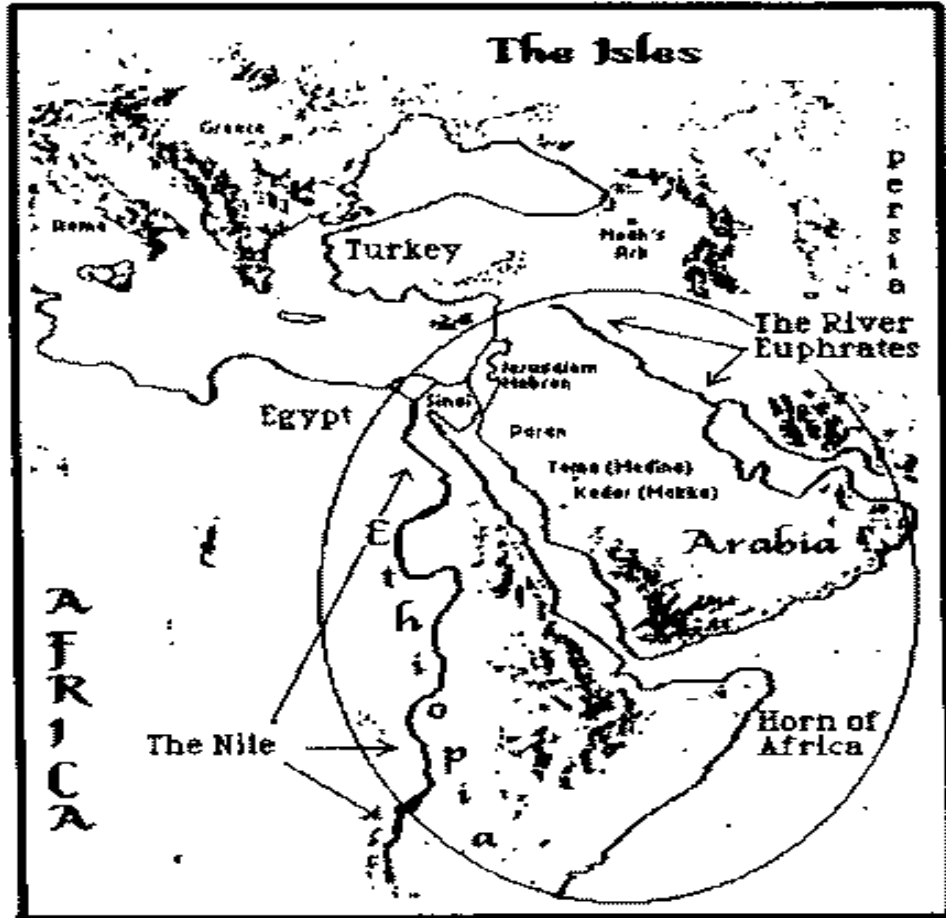


War in the Heavens

Winning With Jesus – Volume I

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The Promised Land

Given to the House of Abraham,
excepting wrongdoers, from the Nile to
the Euphrates; Entrusted to the House of
Jacob, conditioned on Israel's Covenant,
from the River Jordan to the Great Sea.

INTRODUCTION

“*Ankaboot*,”¹ a muslim fundamentalist elder,² was warmly welcomed among the Christian Sojourners when he began writing in their *God’s Politics* blog.³ His sole aim: to make Islam *known* to them; which fortuitously matched their desire to know more about Islam and muslims and build bridges. In August of 2010, the cacophony of contention about faith and religion in America was focused on the Cordoba House project in lower Manhattan ~ the so-called “Ground Zero Mosque,” a newly-minted and thoroughly duplicitous “issue” inflamed for the off-year election campaign season of 2010. Ankaboot added perspectives, understanding, and commentary on faith, history, and the world at hand, from a point of view common to the faithful of Islam in America and worldwide, to the ongoing conversations. This volume, intended to be the first of at least five of similar length, includes contextualized conversation from the earliest fifteen discussions he joined:

Forgiveness, Fear, and the Mosque at Ground Zero
Religious Freedom and the Mosque and Community Center
Who Wins When the U.S. Restricts Religious Freedom?
Can Muslims Follow the Biblical Christ and Still Be Muslim?
The Implications of Calling Cordoba House a “Mosque”
Are We Saved by Doctrine, or Saved by Jesus?
“For They Shall be Called Children of God”
American Muslims Are Not Responsible for 9/11
The Clay Talks Back
Refracting America Through 9/11 Lens
Why I’m at Sojourners
The War in Iraq: At What Cost?
Hope for the Holy Land
Faith in the Park51 Muslim Community Center
Is the Cordoba House “Insensitive”?

About “Ankaboot” ...

“Ankaboot,” a native of Oregon with French, English, German, Russian, Irish, Scottish, and Wind River Shoshoni ancestry, is a Vietnam-era veteran of the U.S. Army, later to become known among Arab muslims in America as “the ultra-orthodox shaykh.” He is the founder and director of the Muslim America School of Law and a mutasawwif of the Qadiri tariqah, and has been articulating Islam in American idiomatic English for nearly half a century as a professor of Islamic shari’ah.⁴ He resides in Washington State with his wife of forty years.

¹ “Ankaboot” is the Arabic word for “Spider.”

² In Islam, known as “men of old” and called “shaykh”

³ <http://blog.sojo.net/> – Quoted material © Sojourners 2008

⁴ <http://www.muslimamerica.net/>

The Christian Sojourners Ministries¹

The *Christian Sojourners* are “a committed group of Christians who work together to live a gospel life that integrates spiritual renewal and social justice.”²

The Sojourners write: “Our mission is to articulate the biblical call to social justice, inspiring hope and building a movement to transform individuals, communities, the church, and the world.”³

“Sojourners ministries grew out of the Sojourners Community, located in Southern Columbia Heights, an inner-city neighborhood in Washington, D.C. The community began at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois, in the early 1970s when a handful of students began meeting to discuss the relationship between their faith and political issues, particularly the Vietnam War. In 1971, the group decided to create a publication that would express their convictions and test whether other people of faith had similar beliefs.”⁴

“In 1995, Sojourners founded Call to Renewal, with many other partners and organizations, to specifically focus on poverty by uniting churches and faith-based organizations across the theological and political spectrum to lift up those whom Jesus called ‘the least of these.’ For more than a decade Call to Renewal convened the broadest Christian table on poverty in America. In 2006, Sojourners and Call to Renewal re-united organizationally under the name Sojourners/Call to Renewal. In October 2007, the organizational name returned to Sojourners, while the special focus on uniting churches on poverty continued to be a priority in the advocacy work of Sojourners.”⁵

“Sojourners are Christians who follow Jesus, but who also sojourn with others in different faith traditions and all those who are on a spiritual journey. We are evangelicals, Catholics, Pentecostals and Protestants; progressives and conservatives; blacks, whites, Latinos, and Asians; women and men; young and old. We reach into traditional churches but also out to those who can’t fit into them. Together we seek to discover the intersection of faith, politics, and culture. We invite you to join, to connect, and to act. Welcome to the community.”⁶

“*God’s Politics* – a blog by Jim Wallis & friends”⁷ is an open discussion forum inviting readers to add their comments to insightful and informative articles of interest to the faithful of Jesus striving, in today’s world, to carry out the ministry of Jesus to the outcast, the helpless, and the suffering. Each article, and each comment, is accompanied by a “Like” button to indicate agreement or appreciation of the writer’s contribution to the discussion.

¹ <http://www.sojo.net/> – Quoted material © Sojourners 2010

² http://www.sojo.net/index.cfm?action=about_us.history

³ http://www.sojo.net/index.cfm?action=about_us.mission

⁴ http://www.sojo.net/index.cfm?action=about_us.history

⁵ http://www.sojo.net/index.cfm?action=about_us.history

⁶ http://www.sojo.net/index.cfm?action=about_us.history

⁷ <http://blog.sojo.net/> – Quoted material © Sojourners 2008

The Messenger of the Covenant

“Islam began a stranger and, then, it will return as it began. Then bliss to the strangers!”

He was talking about The Hour and about the Days of Creation, the Days mentioned in The Book ... and he talked about how Islam would raise up his people beyond what anyone could imagine, and how their success would become disaster and yet a blessing to all the peoples of the world.

And he talked about the End of Days and the Last Day and all of the things that would happen until then, how Islam would disappear from the world of men and then, later, be sent down again. Strange things. New things.

***“... a Day the measure of which is a thousand years as you reckon ...”
and “... a Day the measure of which is fifty thousand years ...”***

And how Islam would again ~ at that then-distant time ~ be a “new thing” as The Hour approaches and as the new Day begins with a new Dawn, like a sunrise in the far west where the sun sets ... and he said

***“Islam began a stranger and, then, it will return as it began.
Then bliss to the strangers!”***

And people began to ask him about these “strangers” he had mentioned ...

*‘I was at the Messenger of God’s and the sun rose; then he said, “There shall come to God some people on the Day of Rising whose light is like sunlight.” Then Abu Bakr said, “Are we the ones, O Messenger of God?” He said, “No, and you have much goodness. **But they are the poor and the immigrants who will be gathered from the ends of the earth.**” Then he said, “Bliss to the strangers. Bliss to the strangers. Bliss to the strangers.” Then it was said, “Who are the strangers, O Messenger of God?” He said, “Good people among many bad people. Those who will disobey them are more than those who will obey them.”’*

Strangers the Messenger called “my brothers” and of whom he said

“They will believe in me without ever having seen me.”

And they continued to ask ... “Who are the strangers?”

“They are those who follow my ways when my ummah is corrupt.”

“They are of those who will have moved away from their clans.”

“God will bring them together to join Jesus the son of Mary.”

Forgiveness, Fear, and the Mosque at Ground Zero ¹

Ankaboot 08/06/2010 07:51 AM

Jesus, God's Word that He cast into Mary, the Messiah of Israel who delivered the Good News of the Millennial Kingdom and saved the faithful remnant of Israel from the treason and apostasy of the pharisees and scribes, the only man ever to walk the earth without sin or error, would be saddened by many of the comments posted here.

Where in the English-speaking media do we see wholesale falsification of Hinduism, Judaism, Taoism, Buddhism, or even Christianity? Yet that is almost all we see about Islam, incessantly, in movies, "news," commentary, and virtually every mass-media information source from compulsory public education through old age.

It wasn't like this when I was a child, sixty years ago. Then, we learned that "Islam" was a few dusty desert-dwellers milking camels and living in tents, and of no historical significance whatever. We certainly weren't informed that pharmacy and medicine in Europe for a thousand years was based on Arabic writings, or that private enterprise free market capitalism was perfected in Fatimid Egypt long before our ancestors developed the European version from its Arabic roots. We didn't know that the lost works of Aristotle were preserved in Arabic translations and restored to Europe through muslim Spain. No one mentioned that algebra, surveying, astral navigation, refrigeration, and federalism all had Arabic origins.

But the muslim empire persisted, in increasingly corrupted forms, for a thousand years, and then vanished into dust, as expected.

And in America, when I was a child, sixty years ago, there were all of three muslim neighborhoods in America ~ in Dearborn, Michigan, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Sacramento, California. Now there are over two thousand mosques, and over nineteen million muslims in America, the vast majority born and raised in America, and a large plurality with no ancestral or historical heritage related to Islam.

In my lifetime, the population of Muslim America has grown at a rate not seen in the muslim world in over ten centuries. This, despite an institutionalized demonization of muslims hard at work since the development of mass media.

And a lot of people commenting here have believed the lie, even posting links to websites devoted to the demonization. It is not America's Christians who are behind this falsification, people, and it is not without a very old motive.

A muslim "YMCA" two blocks from City Hall and two blocks from the World Trade Center? Why not? So what?

¹ <http://blog.sojo.net/2010/06/08/forgiveness-fear-and-the-mosque-at-ground-zero>

Churches in downtown areas are being threatened with displacement because the cities want more tax revenue from the commercial zones of the cities. Religious organizations providing shelter for the homeless are under attack nation-wide by means of zoning regulations, building codes, and other regulatory “permit” requirements. Religion in America has been under attack ~ see *The New First Amendment*¹ for the legal history ~ for almost a century now. Of course, it’s not politically correct to malign a religion or a religious group.

Except muslims. Hmmm.

Try reading *The Straight Path*² for a little “straight” information about faith in general, and the other three articles linked at the top of the *welcome page*³ for some real information about those people that so many love to hate.

America is the closest thing in the world to a muslim state. Our country was built on the premise of religious liberty, and it’s ingrained in our culture. Some abuse it, some capitalize on it, and some of the Arab states certainly have been trying to colonize American Islam for decades ~ and failing. But the American people live in religious congregations to a greater extent than any other people, we are a religious people despite what appears in the mainstream media.

And one in twenty are muslim. They don’t come knocking at your door, they don’t tell you how to live, they don’t seek government grants to finance social service programs or building projects, and you hardly know they exist unless they live on your street.

So who’s stirring up all this controversy about a community center facility available to everyone? And why is it being made a national issue as the mid-term elections draw near?

See *Guide To Events*⁴ ~ nothing makes the headlines unless there’s an agenda behind it.

Whose agenda is this hate-fest brouhaha? And what, really, is that agenda?

7 people liked this.

Ankaboot 08/06/2010 09:04 AM in reply

Sure, I forgive the attackers but I do not accept Islam as anything other than the worship of false gods as they refuse to recognize Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

I don’t forgive them, nor do I forgive those who helped them, all the way from the Far East to Manhattan, knowing full well what they were planning to do. May God give them what they richly deserve.

¹ <http://www.muslimamerica.net/mp/newfirst.htm>

² <http://www.muslimamerica.net/mp/straight.htm>

³ <http://www.muslimamerica.net/>

⁴ <http://www.muslimamerica.net/mp/guide.htm>

God forgives what people turn away from ~ just as Jesus said, calling for “repentance.” Do you imagine that those maniacs “repented” just before they died? Do you think that would save them from what they deserve? God is The Forgiver, and I suspect that your forgiveness will not help them at all. We (muslims) believe that God will not forgive them until the people they murdered and injured forgive them, and you do not appear to be among the dead or wounded.

But here’s something else for you to think about: how could I, a muslim, worship a “false god” when there is only one God, and no others who could be an object of worship? Do you see that the mere accusation that someone worships a “false god” is a statement that there is more than one, of whom One is True and the other “gods” are false? Who are these “false gods” that you imagine exist? Or are you just talking about what people CALL God, a matter of names made up that you don’t recognize as a “proper” name of God?

What about Jehovah, Yahweh, or “I AM THAT I AM,” in your Scripture? Are those “false gods” because they’re not called upon by the English word (of more recent invention) “God”?

Muslims believe in One God, the ONLY One God. And muslims defend your right to believe or NOT believe in The One God, by whatever name you use for Him. Religious liberty originated with Islam ~ no other faith acknowledges any validity in “another religion” than theirs, while Islam recognizes validity in every religious faith.

When muslims liberated Palestine from the Roman occupation, ‘Umar returned seventy Jewish families to their ancestral estates in Jerusalem. Muslims rebuilt churches and synagogues throughout the Arab Muslim empire. That Greek Church near the WTC site that was demolished? Ask Imam ‘Abdur-Ra’uf to help you find the means to rebuild it ~ it’s something muslims have been doing for fourteen centuries. A mosque in Seattle was built from one check from one muslim ~ there’s a good possibility that the Greek Orthodox church could be rebuilt the same way.

But as to your “refuse to recognize” accusation, I think you’re a bit off the mark. I don’t recognize the moon as a big ball of green cheese, but it’s not a matter of “refusal.” I recognize Jesus as I see him, in Scripture and in life. See the first paragraph of my last post for a very short version of how I recognize Jesus. To me, he is a very special person, with whom I would like to think I have much in common, and from what I know of him, we do have some things in common. I think I know him pretty well, and I expect to spend many lifetimes with him and get to know him much better.

But if I thought Jesus was the “Son of God” in any way other than the Children of Israel call themselves “Sons of God,” then I’d be a Pauline Christian, like you. There are lots of people who aren’t Pauline Christians ~ why do you single out the muslims for your particular faith-based animosity? Aren’t you interested in spreading the Good News to muslims, or is it something personal?

Read your Scripture and you’ll find that the Children of Israel have always called themselves the sons of God, distinguishing themselves from the children of Ishmael, who they call the sons of man. Even Jesus used this terminology, referring to the son of man and the sons of God.

Better yet, read what Jesus knew by heart ~ the entirety of the Torah, the Psalms, and the Prophets ~ in Hebrew or Arabic. The English translations of the Latin translations from the Greek don't really reach the original Hebrew and Aramaic that Jesus spoke, which are much richer and have shades of meaning that just don't translate.

Or don't. Continue to despise me because of that "refusal" if you like, if it makes you feel better or "more Christian." It really doesn't matter to me, it just tells me who you are. And who you want to be is your religion, I have no say at all in what you choose as your religion, other than to defend your right to it.

I'm sure the only "ulterior motive" of the Imam building the Center is to make Islam known to people. That's the reason there's so much loud opposition to the building ~ making Islam known to people is the last thing some folks want to see.

7 people liked this.

Ankaboot 08/08/2010 12:47 AM in reply

What I have not read in these responses to the article is an acknowledgment or addressing of the motivation behind the building of the mosque so close to ground zero.

1. It's not a mosque. The mosque is twenty blocks away. It is a community center just as your local YMCA is a community center.
2. It has been there for a long time, long before 9/11. It is not a new thing, it is simply a new building.
3. The motivation is to make Islam known to people (by serving public needs). That was stated in an earlier post.

Islam did slam into the World Trade Center Buildings. Islam and the teachings of the Koran were responsible for the mindset of the architects and executioners of that horrible day. In Muslim countries, there was dancing in the streets at the news of the World Trade Center's collapse. The shop keepers were throwing candies to children on that day.

4. This is false in every element. "Islam" had nothing to do with 9/11, other than serving as an "alien-other-enemy" element of the false pretexts for the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.
5. 9/11 violated explicit prohibitions of Islam and no "teaching" of Islam was remotely responsible for any "mindset" involved in that treasonous event.
6. The video played and replayed constantly, after the collapse of the towers, has been positively identified as from years before 9/11 and far away, it was pure propaganda.

Please, don't insult the intelligence of readers to deny that Islam supremacists abound and that their goal is to Islamicize the world.

Please don't insult the intelligence of readers by suggesting that a fringe minority estranged from the muslim community at large are the only imperialists willing to use violence to install their peculiar coercive political system over people who are already doing fine with the political system that they prefer.

The nationalist/imperialist political scheme of the so-called "Islamists" is nothing more than warmed-over socialism on the Torah model, before the institution of individual private property rights by Islam, recast in pseudo-orthodox pietist Arabic terminology to give it a messianic flavor. It is no different from the so-called White Christian Identity ("white supremacist") political schemes, which also derive from the Torah, or from national socialism, other than in the language and supposed "Scriptural" authority in which it is cast. See the translated writings of 'Ali Shari'ati, the student of Jean-Paul Sartre, for what is perhaps the clearest expression of the "Islamist" scheme immediately recognizable as dialectical materialist socialism. The "Islamists" merely carry the ideas forward to Lenin and Trotsky's militant agenda.

The so-called "Islamists" have brothers in spirit inside the Beltway, with whom they differ only about who will have the power to get away with murder.

The Muslims who conquered southern Spain built a triumphal mosque in Cordoba.

The muslims who initially relieved the religious minorities of Spain from Catholic tyranny, as they were asked to do, established a liberal democracy that was later overtaken by other muslims from North Africa who instituted the Abbasid-style priestly tyranny. Despite this, Muslim Spain gathered Christian, Jewish, and other scholars in Europe's first universities, educated the children of Europe's nobility, and gave Europe pharmacy, antiseptic surgery, mathematics, the scientific method, literacy in general, philosophy (notably the lost works of Aristotle), and the underpinnings of the scientific developments we enjoy today.

But as for "built a triumphal mosque," you'll have to look elsewhere. The muslims converted a deserted cathedral, which was later reconverted after the Reconquista, and stands today as one of the world's architectural wonders, with elements from all of the religions ever to exist in Spain.

Yes, for eight centuries, Spain was a muslim federal republic. It gave Europe the Renaissance, the fruits of Jewish, Christian, and muslim scholarship and scientific endeavor, and civilization that quickly fell to tyranny and became domestication instead. The muslims built mosques, churches, and synagogues. What "conquest" did 9/11 achieve, for whom, that the muslims would celebrate by building a mosque (which is not happening), when such a mosque would be a violation of Islam's prohibition against building such things?