf, the gematria of Meshech can also be counted as **840 = 5 x 168** which means '**Fist**'(5) (**of the**) '**The Man of Lawlessness!**'(168) The connection is perfectly plain: if the church sets aside the authority of Jesus and bows down to earthly religious rulers (**360**), then God will release a man of lawlessness to destroy the wicked clergy church (**840**). The sum of **360** plus **840**, is **1,200** which means: '**Government**'(12) (**of the**) '**Holy Flock**'(100). This tells us the persecution of Christians in the last days has its origin in the will of the Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the Church. No wonder the elders in heaven throw down their crowns and fall before the Lamb! (Rev. 4:10). Jesus is the absolute ruler, the Caliph of the house of God, his holy church. We bow to him.

When the prophet David says '**Woe to me that I dwell in Meshech**' he does not mean he is sorry that he lives in Moscow [for the prophetic interpretation of **Meshech** refers to the geographic location of Moscow, the capital of Russia]. What David means is 'Woe to me that I live in the days when Christianity is in submission to clerical princes given over to rite, ritual, public ceremony, religious performances, and spiritual authority over God's people'.

What place on earth most closely resembles this heretical pattern of ecclesiastical corruption? Is it not Moscow, Russia? Surely the Russian Orthodox Church pictures the departure of saints from the simple liberating truth of the gospel and perverts it like no other! Ruling over this satanic architecture of a religion is an exalted religious prince, the 'patriarch' or 'father' of the Russian Orthodox Church:



Patriarch Kirill

Don't be deceived – God is against the professional clergy church. Jesus said “**The doctrine of the Nicolaitans I hate!**” (Rev. 2:6 and 15-16) The Greek word *Nicolaitan* means ‘*Nico*’ [Power] (*over*) ‘*Laos*’ [People]. The thing God hates is not cathedrals, incense burners, and long robes. The thing God hates is professional workers lording authority over his people. Therefore, if you have a paid preacher in your church who does all the teaching, who foists the duty of tithing upon the people, and who peddles theological interpretations which splinter God’s people into denominational factions, then what you have is a ‘minister’ that is just as despicable in the eyes of God as the patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church. Judgment is coming from the Divine Throne for spiritual perversity and religious bondage in the name of Jesus Christ!

Verse 5 “**Woe to me that I dwell in Meshech, that I live in the tents of Kedar!**” (Part B)

Ancient Arabia used to be called *Kedar* after one of the tribes that predominated in that place long ago. *Kedar* was one of the sons of Ishmael, the forefather of all Arabs. The tribe of *Kedar* descended from the forefather *Kedar* (Genesis 25:13). The modern state of Qatar has claimed for itself this name used since ancient times to be synonymous with Arabia. As far back as anyone can recall the desert tribes of Arabia have been itinerant livestock herders that dwelt in tents made of black goat hair. ‘*Kedar*’ means ‘**Dark**’ in Hebrew. What color are the flags of ISIL? **Black!** These are the tents of *Kedar* - the infamous warring tribes from the deserts of Arabia. {Spiritually, why did the Arabians chose black as the color of their flag? Perhaps it was to honor their mother, Hagar the Egyptian (Genesis 25:12), who was an African, a black woman.}

Who is the King of *Kedar*? Is not Abu-Bakr al-Baghdadi, the ‘man of lawlessness’? How is he lawless? He sets aside every human conviction of right and wrong. He butchers prisoners. He enslaves non-combatants. He rapes. He loots. He insults all human dignity and buries people alive. We don't know if al-Baghdadi is the Man of Lawlessness described in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, but al-Baghdadi certainly fulfills the criteria of being a man of lawlessness.



The atrocities of Al-Baghdadi perfectly match the ways of the original King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar. With Nebuchadnezzar, mere disobedience of an order was punishable by death (Daniel 1:10). Gruesome threats were issued to cut the bodies of servants into pieces (presumably while still alive) if impossible requests were not fulfilled (Daniel 2:5). A command to burn infidels alive was issued (Daniel 3:6). Is this not a depraved maniacal spirit?

This is the message of ISIL to all neighbors: bow to the King of Babylon (al-Baghdadi), accept him as the Caliph of your land! Submit to his authority - dwell in his dark tents – or die.

The gematria of verse 5 is **2,305 = 5 x 461** which means: '**Weakness**'(5) (I am) '**Belittled: A Worm Not A Man**'(461). That is what God is going to do to the wicked clergy church: they will be brought low. Unfortunately, the true Christians will suffer along with the merely religious.

Verse 6 "**Too long have I lived among those who hate peace.**"

The gematria of verse 6 is **2,295 = 27 x 85** which means '**Holy Truth**'(27) of '**Lord's Supper**'(85). What ISIL is saying to Christians is what the Romans said to Judah: submit to us, we have the authority, for we have taken power by force. Jesus went meekly to his death at the hands of Romans. When we celebrate in the Lord's Supper, part of the Holy Truth of that remembrance is that Jesus bowed the neck when the Roman governor issued that judgment. He hated it. Christians also will hate it when the radical militant jihadist comes to our door with the beheading knife in his belt under the authority of the Islamic Caliphate to rule our land.

It will happen. The only question is when it will happen. Jeremiah proclaimed '**I will hand over your countries to my servant Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon**'. If any country resists '**I will punish that nation with the sword, famine, and plague, until I destroy it...**' (Jeremiah 27:6-8).

How can this tragedy of unspeakable proportions be prevented? God's people must repent of religious idolatry. In other words, they must turn back to a sincere and pure faith in Jesus and dwell together in the single spiritual tent of their Caliph: the Lord Jesus Christ. Flee religion!

Verse 7 "**I am a man of peace; but when I speak they are for war**"

The gematria of verse 7 is **883** [153rd prime]. The number **153** means '**Tribes of Faith**'. The implication of this spiritual number is in the last days all the tribes of faith, all the Christians in the world, will face the same dilemma: do we resist the authority of the Caliphate who rules our land and fight against them? Or, do we submit to them and bow the neck?

PERSONAL RESPONSE TO THIS PROPEHCY

The Jews who submitted to Nebuchadnezzar were taken prisoner to Babylon. Seventy years later they returned to the Promised Land. In time, Babylon was crushed by Media-Persia.

To the Moslem:

If you are a Moslem or a radical jihadi and you are reading these words understand this: my Caliph, Jesus Christ, is greater than your Caliph, al-Baghdadi. My Caliph will crush your Caliph.

Your Caliph has control over land in Iraq. My Caliph has control of the whole Universe

Your Caliph has the power to behead. My Caliph has the power to raise from the dead.

Your Caliph is the Man of Lawlessness. My Caliph is the Word of God: He is invincible.

Moslem friend, my Lord offers you eternal life if you bow to Him. He has paid the price of your life when he died innocently on the Cross of Calvary. Neither Mohamed nor al-Baghdadi died to pay for your sins. Without payment for sin how can your religion offer you forgiveness of sin? If you die for your conversion to Jesus, my Caliph will reward you with eternal life in heaven. May God guide you in the path of Truth. Selah.

To the Christian:

Christians who are martyred will return victorious with Christ in the Millennium. Christians who deny Christ to save their skin will bring shame but will not lose their salvation. The gift of eternal life was obtained by the suffering of Christ on the Cross: it is not based on our works (Ephesians 2:8-9). If we cannot obtain salvation by our works, then we cannot lose salvation by our works. However, Christians who deny Christ will not return in the Millennium. They will stay in their rooms in heaven for a thousand years; only the victorious saints will return.

If you will surrender to the King of Babylon and die for your faith, you will return to the Promised Land, just like the Jews who returned 70 years after the exile. Christians will return take possession of the Promised Land after 7 years, the period of the Great Tribulation. Selah.

APPENDIX ONE – MOHAMMED – THE FIRST ISLAMIC CALIPHATE

We will not understand prophecy unless we understand history.

It is not helpful when authorities try to revise history. Obama has said 'ISIL is neither Islamic nor a State'. Prime Minister Cameron of the UK has said 'ISIL is Un-Islamic'. What is the truth?

Here is what the Mohamed said Islam is:

"I was ordered (by Allah) to fight all men (unbelievers anywhere in the world) until they say 'There is no God but Allah'" [farewell address March 632]

This is what Osama Bin Ladin said Islam is:

"I was ordered to fight the people (unbelievers) until they say there is no god but Allah, and his prophet (is) Mohamed" [November, 2001]

This is what Ayatolla Khomeini said Islam is:

"We will export revolution throughout the world... until the calls 'there is no god but Allah and Mohamed is the messenger of Allah' are echoed all over the world" [1979]

Perhaps the terrorist Osama Bin Ladin and the Islamic scholar Ayatolla Khomeini misunderstood Mohamed? Is it possible Mohamed was un-Islamic?

These are the facts of history:

610 AD Mohamed receives 'revelations' via an angelic appearance

613 AD Mohamed makes his 'revelations' public

615 AD Mohamed looks to escape Mecca out of personal danger

622 AD Mohamed and a few followers move to the village of Yathrib¹

Medina becomes his center of operations.

624 AD Mohamed **sends raiders** disguised as pilgrims **to ambush a caravan of merchants** traveling to Mecca. They killed one driver and they captured two more plus animals and goods.

624 AD Mohamed **leads his troops into battle** and routs a superior armed force from Mecca.

¹ This is known as the Hirjah - the migration - the point at which Mohamed transforms from a religious teacher to military leader

624 AD Mohamed's battle success improves his popularity in Medina. Emboldened, Mohamed **dispossessed the weakest of three tribes of Jews** in Medina, **expropriated their property**, and **drove them out of the land into exile**. Why this harsh treatment? Apparently, the Jews from that tribe resisted Mohamed's claim his 'revelations' were from God and expressed the view that his teachings did not agree with Scripture

625 AD The Muslims were defeated on a mountain near Medina, Mount Uhud. Following this disgrace, Mohamed **exiled another Jewish tribe** from Medina and **expropriated their property**.

627 AD The Meccans laid siege to Medina. After two weeks the siege was lifted and the Meccans departed. Mohamed then charged the last remaining tribe of Jews with collaborating with the enemy. **600 to 800 Jewish men were brought in small groups to trenches, beheaded one by one, their bodies thrown in the trenches. Jewish women and children were sold into slavery. All their worldly possessions were divided among the Muslims.**

628 AD Mohamed negotiates a 10 year truce with the Meccans

630 AD Mohamed **reneges on a truce**, and brings a great army from Medina against Mecca, and **forces their surrender**.

631 AD Mohamed **requires all Arabian tribes to swear allegiance to him personally and to remit tribute**.

632 AD Mohamed dies of a high fever and excruciating headaches, most likely resulting from poisoning of his food

Now you know the facts of the life of Mohamed, please ask yourself the question: is ISIL operating in a way that is 'Un-Islamic'?

Do they use arms to expand their empire?

Do they attack to gain goods that belong to others?

Do they force unbelievers off their lands?

Do they behead non-aggressor males?

Do they take women and children and sell them as slaves?

Do they divide all the spoils of these conquests among themselves?

Are they Islamic? Or are they Un-Islamic?

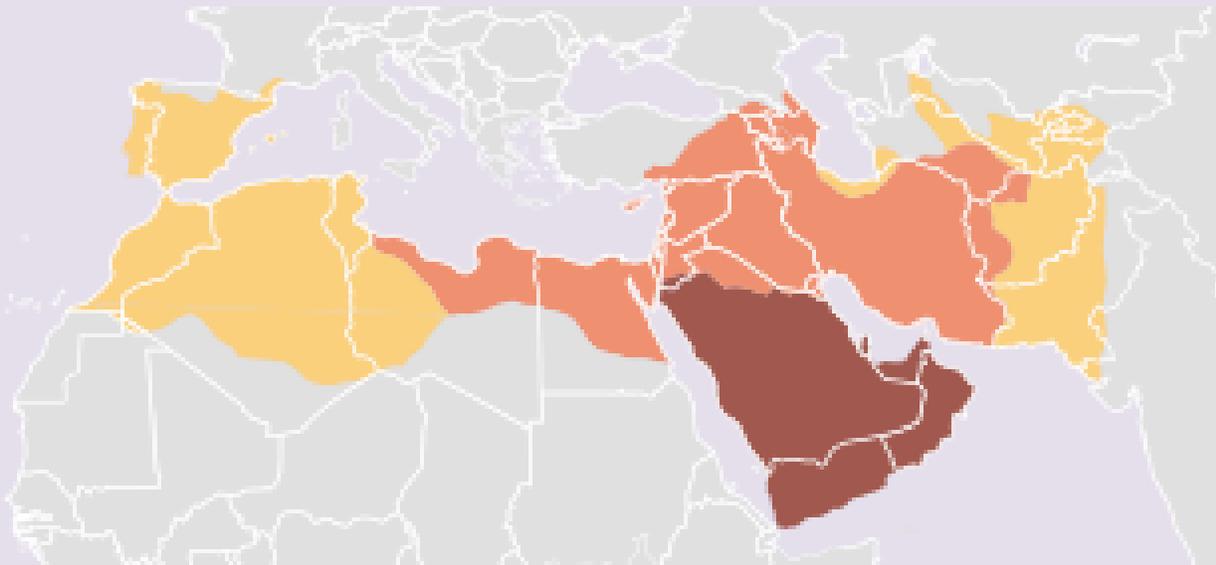
Now you know the history, you be the judge.

APPENDIX TWO – ISLAMIC STATES IN HISTORY

For purposes of this historical review we will define an 'Islamic State' as follows:

1. a nation with a geographic location whose religion is Islam
2. a military leader with absolute power to whom all citizens must swear obedience
3. a desire to conquer foreign lands with a goal of capturing booty and extracting tribute
4. a willingness to commit atrocities as a way to terrorize inhabitants into submission
5. a commitment to impose Islamic law on conquered peoples

Expansion of Islam: (622 – 750)



CALIPHATE OF MOHAMED (622-30 AD) ** Dark Brown Area on Map **

See Appendix One. Arabia is forcibly made subject to the authority of Mohamed.

“The survival of my community rests on the hooves of its horses and the point of its lances.”

Mohamed was poisoned and died. All of Arabia, Yemen, and Aden were conquered.

RASHIDUN CALIPHATES (632-661 AD) ** Salmon Pink Area on Map **

Abu-Bakr (632-634 AD) {father in-law, close friend of Mohamed}

Umar (634-44 AD) {cousin of Mohamed}

“Sacrifice yourselves! You are under Allah’s watchful eye... Resume your charge and fight... Before you are fertile lands and large tents! Allah has made those who come after you partner in these spoils.”

Umar was the Caliph who introduced the doctrine of 'Dhimmi' – the treatment of 'protected communities' – meaning the Caliph permitted you to live so long as you paid tribute. Initially this applied to Jews and Christians but was expanded to other non-Moslem peoples. Umar was murdered by a slave.

Uthman (644-56 AD)

In contrast to Umar who allowed officers who conquered lands to rule them, Uthman brought imperial control back to the elite Quraish clan, in particular the Umayyad tribe in Medina. Uthman was murdered by political opponents.

During the Rashidun Caliphate all of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, and Libya were conquered.

CALIPHATE OF UMAYYADS (661-750 AD) ** Sandy Golden Area on the Map **

Ali (661-80 AD) {son-in-law of Mohamed}

Ali faced a rebellion in Syria to the centralization of imperial control. Ali moved the center of government to **Kufa** in the territory of *ancient Babylon, modern Iraq* the better to keep control of the fringes of the empire.

Thus began the struggle that continues down to this day between the group that supports Ali as legitimate successor and Caliph, the Shi'ite Ali or the Shi'ites as they are known today, and those who support the Umayyad tribe, known as the Sunnis today. At the heart of the conflict is the debate whether proximity to the blood line of Mohamed validates the leader (Shi'ites), or whether the democratic voting of tribes validates the leader (Sunnis).

Ali was actually not a direct descendant of Mohamed, but the son-in-law of Mohamed. However, the descendants of Ali possessed the blood line of Mohamed through his daughter Fatima, the wife of Ali. Mohamed was descended from the Hashim tribe of the Quraish clan.

In practice, Shi'ites place more authority in imams, religious teachers. Sunnis place more authority in the person with civil authority who governs the empire. Ali was murdered by a secessionist.

The Umayyads adopted a policy of restless military campaigns to ensure a steady supply of war spoils. Patronage in the empire was required to maintain order among the Arab tribes. The center of their empire was **Damascus, Syria**.