

Haven Newsletter

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The "Unknown" Religion....

Like all other Americans and many from around the world I was stunned by what happened September 11. When it became clear as to who had done this I was not stunned. While many in the media have been almost stumbling over themselves to claim that Osama Bin Laden does not represent "true" Islam and that he and his

followers have "hijacked" Islam, it is my contention that Osama perhaps more than most accurately reflects the teachings and especially actions of Mohammed himself. Even President Bush has made these claims and even though I understand that he says these things for political reasons, I am not bound by the same constraints that he necessarily is. Even a cursory glance at the Quran, the holy book of Islam, gives many different verses which indicate that Islam is not

Osama Bin Laden ...perhaps more than most accurately reflects the teachings and especially actions of Mohammed himself.

The Quran reads "When the sacred months are over, slay the idolaters wherever you find them." Surah 9:5

such of those to whom the Scriptures were given as believe neither in Allah nor the Last Day, who do not forbid what Allah and His Apostle have forbidden and do not embrace the true faith until they pay tribute out of hand and are utterly subdued."

The other holy book in Islam is the Hadith. It also has many quotes like Hadith 4:196 "Mohammed said, I have been ordered to fight with the people till they say, none has the right to be worshipped by Allah." I could multiply these quotes many times over. Conversely there are verses which tell Muslims to treat Jews and Christians well as they are "people of the book". But these

verse came early in the Quran and are "abrogated" (Muslim understanding of this is that the later words of Mohammed cancel out the earlier). Ask any non-Muslim from the Philippines, Indonesia, Cam-

bodia, Nigeria, Sudan, Serbia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, etc, etc, if Islam is a religion of peace. As one scholar notes, Islam has always been a religion with "bloody borders".

But many say, "doesn't Islam mean peace and isn't this just

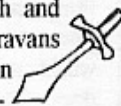
Mohammed himself. True there have been some good Islamic governments which have treated non-Muslims fairly well by comparison, but these are few and far between.

But others say "how dare you as a Christian say anything considering all the violence done by Christians and Christian governments through the past two thousand years?" Good point. For the sake of argument I will grant all the claims about Christian violence even though some of them are historically hysterical. This claim actually proves an important point about being a disciple of Jesus. Anyone who kills a witch or a Muslim or anyone in the name of Jesus is doing exactly the opposite of what Jesus said to do! Jesus told his disciples to forgive those who persecute them and to love even their enemies.

Islam spread by the sword and by terror.

By contrast Mohammed's followers had his example to follow, and the murders attributed to him and

his disciples started from the earliest days of Islam. For the eight years after Mohammed fled Mecca, Mohammed led or ordered 82 separate campaigns against his enemies, Jewish and Christian tribes, and caravans traveling across the Arabian Peninsula. After Mohammed's death (poisoned by one of his victim's relatives!) his immediate suc-



a religion of peace. Surah 9:5 reads "When the sacred months are over, slay the idolaters wherever you find them. Arrest them besiege them, and lie in ambush everywhere for them. If they repent and take to prayer and render the alms levy, allow them to go their way. Allah is forgiving and merciful." Surah 9:26 says "Fight against

aberrations from oppressive governments?" No in both cases. Islam means submission and a Muslim is one who submits. The "oppressive" governments have an impressive track record of previous Muslim regimes which can be traced back all the way to the first Islamic kingdom as established by

successors the "Four rightly guided Caliphs" (successors) spread Islam by the sword and by terror. Within twenty years of his death they had conquered the Arabian Peninsula, defeated the Byzantine Christian army and Persian army. Within 80 years of his death they
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The "Unknown" Religion, continued...

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had conquered all of North Africa, Spain and were moving into India, Serbia and China. 100 years after Mohammed's death they were finally stopped in Europe at the battle of Tours, France. Over the next eight hundred years they expanded their territory throughout India and were spreading into East Asia. They conquered Constantinople and renamed that great city Istanbul. The great Caliphate of the Ottoman Turks dominated their region for over four hundred years. Included in this "moderate" reign were the slaughter of over one million Christian Armenians at the turn of the 20th century. And on and on and on.

For the eight years after Mohammed fled Mecca, Mohammed led or ordered 82 separate campaigns against his enemies.

If one is confused about contradictory verses in the Quran, one only needs to look at the life of Mohammed and his immediate successors to get a clue as to which verses Mohammed took seriously. *By contrast Jesus and most of his immediate successors were*

killed. The early church would not allow any church

9-11 was more than a "fundamentalist" problem, it was one of Islam itself.

It is a "fundamentalist" problem and not one of Islam. This slur is intended to equivocate between Christian fundamentalists and Islamic fundamentalists of the Al-Queda variety. I might be a nominal church attendee and go to a fighting "fundy" church and hear a rousing sermon on giving my life to Jesus. This might prompt me to go to the Sudan as a missionary. By contrast

I might be a nominal mosque attendee and go to a conservative mosque and hear a rousing sermon and give my life to the service of Allah and of his prophet Mohammed. I might then go to the Sudan and kill the Christian missionary! This is about ideology and beliefs and there is a difference.

How am I to respond? Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount some of the hardest words you might ever hear. He says "You have heard that it was said 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy', but I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matt 5:43ff). I am very angry at what happened in New York and in Washington. I am also angry about many other atrocities in this world. But I am called not to anger or vengeance, but rather to forgive. This is hard work. The heart

have failed, who need mercy and grace. People like Osama and people like me. We need to have the same broken heart the Lord has for his creation that is deep in rebellion.

Ministry Update

Please pray for a young lady named Rebecca, who has been a practicing Satanist for over fifteen years. By the time you read this she will have met with us twice and is thinking very seriously about the Gospel. She is terrified of what her group might do so please pray that the Lord will grant her mercy and grace and a strong sense of His sovereignty over all things.

I have taught at several churches recently on the New Age and on Islam. I also have had some good opportunities to talk to two of my fellow graduate students who are Buddhist in one case and Taoist in the other.

I also recently attended the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) meetings which were in Colorado Springs, Co this year. The theme was the boundaries of Evangelicalism. Many of the discussions were related to the

member to be a part of any army. For most of the first three centuries Christians suffered intensely and in most parts of the world still suffer. Only in Europe does Christianity become political when Constantine legalizes it and then his sons make it the state religion. In my mind this was one of the worst things that has happened in Church history and the mindset change later gives rise to the Crusades, the Inquisition, and many other atrocities in the name of "Christ".

I have used this illustration repeatedly as to the notion that 9-

hard work. The heart screams out for justice or vengeance, but the Lord calls us to forgive and pray for Osama and all of his people. The government has its job to do and the Bible sanctions the government in its role, and I am thankful that they are doing their job, but the follower of Jesus is not called to the same end. We are to pray for these people because Jesus died on the cross for them as well as for me. God does not love those who are "worth" loving, but all who are sinners, who

Being a missionary... or Killing a missionary?

Open theism debate. Open theism denies that God knows the future and claims that God changes his mind, makes mistakes and "risks" the future. This position was thankfully denied by a majority of the scholars at the ETS. Unfortunately the society has not done anything about this heresy at this point. Even more disturbing is the fact that a prominent member of ETS, Clark Pinnock believe that it is not necessary to consciously believe in Jesus in order to be saved, and now is arguing that God has a body and that per-

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haps we as evangelicals need to make amends with the Mormons. How can any of this be considered even remotely evangelical? Please pray that the ETS rids itself of the cancers within.

Long Distance Love II, Update

We are so excited that the Lord has graciously given through so many of you and we are almost ready to go. We now await the Filipino government's decision and then we still have to work with the INS. Please pray that the Lord will cut through the red tape and bring Daniel and Julie home soon. We miss them and they haven't even been here yet!

In a related Praise the Lord Type event, Christian "megastar" Steven Curtis Chapman and his wife recently adopted a baby girl from China and have founded a foundation to help fund other adoptions as well. I can't

Non-Profit Update

We are encouraged that there has been some grace in regards with one of our local cults but we are currently unable to give details. Perhaps in the future we can share with yall the great thing that the Lord has done recently. We still know that both the "Good Ground" cult and the "Concerned Christians" cult are both active, trying to get into different Christian ministries in order to recruit people out of legitimate churches. Pastors - as always be on guard for the sheep. The price tag of bad theology,

as discussed in the lead article, is often high.

Address Note:

Please note the new email (because of the ATT mess!) honz2@attbi.com
Address for Ministry Support:
Haven Ministries
P.O. Box 460366
Aurora, CO. 80046-0366



Address for Adoption Fund:
Hand in Hand International Adoptions
Lynn Klint

Speaking Schedule

- Jan 10 Campus Crusade Meeting at the Colorado School of Mines
- Jan 21 Board Meeting for Haven Ministries
- Feb 7-8 Christian Ministries Convention in Denver. Subjects include Spiritual Discernment, Postmodernism, and two sessions on Islam.
- Feb 11-13 Comparative Religions at YWAM—Arvada, CO.
- Feb 17 Calvary Chapel – Aurora, CO.
- Feb 20-22 Evangelical Ministries to New Religions Conference in Louisville, KY in connection with Southern Seminary. Seminars on Advaita Vedanta
- Hinduism and How to Reach a Pagan World.
- March 17, 24. Grace Chapel Youth Group.
- I will also be teaching a World Religions class for credit at Rocky Mountain Bible Institute and possibly teaching the class at Calvary Chapel South in



and other adoptions as well. I can't tell you how excited I am to hear a prominent Christian do this great thing. Praise the Lord!

Littleton. Please contact either of these two institutions in you are interested in taking the class.

- I will also be taking two full loads in my graduate program. Lord willing it is my last two quarters this winter and spring.

Prayer Requests

- 1) Our son Scott is perhaps turning around but is struggling with sin and needs the Lord's help. Please pray that his weakness will be an opportunity for the Lord's strength to shine through. He is moving back to Denver in mid December so pray that we will be able to help him.
- 2) Please pray for the salvation of our family.
- 3) Pray for many of our friends who suffer from chronic diseases- Rebecca, Liz, Sherri, Julie and others.
- 4) Pray for many whom we have witnessed to like Tim, Cos, Flora, Anicca, Sukkacitto, Bruce, Diane, William, Ian, Abdul Waheed, and so many other Muslims, Mormon, Jehovah's Witnesses, Wiccan's, Buddhists, Pagans, "Concerned Christians" and others.
- 5) Please pray for the families members of those who are in cults and in many cases people who have spouses in cults. There is so much pain and separation in these cases.
- 6) Our support level is still around 78%. Please pray for the Lord's help in this area. Like many other ministries are giving has been down since 9/11.
- 7) Pray for Christians all over the world that are suffering and dying for their faith. For more information check out the website of "The Voice of the Martyrs" and get another reminder of what it means to follow Jesus in so many different places