

SLB-011 (9-24-2006)

The Spiritual Life Basics

Introduction: The Need for a Spiritual Life -
The Times in Which We Live Part II
(9-24-2006)

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- 2 Peter 1:21 "For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (NIV)

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- C.H. Spurgeon said in an 1862 sermon: "Although I do not despise prophesying, I entertain a very intense disgust of those who know nothing about them, and yet pretend to be their interpreters."

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- The modern interpreters of Biblical prophecy are more correctly called speculators, not interpreters.
- God is the only one who knows all things from beginning to end. Man has to wait until the events take place before he can know what God already knows as fact.
- Mat 16:3 *And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?*
- Until these end time events take place, the best anyone can do in dealing with these passages is to compare current events with a speculation of compatibility. This is not interpretation.

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- There were over 300 Old Testament prophecies about Messiah that were fulfilled by the life of Jesus Christ. Josh McDowell, following the argument of an older writer, Peter Stoner (Science Speaks), says that if you just took 8 of these prophecies, the odds of a person coincidentally fulfilling all eight of these would be one in 10 to the 17th power.
- Since we can't easily picture what that means, he gave this illustration: spread silver dollars two feet deep across the whole state of Texas and, then marked just one of them. The chances of randomly picking the marked one on the first try would be one in 10 to the 17th power! (Josh McDowell, Evidence That Demands a Verdict, Vol. 1, pp. 144, 167)

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- The thing that makes the study of prophecy challenging is that there are so many different trends to watch.
- So how do all these trends or "pieces" fit together?
- We will give the broad outline of Biblical Prophecy now, and once we see "The Big Picture," it will make more sense to investigate various parts of the subject in detail.

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- There are some who think that future prophecies will not be fulfilled literally, but that they merely have spiritual meaning. Most of these consider themselves "Amillennial" (meaning "no Millennial Kingdom" in the future.)
- Others, who do expect a literal fulfillment of all these things in the future, sometimes disagree on issues such as the timing of the Rapture, or the "catching away" of the Church.

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- Those who believe the Rapture will take place soon, before the events of the Tribulation, are known as "Pre-Trib," while those who think the Rapture will take place in the middle or at the end of the Tribulation are known as "Mid-Trib," or "Post-Trib." Some even think the Rapture will take place toward the very end of The Tribulation. They consider themselves "Pre-Wrath."
- Jesus' own teaching about the future is found in His sermon on The Mount of Olives. He indicated that there would be four phases of the future.
- We will follow His outline from The Gospel of Matthew, chapter 24.

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- 1A.. BEGINNING OF BIRTH PAINS - Matthew 24:4-8
- This is a picture of the times in which we are living. This is the generation which has seen the rebirth of the nation of Israel, exactly as prophesied in Ezekiel, chapters 36 and 37. Such a thing has never happened in history, that a people who have been scattered for 2500 years could be brought back together and given their land again. Many miraculous events have enabled Israel to become a nation again in 1948 and to survive the hostility of all her enemies.

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- Earthquakes, Famines, Plagues, Wars and Rumors of Wars, Apostasy, Lawlessness, Persecution, Terrors in the Heavens. And False Christs are listed here and in the parallel passages (Mark 13 and Luke 21). These are often called the "Signs of The Times" because they are things which will start to happen before Christ comes and then become even worse during the Tribulation.
- The events of this period of time are like the onset of labor pains. They are strong enough to let the mother know that the time of birth is near, but they are not as severe as they will be later. Thus, the dreadful events of the Tribulation are prefigured by many smaller versions of the same things before the intense trouble of the Tribulation actually begins.

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- 2A. THE TRIBULATION - Matthew 24:9-14
- According to Daniel 9:24-27, there were seventy weeks of Israel's history to be fulfilled. The word "week" literally means "seven," so 70 "weeks" could be 490 years. But there is a break - after the 69th week (7 + 62 "sevens"), it was prophesied that Messiah would be cut off. Then there would be one last "week" of seven years at a later time.
- Sir Robert Anderson, the illustrious head of Scotland Yard, wrote *The Coming Prince* in 1895 to show that the first 69 "weeks" (69 times 7 = 483 years) were fulfilled exactly, to the very day, on the date that Jesus offered Himself as King - the day of "The Triumphal Entry" into Jerusalem.
- (Grant R. Jeffrey, *Armageddon: Appointment With Destiny*, pp. 27-30.)

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- The events that last week of Israel's history have never transpired yet, but they must be fulfilled before the end of this age. The entire Church Age occurs between this 69th and 70th "weeks". The Church was a "mystery" (something hidden) in the Old Testament (Ephesians 3:9-10). It is a temporary "grafting in" of Gentiles until that future time when God's chosen people, Israel, will believe again (Romans, chapter 11).

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- The Church Age will end at the very beginning of this period of time. The Church Age is given in Revelation, chapters 1 through 3, but at the beginning of chapter 4, John is told to "come up here" into the heavenly realm where he viewed the events of The Tribulation. This corresponds to the Rapture spoken of in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6.
- This "week" is the same as the seven years of the Tribulation. During this time Antichrist will come into power, first over a Revived Roman Empire (Daniel 2), and then over most of the planet. This will be made possible because of an growing interest by Earth's citizens in a One-world government, or "New World Order."

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- It will also be facilitated by an apostate one-world religion, led by New Age thinking which actually goes all the way back to the ancient corruption of Babylon. Daniel 9:27 indicates that Antichrist will make a covenant with Israel for seven years, and in the middle of it he will break the covenant and set up the "Abomination of Desolation" (Matthew 24:15), which will begin the next period, "The Great Tribulation."

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- The expression "Times of the Gentiles" is used in Luke 21:24 to refer to the period of time that Jerusalem will be under Gentile domination. It has been under Gentile control from that time until now. Even today, it is, in a sense, under Gentile domination, because its holiest spot, the Temple is held by Moslems. And even during the seven years of Antichrist's treaty, the city will be subject to the power of the Gentile world system. Antichrist will allow them to build their city and Temple, and then he will defile it.

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- This first half of the seven years of Tribulation is represented by the first six Seals in The Revelation, chapter 6.
- One bright spot during this time is the fact that the Gospel will be preached "in the whole world," and "to all nations." This will be accomplished by the work of the 144,000 sealed ones (Messianic Jews), by satellite technology from underground Christians, and, by the angels of Revelation 14:6-9 which preach the Gospel and warn people not to receive the Mark of the Beast.

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- 3A. THE GREAT TRIBULATION - Matthew 24:15-28
- This intensified period of trouble is called The Great Tribulation by prophecy scholars, following Christ's own description of the time as one of "great distress."
- The "abomination that causes desolation" is a clear reference to Daniel 9:27 where, in the middle of the "week" or seven-year peace treaty, Antichrist defiles the Temple by setting up an image of himself (Revelation 13:15) and demanding the worship of all. He will utilize Modern Technology to control an economic dictatorship so that only those who worship him and receive the Mark of the Beast will be allowed to buy or sell.

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- Antichrist, now The Beast, will then will have forty-two months to reign. (Revelation 13:5, 14 - See also Revelation 11:3 and 12:6 where this period of time is specified as 1,260 days, which equals 3 1/2 years using the lunar calendar of 30 days per month --the normal Biblical month.
- During these last three and one half years, the believing residents of Israel will flee from this tyrant into the mountains. This may be a reference to the place of God's protection for 42 months ([Revelation 12:6](#)), which many people believe will be the rose red city of Petra, the ancient capitol of the Edomites just east of the Dead Sea (in modern Jordan).

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- Verse 21 tells of a "great distress", worse than any other that has ever been or ever will be. The prophet Jeremiah described this time in the same way. He used the metaphor of "birth pains" in his prediction of a terrible future time of "Jacob's trouble" just before the time of ultimate blessing. (Jeremiah 30:5-8) The onset of labor pains before the Tribulation becomes hard labor during that time of "trouble," but something wonderful is about to be "born" when Jesus Christ returns as "King of Kings."
- These last three years of Tribulation are covered by the Seven Trumpets and the Seven Vials of God's wrath in The Revelation, chapters 7 through 18.

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- 4A. AFTER THE TRIBULATION - [Matthew 24:29-31](#)
- This time corresponds to The Revelation, chapters 19 through 22. It is about "The End" and a New Beginning. According to Revelation 19:11-16, Jesus Christ will return to Earth as victorious King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He will destroy the forces of evil at the Battle of Armageddon. This is not the Rapture because the white-robed saints are already with Him as He descends. It is, rather, the gathering of the believers who have survived the Tribulation, and who will then populate the Millennial Kingdom.

Biblical Prophecy and Eschatology

- According to Revelation 20, this Millennial Kingdom, or thousand years of Christ's righteous reign on Earth, will take place, and then be followed by one last rebellion by Satan, who will be bound in the Abyss during the thousand years, but released at the end. Satan will gather human rebels to fight this last war, but will be utterly defeated by Christ and cast into the Lake of Fire.
- After the Great White Throne Judgment, God will then create a "New Heaven and Earth" where we will dwell eternally with Christ. There will be no pain, sorrow, or suffering there! (Revelation chapters 21 and 22).

Islamic and Biblical Eschatology

- There are many startling similarities that exist between the biblical narrative of the last days and the Islamic narrative of the same period:
- 1. Bible: The Antichrist is an unparalleled political, military and religious leader that will emerge in the last days.
- Islam: The Mahdi is an unparalleled political, military and religious leader that will emerge in the last days.

Islamic and Biblical Eschatology

- 2. Bible: the False Prophet is a secondary prominent figure that will emerge in the last days who will support the Antichrist.
- Islam: the Muslim Jesus is a secondary prominent figure that will emerge in the last days to support the Mahdi.
- 3. Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet together will have a powerful army that will do great damage to the earth in an effort to subdue every nation and dominate the world.
- Islam: The Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus will have a powerful army that will attempt to control every nation of the earth and dominate the world.

Islamic and Biblical Eschatology

- 4. Bible: The False Prophet is described essentially as a dragon in lamb's clothing.
- Islam: The Muslim Jesus literally comes bearing the name of the one that the world knows as "The Lamb of God: Jesus Christ." Yet the Muslim Jesus, comes to murder all those who do not submit to Islam.
- 5. Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet establish a new world order.
- Islam: The Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus establish a New World Order.

Islamic and Biblical Eschatology

- 6. Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet instihlte new laws for the whole earth.
- Islam: The Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus institute Islamic law all over the earth.
- 7. Bible: The Antichrist is said to "change the times."
- Islam: It is quite certain that if the Mahdi established Islam all over the earth, he would discontinue the use of Saturday and Sunday as the weekend or days of rest but rather Friday, the holy day of Islam. Also, he would most certainly eliminate the Gregorian calendar (A.D.), and replace it with the Islamic calendar (A.H.) as is used in every Islamic country.

Islamic and Biblical Eschatology

- 8. Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet will both be powerful religious leaders who will attempt 'to institute a universal world religion.
 - Islam: The Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus will institute Islam as the only religion in the earth.
- 9. Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet will execute anyone who does not submit to their religion.
 - Islam: Likewise, the Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus will execute anyone who does not submit to Islam.

Islamic and Biblical Eschatology

- 10. Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet will specifically use beheading as the primary means of execution for nonconformists.
- Islam: The Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus will use the Islamic practice of beheading for executions.
- 11. Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet will have a specific agenda to kill as many Jews as possible.
- Islam: The Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus will kill as many Jews as is possible until only a few are left hiding behind rocks and trees.

Islamic and Biblical Eschatology

- 12. Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet will attack to conquer and seize Jerusalem.
- Islam: The Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus will attack to re-conquer and seize Jerusalem for Islam.
- 13. Bible: The Antichrist will set himself up in the Jewish temple as his seat of authority.
- Islam: The Mahdi will establish the Islamic Caliphate from Jerusalem.

Islamic and Biblical Eschatology

- 14. Bible: The False Prophet is said to do many miracles to deceive as many as possible into supporting the Antichrist.
- Islam: The Malidi himself is said to control the weather and the crops. His face is said to glow. We can also assume that since Jesus is viewed as having been empowered by Allah to work miracles when he was here on earth the first time, he will most likely be expected to continue to do so when he returns.

Islamic and Biblical Eschatology

- 15. Bible: The Antichrist is described as riding on a white horse in the Book of Revelation
 - Islam: The Mahdi is described as riding on a white horse (ironically from the same verse).
- 16. Bible: The Antichrist is said to make a peace treaty with Israel for seven years.
 - Islam: The Mahdi is said to make a peace treaty through a Jew (specifically a Levite) for exactly seven years.

Islamic and Biblical Eschatology

- 17. Bible: Jesus the Jewish Messiah will return to defend the Jews in Israel from a military attack from a vast coalition of nations led by the Antichrist and the False Prophet.
 - Islam: The Dajjal, the Islamic Antichrist will gain a great Jewish following and claim to be Jesus Christ and fight against the Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus.
- 18. Bible: The antichrist spirit specifically denies the most unique and central doctrines of Christianity, namely the trinity, the incarnation and the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross.
 - Islam: Islam doctrinally and spiritually specifically denies the trinity, the incarnation and the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross.

Islamic and Biblical Eschatology

- 19. Bible: The primary warning of Jesus and the Apostle Paul was to warn Christians of the abundance of deceit and deception in the last-days.
- Islam: Islam is perhaps the only religion in the earth that practices deceit as one of its tools to assist its own ascendancy. It actually has a specific doctrine which allows and even calls for deception to be used to achieve its desired end.

Islamic and Biblical Eschatology

- 20. Bible: The specific nations pictured in the Bible as being part of the final empire of the Antichrist are all Islamic nations.
 - Islam: All Muslims are commanded to give their allegiance to The Mahdi as the final Caliph and Imam (leader) of Islam.
- 21. Bible: From the Bible and history we learn that the final Antichrist empire will be a revived version of the empire that succeeds the Roman Empire.
 - Islam: The Empire that succeeded the Roman/ Byzantine Empire was the Islamic Ottoman Empire

Islamic and Biblical Eschatology

- 22. Bible: When Antichrist emerges, there will already be some form of system in place that will be poised to receive him as a Savior and to give allegiance to him.
- Islam is already the second largest religion and will at present growth rates become the largest religion within a few decades. Islam is awaiting the coming of the Mahdi with an increasing measure of anticipation.

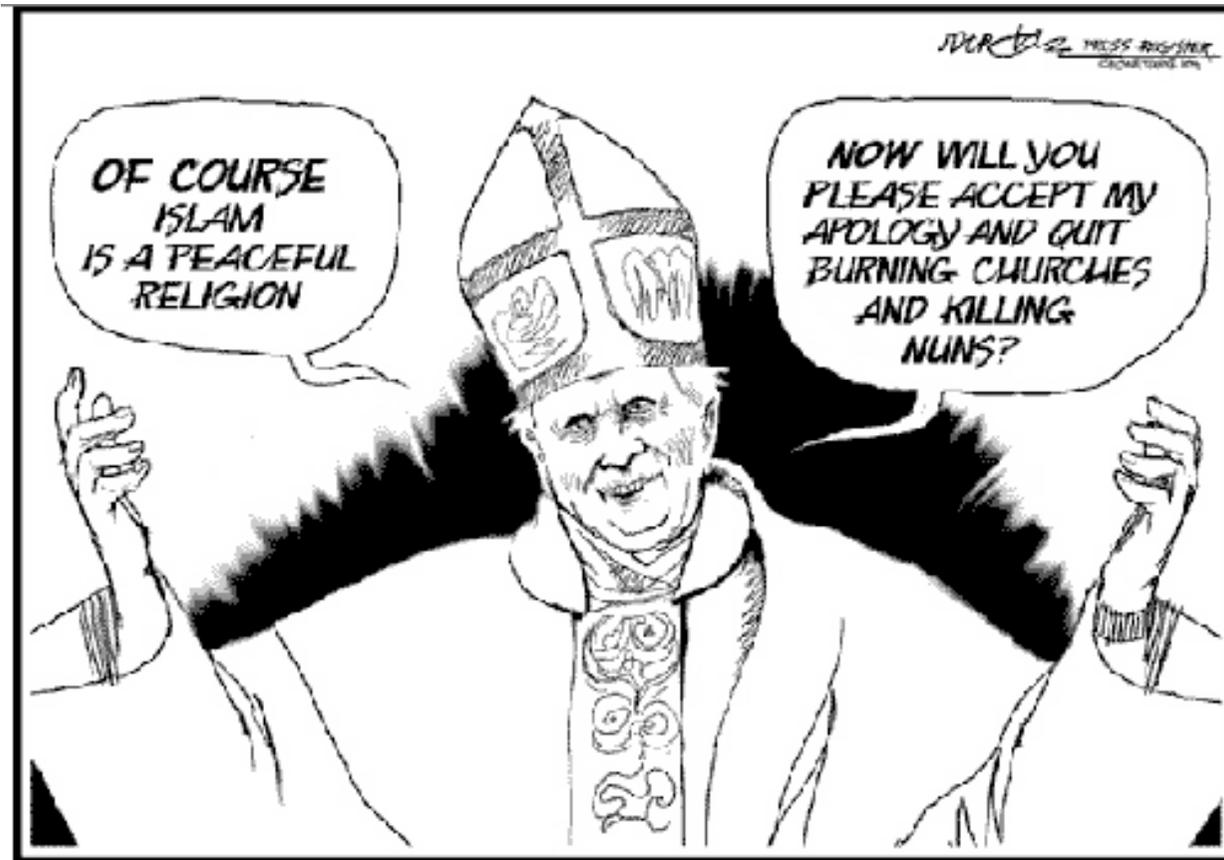
America Absent From the End Times

- "AMERICA IS STRANGELY ABSENT" (Dyer)
- "So where does the United States fit into the picture? It is clear from Scripture that the dominant political and military power will center around the Mediterranean and Europe—not the United States.
- By the end times, the United States will no longer be a major influence in the world. But how can this be, especially since we are playing such a major role in the Middle East today?

America Absent From the End Times

- "First, it is possible that the United States is not mentioned in prophecy because we will become a second-class international power overnight when God removes Christians from the earth, an event scheduled to occur just before the beginning of this seven-year period.
- True believers who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ will be taken to heaven before the Antichrist is revealed. Today as many as half of all Americans claim to be 'born again,' or believers in Jesus Christ. If only one-fourth of that number have genuinely made a personal commitment to Christ, then over 28 million Americans will suddenly 'disappear' when God removes His church from the earth!

Birth Pangs in America



Birth Pangs in America

- Muslims around the globe demand an apology for the recent unfavorable depiction of Islam by Catholic Pope Benedict.
- In response to the Popes suggestion that Islam might not be a peaceful religion, as if that's a news flash, Muslims murder an elderly Italian nun at the Children's Hospital in Somalia by shooting her in the back three times.
- They attack Christians and their churches, burn American flags and western leaders in effigy, all to prove just how peaceful and civilized they really are.

Birth Pangs in America

- Since the attacks of 9/11, I have spent considerable time studying the Koran (Quran) in an effort to better understand the beliefs, thought patterns, motives and methods of this expanding religion that openly seeks to dominate the world. While it's true that not all Muslims are terrorists, it is also true that almost all world terrorists are in fact Muslims. In reading the Koran, I am left with this interpretation of Islam.
- There are several sects of the Islamic religion, and these sects are usually at war with each other. But when looking at Islam from a broader perspective, it seems clear and self-evident based on visible experience and Islamic scriptures, that there are only two types of Muslims.

Birth Pangs in America

- Those who follow the letter of the scriptures, seeking to kill in accordance with Allah's commandments to rid the world of all infidels, and those who do not follow the letter of the scriptures, thereby becoming infidels and targets themselves.
- This explains why the vast majority of terror attacks are actually targeting other Muslims. In the eyes of Muslim terrorists, those who claim Islam but do not answer Islam's call to arms against all infidels are themselves infidels and infidels of the worst possible kind, traitors of the religion, who have turned their backs on Allah and live in blasphemy, wrongly claiming the name of Islam while rejecting the most fundamental teachings of Islam.

Birth Pangs in America

- The Debate Is Framed: Sharia or Secular Law for Western Civilization?
- Culture War Mr. Smith
- September 6, 2006
- The war on terror is not about race. It's not a religious war. The most adamant secularist in the ACLU would have to admit that the Bill of Rights and US Constitution, the very foundation of all their legal work, are as much targets as any building, train, boat or plane. Make no mistake about it, anyone who agrees with the ACLU on any of its many positions should be firmly opposed to Sharia law.

Birth Pangs in America

- Gay marriage? Under Sharia, the penalty for homosexuality is death.
- Women's rights? Under Sharia law, men can beat wives and daughters at will. Should a girl or woman appear in public in something immodest, like sleeves that show the arms, the Sharia "morality police" are allowed to inflict corporal punishment on the spot, whipping the female in question with a stick and driving her back into her home. In the event of fornication or adultery, the woman can be killed for shaming the men of the family. Women don't vote, drive, choose their own husbands nor even buy their own underwear.

Birth Pangs in America

- "Liberty is not an imposition; it's a human right. Freedom isn't free, but it's well worth the price. The anti-Americans who believe that the world would be a better place under Sharia law are free to hold whatever opinions they choose - under US law. Under Sharia law, the only choices are to agree and acquiesce or dissent and die."
- The ACLU is fond of demanding that anything from a nativity scene at Christmas, prayer at any event, to a cross at a war memorial cemetery be banned.
- Imagine trying to ban prayer in the lands of minarets and mosques where the call to prayer is blaring from loudspeakers every day at duly appointed times. Interfere with the exercise of religion under Sharia only if it's worth your life to try.

Birth Pangs in America

- "Unless we in the West adapt more quickly than do canny Islamic terrorists in this constantly evolving war, cease our internecine fighting and stop forgetting what we've learned about our enemies---there will be disasters to come far worse than Sept. 11." – Victor Davis Hanson

Birth Pangs in America

- Warner Todd Huston is a free lance writer, graphic designer and works in Desktop Publishing.
- Like every man when young, Mr. Huston was sure that Conservatives were inhumane, ignorant of history and greedy...then he grew up.
- This is his opinion:

Birth Pangs in America

- Now, what do we do?
- Like in WWII, the only way to win this war Islam has brought upon us is to kill millions of them quite regardless of their individual "guilt". Sadly, that means lots of women, lots of babies, and lots of old men must die.
- It isn't that we revel in their deaths. We certainly mourn it. It truly makes us angry. But they have brought this war and we must end it -- and if we don't everything we are and have is threatened with extinction by Islamists. Just as we killed millions of Japanese and Germans to end that threat we must kill millions of Islamists.

Birth Pangs in America

- It truly is us versus them.
- There ARE no "innocent" Islamists. We cannot allow the thought of "innocence" to invade our resolve. In this way, billions and a far-flung future of Muslims that might live in peace, observing their religion peacefully, will be free of the current dominance of Islamofascist horror and oppression.
- So, if we must call them fascists, then we should do so. We must destroy this link between government and Islamism, attacking it until it becomes anathema to posterity for Muslims. The sooner this happens the better off posterity will be.

Birth Pangs in America

- The only way for Islam to become peaceful is for so many Muslims to die now that the idea of using Islam as a governing ideal within government is anathema to Muslims forever more.
- Muslims must feel so injured by their former belief in Islam that they could never make themselves associate it with government again.
- Just like Nazism and Shintoism are now shunned, in that same way let Islam so be shunned.

Birth Pangs in America

- I didn't start with this opinion years ago. When 9/11 happened, I thought that this was just the action of a few radical Muslim nuts. But it is not so. The actions of Islamofascists are a direct and logical extension of Islam.

Birth Pangs in America

- Islam is anti-capitalist, anti-modern, anti-freedom, anti-individualist, anti-human rights... it is AGAINST every single thing we stand for in the West and against every ideal that has brought real peace and prosperity to so many billions of mankind.
- We must stop them from coming to our shores. We must stop their charities and organizations -- like CAIR -- from raising money or even existing in the West. We must make it very difficult for their Mosques to stay open. We must revoke all student visas for peoples who live in Muslim nations and profess a belief in Islam. We need to step up surveillance on Muslims in the West. They should be looked upon with suspicion for our own protection. Islam must be isolated and contained.