



Last Days Beacon

April 2018 - Vol.3, No. 3 L-26

THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT PART II: *ISLAM CHANGES EVERYTHING*

By Carol Rushton



In order to truly understand why man cannot bring peace to the Middle East and the issues involved, it is important to understand the underlying history between Jews and Arabs that is the foundation of the conflict. In Part 1, we covered the beginnings of this conflict as found in the Bible. In Part 2, we will detail how Islam escalated the hatred Arabs have for the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and its effects on the modern Middle East.

After the Romans destroyed the Temple and most of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., then returned to kill or expel the rest of the Jewish rebels in 135 A.D., Jews were dispersed throughout the known world of that time. Some Jews eventually settled in Arabia and other parts of the Middle East. Not much is heard about conflicts between Jews and their Arab brethren until Mohammed's establishment of Islam in the 7th Century A.D.

When Mohammed started preaching his new religion, he did not have many disciples until he introduced the

killing of those who refused to accept Islam, along with the promise of sharing any plunder, including women as sex slaves, they might obtain. His former conciliatory statements concerning Jews and Christians were replaced with proclamations like Sura 47:4. "Therefore, when ye meet the Unbelievers (in fight), smite at their necks (behead them); At length, when ye have thoroughly subdued them, bind a bond firmly (on them)." Islam swept through Arabia and spread throughout the rest of the Arab world with breathtaking savagery.

It is puzzling to Westerners how such brutality could appeal to millions of people but we must understand the religious background of the Arab people groups. Hundreds of years before, the descendants of Ishmael, Esau, and Lot had rejected the God of the Bible to serve pagan gods. For instance, Moabites worshipped Chemosh, who was the same god of the Ammonites but worshiped under another name, Moloch. The pagan practices of these people groups was the reason the Lord instructed the Jews to wipe them out. He did not want His people to be influenced by the heathens surrounding them.

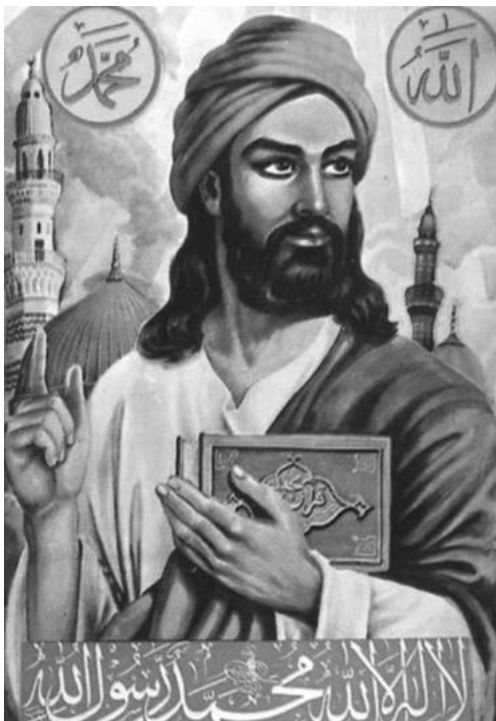
When Mohammed was born in Mecca in 570 A.D., each city and town in Arabia worshipped its own pagan god. The god of the city of Mecca was Allah, the moon god. In fact, Mohammed's father's name, Abd Allah, actually means "slave of Allah." Mohammed simply made Allah the only god. He preached to Jews and Christians but both rejected Islam; Islamic beliefs are simply contrary to the moral foundations of both Judaism and Christianity. The Arabs had no such qualms because their pagan gods did not subscribe to any moral foundations. As a result, Islam grew like wildfire among the Arabs.

Mohammed had to flee Mecca in 622 A.D. because his birth city would not accept his message. He and his family settled in Medina where his message changed. According to the research done by the BBC, Mohammed had enough followers in ten years that enabled him to return to Mecca and conquer the city (http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/history/muhammad_1.shtml).

Islam had enough adherents to be able to capture Jerusalem in 638 A.D. It was during this first period of Muslim rule that the Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa mosques were built on the Temple Mount. The Dome of the Rock, the gold dome structure that is in almost every skyline picture of Jerusalem, was built over a rock that tradition holds is where Abraham offered Isaac and where the first two Jewish temples were built. Islam conveniently replaces Isaac with Ishmael as the son God supposedly wanted Abraham to sacrifice on Mount Moriah.

Although Christians were able to eventually win back Jerusalem several times, nominal "Christian" rule over the Holy Land did not last very long. Saladin recaptured Jerusalem in 1187 A.D. Muslim rule through the Mamluk and Ottoman Empires dominated the former Jewish homeland for hundreds of years until the early 20th Century.

JEW UNDER ISLAMIC RULE



Islam calls Jews and Christians "Children of the Book" in the Qur'an. "They [the Jews] were consigned to humiliation and wretchedness. They brought the wrath of God upon themselves, and this because they used to deny God's signs and kill His prophets unjustly and because they disobeyed and were transgressors" (Sura 2:61). Mohammad is quoted in the Hadith, accepted by most Muslims as sayings by Mohammed, "The Jews will fight with you, and you will be given victory over them so that a stone will say, 'O Muslim! There is a Jew behind me; kill him!'"

According to the Jewish Virtual Library, the Jews suffered expulsion and death under Mohammed and his followers. In 622 A.D., Mohammed expelled many Jews who lived in Medina; in 627 A.D. he and his followers killed between 600-900 Jewish men, while the Jewish women and children became spoils of war to do with as they chose. This practice was recently presented proudly to the entire world by ISIS terrorists who repeatedly and brutally raped young female children, teenagers, and women to the point they preferred suicide to living.

The Jewish Virtual Library's account of how Jews were treated under Islam is so detailed and compelling, I cannot improve upon it so I would like to quote part of it here:

Jews were generally viewed with contempt by their Muslim neighbors; peaceful coexistence between the two groups involved the subordination and degradation of the Jews. In the ninth century, Bagdad's Caliph al-Mutawakkil designated a yellow badge for Jews, setting a precedent that would be followed centuries later in Nazi Germany.

At various times, Jews in Muslim lands lived in relative peace and thrived culturally and economically. The position of the Jews was never secure, however, and changes in the political or social climate would often lead to persecution, violence and death.

When Jews were perceived as having achieved too comfortable a position in Islamic society, anti-Semitism would surface, often with devastating results. On December 30, 1066, Joseph HaNagid, the Jewish vizier of Granada, Spain, was crucified by an Arab mob that proceeded to raze the Jewish

quarter of the city and slaughter its 5,000 inhabitants. The riot was incited by Muslim preachers who had angrily objected to what they saw as inordinate Jewish political power.

Similarly, in 1465, Arab mobs in Fez slaughtered thousands of Jews, leaving only 11 alive, after a Jewish deputy vizier treated a Muslim woman in "an offensive manner." The killings touched off a wave of similar massacres throughout Morocco.

Other mass murders of Jews in Arab lands occurred in Morocco in the 8th century, where whole communities were wiped out by the Muslim ruler Idris I; North Africa in the 12th century, where the Almohads either forcibly converted or decimated several communities; Libya in 1785, where Ali Burzi Pasha murdered hundreds of Jews; Algiers, where Jews were massacred in 1805, 1815 and 1830; and Marrakesh, Morocco, where more than 300 Jews were murdered between 1864 and 1880.

Decrees ordering the destruction of synagogues were enacted in Egypt and Syria (1014, 1293-4, 1301-2), Iraq (854-859, 1344) and Yemen (1676). Despite the Koran's prohibition, Jews were forced to convert to Islam or face death in Yemen (1165 and 1678), Morocco (1275, 1465 and 1790-92) and Baghdad (1333 and 1344).

The situation of Jews in Arab lands reached a low point in the 19th century. Jews in most of North Africa (including Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Morocco) were forced to live in ghettos. In Morocco, which contained the largest Jewish community in the Islamic Diaspora, Jews were made to walk barefoot or wear shoes of straw when outside the ghetto. Even Muslim children participated in the degradation of Jews, by throwing stones at them or harassing them in other ways. The frequency of anti-Jewish violence increased, and many Jews were executed on charges of apostasy. Ritual murder accusations against the Jews became commonplace in the Ottoman Empire.

Again, I will quote the Jewish Virtual Library about what happened to Jews under the Ottoman Empire.

The Ottoman Turks' conquest of the city in 1517 was marked by a violent pogrom which included many deaths, rapes, and the plundering of Jewish homes. The surviving Jews fled to Beirut and did not return until 1533. In 1540, Jews exiled from Spain acquired the site of the "Court of the Jews" and built the Avraham Avino ("Abraham Our Father") synagogue.

In 1775, the Hebron Jewish community was rocked by a blood libel, in which Jews were falsely accused of murdering the son of a local sheikh. The community - which was largely sustained by donations from abroad - was made to pay a crushing fine, which further worsened its already shaky economic situation. Despite its poverty, the community managed in 1807, to purchase a 5-dunam plot. . .

Jews in the Middle East lived under an Islamic caliphate until the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the Balfour Declaration in World War I.

THE BRITISH MANDATE PERIOD



In the late 1800s, Jews started returning to their ancient homeland to start farming settlements. The Balfour Declaration during World War I by Great

Britain promising to allow Jews to establish a new country in the Middle East also encouraged Jewish emigration. The original understanding was that the Jews were supposed to have been allocated a large tract of land for their homeland, including the territory of the modern nation of Jordan. Ha'Aretz, one of the Israel's leading newspapers, recently carried a news article about this on October 25, 2017. This is backed up by the Jewish Virtual Library.

Zionist celebrations following the issuance of the Balfour Declaration proved premature. In 1921, Colonial Secretary Winston Churchill severed nearly four-fifths of Palestine - some 35,000 square miles - to create a brand new Arab entity, Transjordan. This was a betrayal of Balfour as acknowledged by the Peel Commission, appointed by the British Government to investigate the cause of the 1936 Arab riots. The commission wrote that the field in which the Jewish national home was to be established was understood, at the time of the Balfour Declaration, to be the whole of historic Palestine, including Transjordan. The Zionists had no recourse and had to focus their attention on ensuring the international community would endorse the concept of a Jewish national home. . . The British also made the crowning of Abdullah bin Hussein as ruler of Transjordan conditional on his acceptance of a Jewish national home within western Palestine and rejected his demand for control over Palestine . . .

Giving this huge amount of land area to the Arabs did not appease them. After World War I, the victorious allies who had defeated Germany gave Great Britain the authority to govern the Middle East. This became known as The British Mandate Period. Haj Amin el-Husseini, a part of the el-Husseini Jerusalem Arab clan, led the effort to launch terrorist attacks against Jews in the 1920s to protest Jewish immigration and the Balfour Declaration.

The first attack by el-Husseini and the Arabs occurred in April 1920. The reason only six Jews were killed during that attack is that the Jews had foreseen the Arab reaction to the granting of any land given to them, and they were prepared. This did not stop el-Husseini. He continued to plan and instigate riots and attacks against Jews. In 1921, Arabs looted shops in Jerusalem; 43 Jews died in Jaffa and Petach Tikva

from Arab riots. Although the British knew el-Husseini was behind these attacks, the British government inexplicably gave him the title of mufti, defined as being "a Muslim jurist expert in religious law" according to Dictionary.com.

Under el-Husseini, Arab terrorist attacks against Jewish settlements increased and intensified. In 1924, Arab attacks throughout Jewish communities resulted in the deaths of 133 Jews and 116 Arabs.

In 1928-1929, el-Husseini started a rumor that Jews were plotting to destroy Muslim holy places, resulting in Arabs rioting and terrorizing Jews once again. Although it was the Arabs who started the attacks, the British military forced Jews to abandon their homes in the Gaza Strip and Hebron. Jews and Arabs had lived peaceably, side-by-side, for many years in Hebron but Arabs in August 1929 murdered 67 Jews. After evacuating the Hebron Jews, the British military refused to allow Jews to return their homes even years later.

During the 1920s through 1940s, a number of documents were issued by the British government in attempts to appease the Arabs. Winston Churchill, the British colonial secretary during part of the 1920s, issued one of these "white papers" in 1922 that put limits on Jewish immigration. The Jews weren't exactly thrilled with placating the Arabs at their expense but they tried to work with the British government in spite of these actions; in contrast the Arabs rejected any attempts to try to get along with the Jews.

As Arab terrorist attacks against Jews continued in the 1930s and 1940s, the Jews were divided as to how to respond. Some Jews favored working with the British government to find a peaceful solution while others decided more dramatic tactics were needed. One of the latter groups, the *Lehi*, split from the established defense force called the *Irgun*, which had operated for years to protect Jews in the Holy Land. Both groups used violence against British officials and government offices as a legitimate way of trying to force the British to honor the Balfour Declaration and relax the strict Jewish immigration limits. *Lehi* robbed a bank in January 1942, killing two Jewish bank employees and British officers who were witnesses to the robbery. In February 1944, *Irgun* members bombed income tax offices in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Jerusalem. *Lehi* also successfully assassinated an anti-Israel, pro-Arab

British official, Lord Moyne. The two men responsible were hung in 1945.

The Labor Party in Great Britain won elections held in 1945 after the war. The Jewish leaders who had favored working peacefully with the British believing they would honor the Balfour Declaration had their hopes dashed by the new British government. In November 1945, the Jews were informed by the Labor Party government that "England had never countenanced the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine, only a home" ("The Role of Jewish Defense Organizations in Palestine," Jewish Virtual Library, <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-role-of-jewish-defense-organizations-in-palestine-1903-1948>).

The Jews felt betrayed. As a result, all the Jewish defense groups, the more moderate *Haganah* (The Defense), the *Lehi*, and the *Irgun* now led by Menachem Begin, the future prime minister of Israel, all agreed that violence toward any and all symbols of British rule was the only way to force Great Britain to keep the promise of the Balfour Declaration. The united Jewish forces started blowing up bridges, railroads, boats, British military bases, and anything else they could think of to force Great Britain to keep its promises to the Jewish people or leave.

One of the most famous bombings during this time was of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem in 1946. I passed the beautiful King David Hotel many times when I lived in Israel, but it became a death trap when the Jewish defense groups targeted it because it was being used by the British military as an office. Although three telephone calls were made to warn the British so that civilian casualties would be minimized, the British ignored them. Ninety-one people were killed and 45 were injured when the bombs exploded. After continued bombings, kidnappings, and killings of British officials and soldiers by the alliance of the Jewish defense groups, Great Britain finally decided it was in their best interest to pull out and leave the Jews and Arabs to work out their future without them. The Jews accused Britain of deliberately helping the Arabs by arming them and then allowing them to enter mandated territory from neighboring hostile countries to attack and kill Jews.

However, violence only increased between Jews and Arabs before and after the United Nations voted to accept the Partition Plan on November 29, 1947, creating a Jewish state and an Arab state side by

side. Although this was much less than what was originally promised under the Balfour Declaration, Jews felt it was better than nothing. After 2,000 years, the Jews would finally get a country. The Arabs were less than thrilled. In fact, The History Channel's website states that there was strong Arab opposition to the U.N. even voting on the Partition Plan (<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/u-n-votes-for-partition-of-palestine>).

None of this stopped the Jews. On May 14, 1948, David Ben Gurion announced to a stunned world the establishment of the modern State of Israel, a direct fulfillment of end-times Bible prophecy. Within 24 hours, the combined forces of Israel's Arab neighbors attacked this new, tiny nation, determined to wipe it off the map before it even had a chance to begin.

SOME OF THE WORST TERRORIST ATTACKS IN ISRAELI HISTORY

The Arabs could not wipe out the new infant State of Israel in 1948-1949. Though they tried many times in the years following 1948, whether through formal wars such as in 1956, 1967 (6-Day War), and 1973 (Yom Kippur War), or attacks through proxy terrorist groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah, the PLO, and others, Israel has survived. While Islam is to blame for both, most Westerners are familiar with the major wars Israel has fought; the ongoing slaughter of Jews by random terrorist attacks that continue to be perpetrated against Israel to this very day are less well known. So I would like to present several of the worst terrorist attacks in modern Israel's short history to give Westerners a slight idea of what Jews in Israel must face every day in their country.

The Kiryat Shmona Massacre, April 11, 1974: The original target of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine that day was a school in the town of Kiryat Shmona, not too far from the border of Lebanon. But the school was closed due to the Passover holiday so the terrorists simply chose another building in which they murdered nine adults, nine children and injured 16 others before they committed suicide to avoid being killed by Israeli soldiers storming the building.

The Coastal Road Massacre, March 11, 1978: Although 2 members of this PLO terrorist team had drowned two days earlier, the rest decided to go ahead and carry out the planned terrorist attack. They

were supposed to land by boat near Tel Aviv but landed on a beach north of the city. They killed the American photographer they met after she gave them directions on how to get to the city, and then hijacked a taxi, killing everyone in the car. The terrorists hijacked two buses, throwing grenades and at least one body at oncoming cars passing them on the Coastal Road. The terrorists drove the bus with over 70 hostages through the first police roadblock but was stopped by the larger, second roadblock just north of Tel Aviv. Because this happened on a Saturday, which is the Jewish Sabbath, the local police who were not as well-trained in confronting terrorist events had to handle the situation, which deteriorated quickly after the bus was finally stopped. The police were no match for the terrorists who were equipped with sub-machine guns. Thirty-one Israelis, including 13 children and the American photographer died; 71 were injured.

Sbarro Restaurant Bombing, August 9, 2001: A suicide terrorist detonated a bomb filled with nuts, bolts, and nails at the Sbarro Pizzeria and Restaurant in downtown Jerusalem, killing 13 Israelis, a pregnant American and a Brazilian and injuring 130. One victim is still hospitalized in a permanent vegetative state. I passed this restaurant countless times in Jerusalem; a friend had actually treated me to lunch there before I returned to the States in 2000.

The Hatuel Family Massacre, May 2, 2004: Orthodox Jews David and Tali Hatuel lived in the Israeli settlement of Gush Katif in the Gaza Strip with their four beautiful daughters. Tali was eight months pregnant with their first son. Tali had picked up the three eldest girls from school in the family car; they were on their way to a protest against the planned Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip when two Arab terrorists started shooting at their car, causing Tali to lose control of the car and run off the road. The terrorists were then free to approach the car and shoot Tali and her daughters repeatedly at close range. They deliberately shot Tali in the stomach to kill her unborn child. The girls died in the car. Tali later died at a hospital. David refused to call for revenge attacks against Arabs. He eventually remarried and has had three sons and a daughter with his second wife. Before he remarried, David said, "I have two options, either to collapse or to continue living. I have chosen life! My new home is an addition and not a replacement of the home that was destroyed. I am like

a tree whose branches were cut off and now they are growing again."

I could also name the countless terrorist attacks that occurred over and over and over again after the infamous Oslo Accords in the 1990s, the treaties that were supposed to bring "peace" with the so-called Palestinians. What a joke! The numerous bus bombings, one with a couple literally on fire who embraced each other as they were burning to death; the sirens from ambulances racing through the narrow streets of Jerusalem to save whoever they could from the latest terrorist bombing. I'll never forget what Derrick, one of my co-workers at *The Jerusalem Post*, said after one such terrorist bus bombing. His wife, Judy, had made the comment, "This morning while we were eating breakfast, these people were alive."

Islam not only reignited the hatred that the Arabs had for the Jews but increased it many times over. I am not saying that the Middle East would be conflict-free, and that Jews and Arabs/Muslims would be the best of friends. However, I honestly believe that the current situation in the Middle East between Israel and her neighbors would be vastly different if not for Mohammad and his introduction of Islam into the world.

In part three of this series, I will examine some of the more prominent issues that keep Israel from reaching peace with Arab and Muslim countries in the Middle East.

You can read more of what the Qur'an says about Jews at the Jewish Virtual Library (<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/references-to-jews-in-the-koran>). The Jewish Virtual Library also has a more comprehensive list of terrorist attacks in Israel. (<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/comprehensive-listing-of-terrorism-victims-in-israel>).

EDITOR'S NOTE: Carol Rushton has been writing on the Middle East and Bible Prophecy for over four decades. She worked for The Jerusalem Times during her eight year stay in Israel during the 1990s.

Reprints of this publication may be obtained from:
Southwest Prophecy Ministries
P.O. Box 58043, Oklahoma City, OK 73157
5 copies for \$5.00; 25 copies for \$15.00; 100 copies for \$60
You can listen to our weekly podcasts at www.swpm.us

