

Appendix F - HISTORY AND END OF MUHAMMAD, ISLAM, & MUSLIMS

Regarding Muhammad, Islam and Muslims - three very vital questions need to be asked - and answered: 1) What is the true history and end of Muhammad - **the person**? 2) What is the true history and end of Islam - **the religion**? 3) What is the future destiny of Muslims - as fellow human beings **needing a Saviour**? These questions we shall answer, later here below, from the Holy Bible.⁵⁵⁰

The above are really three different questions. To help understand them, we give a few introductory remarks made less than a century ago by Rev. Professor Dr. **Abraham Kuyper**. He was then the Calvinistic Prime Minister of the Netherlands and her Empire, which then included the largest Islamic land in the World - viz. **Indonesia**.

"What makes the Mediterranean Sea so very important?" - asked Kuyper.⁵⁵¹ "First, for more than thirteen centuries it has been the centre of our human life. Second, it was and is precisely this Sea which both connects and separates the three Old World Continents of Asia and Europe and Africa. Third, it has dictated the course of the cultural development of (and the resultant struggles between)...the Christian and Muhammadan elements around its edges....

"It was [and is]...a struggle...of the Crescent against the Cross.... Islam conquered North Africa and Spain. The Turks were stopped only at Vienna.... Islam - by its almost complete destruction of the Christian Church in Asia, Egypt, Nubia, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco - and almost still more by its conquest of the Holy Land - has ignited a fire of division which still burns.... A hard-pressed Christendom has for centuries known no other enemy than Islam....

"The feeling of belonging together, is increasing among Muslims.... Without exception all Islamic states led by Turkey [in 1905f], are in a condition of pitiful decadence."

Yet: "To convert adherents of Islam to Christianity, is next to impossible.... He who is under the illusion that Islam is a spent force and need not be taken into account - is mistaken. The proclamation of a holy war [*jihad*] - of which one is fearful - is no hallucination.... Islam remains an unusually strong spiritual power....

"Animosity against Christian nations is still apparent in the disposition of the Muslim.... A Pan-Islamic action is underway among them - which overlooks all sectarian differences. Right down to far along the northern coast of Africa, there is a revival of the hope of restoring the power of the Crescent. And it is becoming overwhelming....

"It cannot be otherwise than that the first sortie of this, with its front - is turning against all European [or Western] powers.... The danger that Europe and America at a given moment shall find Asia, together with Islam, ranged against it - is far from imaginary.... Hatred against Christians is not decreasing - but increasing.... The chasms which separate us from Islam, are becoming ever broader.... Do not forget that the pilgrims who return from Mecca as hadjis - are fanatical....

"The struggle of the ages between Asia and Europe, has been for the leadership of the World. Europe [and its Western Civilization extensions such as the Americas and Australasia] indeed has the upper hand.

"But it is still...Judaism, Christianity and Islam which dominate the spiritual life in both parts of the World [Afr-eur-asia as the 'Greater World-Island' and the Americas as the 'Lesser World-Island']. Africa is an appendix of Asia; America and Australia are overflows from Europe....

"Fanatical power is in Pan-Islamism, and the Muslim mission [to Non-Muslims].... The Pan-Islamic movement is even now stirring up three World Continents. It is zealously working its way through them. It constantly wins more followers....

"What, then, was the magic wand by which Muhammad caused all this unparalleled enchantment to stream forth from him - to effect this unprecedented turning-point in the history of the World?....

"Muhammad did not place his profession of faith alongside of life. His religion was no secret only for his closet. Much rather was he so deeply and ideally saturated with the all-embracing and all-inclusive dominion of the omnipotence of Allah - that he spanned his profession of Allah, like a net, over the whole of human life.

"He commandeered domestic, social and political life - no less than his personal life - under the controlling influence of his religion. Religion as a purely private matter, was simply unthinkable to Muhammad....

"The final completion of the revelation of Allah, would appear in Muhammad. He would consummate what had been begun in Abraham.... The shadowy dark side of Muhammadanism which similarly flowed forth from its legalistic character, is its lack of spiritual depth. It knows of no rebirth. It knows of no deeper view of sin. It is devoid of every soteriological character reaching further than ceremonious reconciliation....

"The outcome cannot be clinched anywhere else than precisely on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. It was precisely so named because it is the only sea whose waters lap against the three Old World Continents of Europe, Asia and Africa [*viz.* Mackinder's Greater World-Island].... Great is the struggle of interests which are controlled by the Atlantic Ocean. Mightier still is the significance of the struggle which is arising in the Pacific Ocean."

Only four years later, Kuyper warned in his 1911 *Pro Rege*:⁵⁵² "Asia is again waking up, and is dreaming of a mighty future.... Also in Islam, a new action is to be detected. Islam is expanding itself steadily."

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And now, after that background on Islam as sketched by Rev. Professor Dr. Kuyper Sr., let us consider the three questions asked at the beginning of this article. The first question is: **What is the history and future of Muhammad - the person?**

Muhammad was a monotheist. He destroyed idolatrous religious images. He put a stop to the murder of baby girls in Arabia. Indeed, the book containing many of his utterances - the *Qur'an* - certainly gives us considerable evidence that he knew about: the doctrine of creation;⁵⁵³ man's fall into sin;⁵⁵⁴ and Biblical Prophets such as Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Job, Moses, David, Solomon, Elijah, and John the Baptizer.⁵⁵⁵

Muhammad also professed his belief in Jesus' Word-of-Godness,⁵⁵⁶ virgin birth,⁵⁵⁷ true humanity,⁵⁵⁸ Christhood,⁵⁵⁹ miracles,⁵⁶⁰ exaltation,⁵⁶¹ and final coming again at the end of history.⁵⁶² He believed the Holy Spirit had inspired the original Bible,⁵⁶³ and strengthens men.⁵⁶⁴ And he insisted that history would end in the final judgment,⁵⁶⁵ with heaven⁵⁶⁶ for believers and hell⁵⁶⁷ for unbelievers.

Yet Muhammad denied other Biblical truths - such as: the Fatherhood of God; the Holy Trinity; the Deity of the Son and the Spirit; the Saviourhood of Jesus; and Christ's substitutionary atonement and death on the cross.¹⁸ As such, even leaving aside his rejection of the reliability of the then-extant Greek and Hebrew copies of the Bible, it is clear that he discounted Jesus Christ as the only way for sinful man to get back to God. Unless he repented of these denials in his last living moments, he would have died as he had lived - namely as a **false-prophet**.

The Bible says that false-prophets who falsely claim to speak in the name of the True God or who speak in the name of any other god(s), shall perish. Deuteronomy 13:1-10 and 18:15-22. There, Calvin remarks:⁵⁶⁹ "If the Christian Faith be impugned by the wicked who do not pretend to come to [the Triune] God - like the [**Islamic**] Turks, [**polytheistic**] Pagans, and [**Unitarian**] Jews [or rather Judaists] - they **blaspheme** with open mouth....

"We see **false-prophets** step up.... We see that...the [**Islamic**] **Turks** and [**unitarian Judaists** or] Jews are...fiery and venomous at this day against God, to deface the whole doctrine of salvation.... The [**Islamic**] **Turks**...hold fast this principle that 'there is a God'...; but in the meantime...**worship a puppet**" [viz. their *Allah*]. The [**Islamic**] **Turks** set their **Mahomet** in the place of God's Son, not knowing [or acknowledging] that **God** has manifested Himself **in the flesh**.... Behold, a hypocrite comes to me that would devise **a new religion**...or to bring in the *Al-Coran* or **Mahomet**!"

Islam claims that not Christ but Muhammad is the 'Prophet like Moses' promised at Deuteronomy 18:15. But there, **Calvin** held⁵⁷⁰ that alongside of the Papacy also "**Mahomet**" was one of "**the two horns of Antichrist**" - and at Deuteronomy 18:20, that **false-prophets shall die**.

In Daniel 11:36, that Prophet declared of a then-future coming ruler that he "shall do all according to his [own] will. And he shall exalt himself and magnify himself...and shall speak marvellous things against the [Triune] God of gods - and shall prosper, until the indignation be accomplished. For that which has been determined, shall be done."

Here, Luther made a shrewd observation. He remarked that the "**two** regimes, that of **the [Romish] Pope** and that of **the [Muslim] Turk**, are no doubt the true **Antichrist**."⁵⁷¹

In Daniel 11:37, that Prophet presages yet more about that tyrant who would be so terrible that his coming was predicted already so many centuries before it would fully come to pass. There, that Prophet declared: "Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god. For he shall magnify himself above all."

Luther comments:⁵⁷² "The coarse undiligent **Mohammad** takes all wives, yet has none; the chaste **Pope** takes no wife, but yet has all wives.... He who has no wife, has all wives. He who has all wives, has none. What happens?"

"This is what happens - the unashamed undiligent **Mohammad** makes no pretence of chastity, and (like the whoremonger) takes as many 'wives' as he wishes. Thus he has no marriage and cannot have a marriage - and is thus without wife, and in no state of matrimony."

Comments Calvin:⁵⁷³ "Some refer this prophecy to **the Pope and to Mahomet**, and the phrase 'the love of women' seems to give **probability** to this view. For **Mahomet allowed to men the brutal liberty of chastising their wives**, and thus **he corrupted that conjugal love and fidelity** which binds the husband to the wife.... **Mahomet allowed full scope to various lusts** - by permitting a man to have a number of wives. This seems like an explanation," *etc.*

"Those who think **the Pope[s]** to be intended here - remind us of their enforcing **celibacy**, by means of which the honour of marriage [for the clergy] is trodden underfoot.... We observe, then, some slight correspondence.... As **Mahomet** invented a **new form of religion**, so did **the Pope**. True indeed!"

Coming now to the Newer Testament, it will be remembered that while discussing Daniel 11:36, Luther already said (here above) that the "**two** regimes, that of **the Pope** and that of **the Turk**, are no doubt the true **Antichrist**" - in the **broader** sense of that latter word. Against such - Christ, Paul, John and other Apostles have warned."⁵⁷⁴

Luther's first reference in the last sentence, seems to be to that passage where Christ warns that "there shall arise false-christs and **false-prophets**.... Therefore, if they shall say to you: 'Look, he is in the **desert**' - don't go forth!" Matthew 24:24 *f.*

Not just Luther but also all other Christians regard Muhammad as a **false-prophet**. Further, it is indisputable that **Muhammad** was also **from** the Arabian **desert** - and expanded from there into various of the other deserts of Africa and Asia.

Christ Himself, observes Luther, "speaks of **false-prophecies**.... In **Matthew 24:24**, He says: '**False-christs** and **false-prophets** shall rise up and do great signs and wonders which, if it were possible, would mislead even the elect unto error'....

"This has occurred powerfully in the **Papacy**. And also in **Turkey** where such [**Muslim**] 'clerics' and exceptional 'holy men' are many." ⁵⁷⁵

"With **us**," continues Luther not without sarcasm,⁵⁷⁶ "the **Pope** is the real final Antichrist.... So too **Mohammad**." For the latter too, felt Luther, is certainly a major **false-christ** and indeed also **the false-prophet** *par excellence*.

It is therefore very significant indeed that Islam itself claims⁵⁷⁷ that Muhammad is the Comforter Whom Christ, in John 14:16-26, promised to send. Yet precisely there, Calvin very correctly observes that it is not Muhammad but rather the Paraclete Whom Christ would send.

Comments Calvin on those words of Jesus Christ:⁵⁷⁸ "He promises that **the Spirit** will teach.... **Muhammad and the Pope have this religious principle in common, that Scripture does not contain the perfection of doctrine** but that **something higher** has been **revealed**" - viz. either ecclesiastical tradition or the *Qur'an*.

In Second Thessalonians 2:3f, Paul predicted that there would be a 'falling away' - followed by the manifestation of 'the son of perdition who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God [Triune]...', so that he like a god sits in the temple of God claiming that he is God' [or represents God]. Indeed, after a great 'falling away' from Christianity, first Muhammad and his Muslims and later the Islamic Turks came - and turned church buildings into mosques as new temples rededicated to the unitarian god Allah in the place of the one true Triune God.

In the above passage, Calvin comments⁵⁷⁹ that "Paul then was predicting a **general defection** on the part of the **Visible Church**.... **The defection has indeed spread more widely**.

"For, since **Mohammad was an apostate**, he turned his followers, [**the Saracens and] the Turks**, [away] from Christ.... **The sect of Mohammad was like a raging overflow, which in its violence tore away about half of the Church**. It remained for [the Papal] Antichrist to infect with **his** poison, the part which was **left**."

Note that First John 2:22 declares: "Who is a liar, but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? **He who denies the Father and the Son, is antichrist**."

Very significantly, there is **no Fatherhood of God** in the **Muslims'** *Allah*. Islam also denies Jesus is the **Son** of God - saying that, though Christ, He is but a (virgin-born) son of a [**wo**]man.

Now **Muhammad** derived his antitrinitarian unitarianism from Anti-Christian Arabian **Judaists** - also with the assistance of an **Arian** called Joannes Antiochenus. His heretical christology, Muhammad got from sub-christian sects in Arabia. These he cobbled all together, with the help of his friend Baheira or Sergius, **who himself became a Muslim** after apostasizing from **Nestorianism**.⁵⁸⁰

As Dr. Martin Luther comments on First John 2:22 - "What [the Judaistic] Ebion[ites] began, **Mohammad** continued. Thus, all the throngs of heretics...rise up against Christ.... But to John, they are all liars."³¹

In First John 4:3-6, that Apostle whom Jesus loved adds that "this is **the spirit of the antichrist**.... We know the spirit of truth, and **the spirit of error**."

There, Rev. Dr. John Calvin comments:⁵⁸² "Today, **Papists** boast with professorial superciliousness that all their inventions are the oracles of the Spirit. **Mohammad too asserts that he has drawn his dreams only from Heaven** [*cf.* Deuteronomy 13:15 and 18:10-22].... **False spirits claim the name of God!**"

This brings us to Revelation, the Bible's last Book. It launches us forth into the important field of Church History. In Luther's 1545 *Preface to the Revelation of Saint John*, he says:⁵⁸³

"This Book of Revelation...is intended as a revelation of things that are **to happen in the future** - and especially of tribulations and disasters for the **Church**. We consider that the first and surest step toward finding its interpretation, is to take from **history** the events and disasters that have come upon the Church **before now** [1545] - and hold them up...and so compare them with the words" of that last book of the Holy Bible.

Now in Christ's Book of Revelation, the Apostle John first gives us a description of the seven **churches** in Asia Minor during his own day. Asia Minor was the region now called **Turkey**, which was predestinated later to be overrun by **Islam**.

Luther explains that in the Book of Revelation's "chapter six," the (in John's day) "**future** tribulations begin.... In chapters seven and eight, begin the revelations of the spiritual **tribulations** - *i.e.*, all kinds of **heresies**."

The opening of the fifth seal of the Lamb's 'Book of Church History' at Revelation 6:11, speaks about Christian "**brethren that would be killed**." Indeed, the opening of the sixth seal at Revelation 6:12 speaks of a "great earthquake" which the Synod of Dordt's *Dutch Bible* comments was to be "followed by the rise in the East...of the **Muhammadans**" (*cf.* Revelation 9:1-14f).

The first four angels in Revelation chapter eight, describe the punishments which God would pour out over the Ancient World, because of its rejection of the Gospel. Then, in Revelation chapter nine, God's fifth angel seems to announce the maturing of the heresy of **Unitarianism** alias the rejection of the Deity of Christ - of which the A.D. 320f **Arius** was an early and the 610f **Muhammad** was a later representative.

In respect of the blowing on his trumpet by the fifth angel, John wrote: "I saw a star fall from the sky.... He opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit.... And the sixth angel sounded." Revelation 9:1-13.

Explains Luther:⁵⁸⁴ "The sixth angel [announces] the shameful **Muhammad**.... He inflicted a great plague on the Church."

The smoke, comments Rev. Professor Dr. Franciscus Junius in his 1599 footnotes to the 1560 Calvinistic Geneva Bible, represents "**abundance of heresies and errors.**" And these "cover Christ and His Gospel with darkness."⁵⁸⁵

This is a very good description of the views also of **Muhammad**. For his theology was indeed an "abundance of heresies and errors." Indeed, his views - while claiming to be 'Biblical' - actually do "cover Christ and His Gospel with darkness."

John further wrote (in Revelation 9:3): "Out of the smoke, **locusts** came upon the earth. And to them was given power - like the **scorpions** of the earth have **power.**" Indeed, that **power** - comments the Calvinistic *Geneva Bible* - represents "**false and deceitful doctrine** which is **pleasant to the flesh.**"⁵⁸⁶

John made a prediction about those locust-scorpions. He said: "Now it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree - but only those who do not have the seal of God upon their foreheads." Revelation 9:4.

This certainly seems to mean that, in spite of the great destruction which they wrought both to men and to property, they were not able spiritually to hurt true Christians who trusted in the Lord Jesus and who had been baptized (alias sealed with the seal of the living God). Cf. Revelation 7:2-4 & 9:4 with Matthew 28:19.

Certainly, **at first**, the Muslims did respect baptized Christians as the *Ahl al-Kitab* alias the 'People of the Book.' See the *Qur'an* at its *Sura 3:138f*. There, Christians told Muhammad (before his death in A.D. 632) that their religion is "the Baptism of God! And who can baptize better than God? Indeed, it is He Whom we worship!"

Thereupon Muhammad replied to those Christians on behalf of the conquering Muslims: "Will you dispute with us about God - seeing that He is our Lord, and your Lord? We are responsible for our doings, and you for yours!"

This means: "Do you Christians dispute with us Muslims - as if we were to worship the same God you **claim** is that of the religion of your ancestors?"⁵⁸⁷ "Or do you [Christians and Jews] say that Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob and the Tribes [whom and/or which Islam considers to have been Muslims] - were Jews or Christians?.... Do you know better than God?.... But God is not unmindful of what your are doing!"

Holy Scripture apparently predicted such contacts between Christians and Muslims. For the Christian Apostle John then says, it seems of Muhammad's Muslims: "The shapes of the **locusts** were like horses prepared to battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns of gold.... They had tails like **scorpions**, and there were stings in their tails." Revelation 9:7f.

Also the famous 1637 Calvinistic *Staten-Vertaling* alias the *Dordt Dutch Bible* (commissioned by the 1618f Reformed ecclesiastical **Council of Dordt**) remarks:⁵⁸⁸ "Understand this star [in Revelation 8:1] to be **Muhammad** and his followers. They, around [A.D.] 620, scraped together his ungodly doctrine - which was brought forth from the bottomless pit, out of [perversions of] Judaism, Paganism and Christianity.... Together with his **Arabs and Saracens, who looked like armed locusts**, he [Muhammad] spread [Islam]...throughout a large part of the World."

Explained the Westminster Assembly Calvinist Rev. Dr. Thomas Goodwin (while commenting on Revelation 9:1f):⁵⁸⁹ "**Mohammed** is that **star** that fell from the profession of Christianity [*cf.* his Arian friend John of Antioch and his Nestorian friend Baheira] - and opened hell to bring forth that damned religion of his, making himself the 'prophet' of God. Unto him [came] an innumerable company of Arabs, his countrymen - who are here called '**locusts**' for their multitudes.... **Wringing Arabia, Egypt, Assyria, Armenia and much of Asia the Less, from out of the hands of the Eastern Empire - and extending their dominion further over Persia, East India and a great part of Africa and Spain - they became almost as great an Empire as that of Rome had been....**

"**This dominion of Mohammed extended** another way [*viz.* eastward and northward and southward into Africa and Asia], **yet withal possessing the one half of the Eastern Empire** [with the **remaining half** of that Eastern Empire **to capitulate to Islam later under the hegemony of the Turks**].... This [first Islamic] kingdom began to be set up *anno* 630 - and continued many hundred years."

In Revelation 16:12-19, after the angels finish sounding their trumpets, follows God's pouring out of His seven last plagues upon a wayward civilization. "Then the sixth angel poured out his vial upon **the great river Euphrates**. And its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings of the East might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the Dragon and out of the mouth of the Beast and out of the mouth of **the False-Prophet**" alias **Muhammad** and those that follow him.

As a result of this, in Revelation 19:20 the Beast gets taken - "and with him **the False-Prophet**.... These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." This seems to describe the Lord God's destruction of those like **Muhammad**, whom the Christian Bible implies was a **false-prophet**.

Also in Revelation 20:8-10, "the nations in the four edges of the Earth, Gog and Magog," persecute the saints of the Lord. Yet in the end "the Devil who deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where are the Beast and **the False-Prophet**. And they shall be tormented day and night, for ever and ever."

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We have just endeavoured, from the Bible, to answer the first question regarding the history and the future of **Muhammad** - the **person**. In light of Holy Scripture, he was a false-prophet. If he died without trusting Christ as Saviour, he would be lost.

Now let us attempt to answer the second question. What is the history and end of Islam - the religion?

Many mediaeval Jews⁵⁹⁰ and some Christians⁵⁹¹ regarded **Islam** as the 'Little Horn' in Daniel 7:8-21. Rev. Dr. Matthew Henry observes⁵⁹² that Luther and Vatablus and others, make the 'Little Horn' to be the **Turkish Empire**. Calvin comments: "The Jews, for the most part, incline this way. Thus, Rabbi Barbinel...says **the Turks** occupy a large portion of the World.... The **Turks** have spread far and wide, and the World is filled with impious despisers of God."⁵⁹³

Dr. John Calvin himself points out:⁵⁹⁴ "**Christ's Kingdom** was erected by the **overthrow** of the **Roman** dominion. The **Jews**...join the **Turkish** monarchy with the **Roman**.... There are some of our [**Christian**] writers who think this image ought not to be restricted to the **Roman Empire**, but ought to include the **Turkish**" **Empire** alias **Islam** too.

In Daniel 8:23f, God predicts that "in the latter time...the transgressors come to the full" - whose "power shall be mighty." Here, **Luther** declares:⁵⁹⁵ "One might have thought the **Prophet Daniel** [8:23f] was" (among other matters) also "talking about **the Turks**" alias the **Muslims**.

In his 1520 *Open Letter to the Christian Nobility*, Dr. Luther declares: "**The Turks**...have neither spiritual nor temporal law, but only their **Koran**. There is no doubt that the true **Roman Empire**, which the writings of the Prophets foretold in **Numbers 24[:24]** and in **Daniel [11:30f]**, has long since been overthrown.... That was brought to pass...especially when the '**Turkish**' [or **Arabian-Muhammadan**] **Empire** arose almost a thousand years ago."⁵⁹⁶

Luther believed that the "**two regimes**, that of **the Pope** and that of **the Turk**, are no doubt the true **Antichrist**" - in the **broader** sense of that word. By "Turk" - Luther meant: **Islam**. Against such - "**Daniel (11:36)** - Christ [Matthew 24:24-26], Paul [Second Thessalonians 2:4f], John [First John 2:18] and other Apostles [Second Peter 2:1f cf. Jude 4-11] have warned."⁵⁹⁷

Daniel 11:40 predicted: 'At the time of the end, the King of the South shall storm out...and the King of the North shall storm against him.' The Calvinistic *Dordt Dutch Bible* applies this precisely to "the **Islamic**] **Saracens**, who first used force against the [**then still-Christianized**] **Roman Empire**."

It then adds: "Some understand here the [**Islamic**] **Turks** who, having brought the [**Arabic**] **Saracen Empire** under it, attacked the [**Christianized**] **Roman Empire** with yet much greater power." There, it observes:⁵⁹⁸ "Some apply this to the **Turk**" and "the **Saracens** who first violated the Roman Empire."

In Daniel 11:41, we learn that "these shall escape out of his hand - even Edom, and Moab and the chief of the children of Ammon." All such later extricated themselves from the Roman Empire; became **Muslim** powers; and then attacked the Romans.

Dr. Luther comments here⁵⁹⁹ that "**Edom, Moab and Ammon** are no longer the nations they previously were. For they too have long since physically altered - having become **Saracens and Turks**." And in Daniel 11:42f, Luther discerns: "hell and heaven; **the Turks**; God and devil."

Also Daniel 11:45 is of some significance. For there one reads that "he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas, in the glorious holy mountain."

Here, apparently first thinking of the **Papacy**, Luther declares in his *Table Talk*:⁶⁰⁰ "That is, at Rome, in Italy." But then, about **Islam**, he also adds there: "**The Turk rules also between two seas**, at Constantinople" - viz. as from 1453 onward, between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean.

This is then seen by Luther to occur **before**, in Daniel 12:1f, [**Christ alias Michael - during yet further Church History** - stands up for His people. Christ does so, in order to deliver them from oppression, and ultimately to **revive them** unto again becoming "blessed" - **after** the end of the 1335 day-years since 70 A.D. Daniel 12:6-12.

Thus, in 1538, Rev. Dr. Luther applied⁶⁰¹ the famous 'time statement' [about the three-and-a-half 'years' in Daniel 12:7 *etc.*] also to the **Turks**. For him, their hegemony began with their conquest of Constantinople (in 1453) - "which is now 85 years ago. If I now reckon a 'time' to be according to the thirty years' age of Christ [*cf.* Luke 3:23] - this saying [of three-and-a-half 'times'] then constitutes 105 years - so that the Turk will still rule another 20 years" at least.

Coming now to the Newer Testament, in First John 2:18-22 & 4:1-3, that Apostle writes: "As you have heard that **the Antichrist** (*Ho Antichristos*)⁶⁰² **shall** come - even **now** there are many antichrists (*antichristoi polloi*).... Who is a liar, but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He who **denies** the **Father** and the **Son**, is **antichrist**." And **Islam** denies the **Fatherhood** of God and the **Sonship** of Christ.

John continues: "Don't believe every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are from God. Because many **false-prophets** (*pseudopropheetai*) have gone out into the World.... Every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ **has** come in the flesh, is not from God.... This is that [spirit] of **antichrist**, of which you have heard that it would come - and even now already it is in the World."

Here Dr. Luther⁶⁰³ believed that the "two regimes, that of the **Pope** and that of the **Turk**, are no doubt the true **Antichrist**" - in the **broader** sense of that word. Against such - "John [First John 2:18] and other Apostles have warned."

In Calvin's 1551 *Commentary on the First Epistle of John* (2:18-23), he reflects on the first century A.D.'s Apostle John's words 'even now many antichrists have arisen.' There, Calvin remarks⁶⁰⁴ that "here, **Turks** [alias **Muslims**], **Jews** [alias **Judaists**], and **such like** - have a mere **idol in place of God**."

We ourselves think it is further significant to note that Islam turned many churches into mosques - for example, the great St. Sophia Church in Constantinople. So in that sense, also **Islam** now sits in what used to be part of the **Temple or Church of God**. Cf. Second Thessalonians 2:3f.

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Let us pause at this point to give a **bird's eye view** of the Biblical Book of Revelation throughout Church History. The Calvinistic understanding of that Book is usefully summarized by that godly Westminster Assembly **Calvinistic** Theologian, Rev. Dr. Thomas Goodwin.

"Christ," he explained,⁶⁰⁵ "when He ascended up to Heaven..., first sets upon the conquest of Satan's dominion.... **By the preaching of the Gospel**, [He] overturns that vast [Roman] Empire.... The Empire then became divided into two parts - the Eastern and Western Empire, as they were commonly called.

"First He ruins the imperial Western State and power in Europe, by the four first trumpets...in the eighth chapter.... Then [in Revelation chapter nine, He ruins] the imperial Eastern State - which stood after the other."

That He did "first by the [**Islamic**] **Saracens** [and] then by the [**Islamic**] **Turks**.... These two are the fifth and sixth trumpets - which two possess all that Eastern part unto this day....

"That Eastern part of it is left possessed by the **Turks**, chapter nine.... The Western parts of it in Europe...all consented to give their power to the Beast - the **Pope** - chapter thirteen." In spite of his "**antichristian** tyranny - **as great as that of the Turks themselves** toward Christians - Christ yet preserveth... '144 000'...Christians....

"These two, **the Pope** and **the Turk**, both enemies to Christ, thus succeeding in the [Roman] Empire and sharing the two parts of it between them - we see.... **Mohammadanism** under the **Turk** tyranniseth in the one, and **idolatry** under **the Pope**" tyrannizes in the other part - of what before then used to be the Roman Empire.

Yet so that "**Christ** hath a new business of it yet!... Therefore **He hath seven vials**, **which contain the last plagues...to despatch the Pope and the Turk** and **wholly root them out**.... The plagues of these vials are the contents of the fifteenth and sixteenth chapters.... **The sixth vial breaks the power of the Turk in the East**.... Both the **Turkish** [or **Islamic**] and **Popish** [or **Antichrist's**] party **do together join**, using their utmost forces - and, together with them, **all opposite kings of the whole World** - against the **Christians** both of the East and West.

"The eighteenth chapter sings a funeral song [at the **death** of all the Anti-Christian Powers throughout the World].... After this, comes in Christ's Kingdom.... This new Kingdom of His shall be made up...[also] of Eastern Christians who endured the bondage

of the two woe-trumpets - the **[Islamic] Saracens** and the **Turks** - yet continuing to profess His name."

Christ's Kingdom finally **triumphs throughout the World** in **[post]millennial bliss** - down to the very end of History at the Final Judgment. Revelation 20:1-14.

In detail, Goodwin also stated⁶⁰⁶ that Christ "ruins the imperial Western State and power in Europe by the four first trumpets...in the eighth chapter.... Chapter nine, **He destroys the imperial Eastern state.... First, by the [Islamic] Saracens; then, by the [Muslim] Turks.... That old Roman Empire was thus removed in both parts** of it.... The **Eastern part** of it is left in possession of **the Turks**, in the ninth chapter. So the **Western part** of it, in Europe, being broken into ten kingdoms by the Goths - they consent to give their power to the Beast, **the Pope**, who so becomes a successor to the Western Emperor, and possesses his seat and power."

Further, Goodwin also explained⁶⁰⁷ that "this [Roman] Empire and the dominions of it was extended well-nigh as far for circuit - as the dominions under **the Turk in the East, and the ten [Neo-Roman] European kingdoms in the West.... The Roman Empire, and the successions of it East and West, was that Fourth and Great Monarchy that would oppress the Earth.... Daniel [2:26-45 & 7:2-27].... The Goths and Vandals...utterly shattered the government of the Occidental Emperors, and broke it into ten kingdoms; over which the Pope succeeded.**

"The...overturning the **Oriental part**" was done first by the **Arabian Saracens**, and later by the **Muslim Turks**. "1. By the **Saracens**; of whom **Mohammed** was the head. He wrung one great part of the **Eastern Empire** - in Arabia, Egypt, and Assyria - out of the Emperor's hands, and subjected those dominions unto **Mohammedanism**. And then - 2. By the **Turks**, professing **Mohammedanism** also. They conquered and subdued not only what the Saracens before them had done, but also that other part of the **Eastern Empire** remaining still Christian, namely in Natolia and in Greece. Over which the Greek Emperors, successors of the **Roman**, till then continued; but were now wholly subjected. Together with Constantinople itself, the seat of their Empire, unto **the Turks** - who alone possess the whole Eastern Empire unto this day."

* * * * *

A century later, that view of Westminster Assembly Theologian Thomas Goodwin was echoed by the greatest Theologian America has ever produced. In his great book *A History of the Work of Redemption*⁶⁰⁸ - Princeton's first President, Rev. Professor Dr. Jonathan Edwards, explained:

"The two great works of the devil which he...wrought against the Kingdom of Christ are...his **Anti-christian** [Romish or **Papal**] and **Mahometan** [Muslim or **Islamic**] kingdoms. They have been, and still are, two kingdoms of great extent and strength.

"Both together swallow...up the Ancient Roman Empire; the [**Papal**] **kingdom of Antichrist** swallowing up the Western Empire, and **Satan's Mahometan kingdom** the Eastern Empire.... In the *Book of Revelation* [chapters 16 to 20]...it is in the **destruction** of these that the glorious victory of Christ at the introduction of the glorious times of the Church, will mainly consist....

"**1260 'days' or years**...are so often in Scripture mentioned as the time of the continuance of **Antichrist's reign**.... The rise of Antichrist was gradual.... **The Bishop of Rome**...claimed the power of Universal Bishop over the whole Christian Church through[out] the World.... He...was confirmed in it by the civil power of the Emperor, **in the year 606** [A.D.]....

"**Mahomet** was born in the year of Christ 570 in Arabia. When he was about forty years of age [and thus **around 610** A.D.], he began to give forth that he was 'the great prophet' of God, and began to teach his new invented religion.... He published his *Al Coran*, which he pretended he received from the angel Gabriel.... His party gradually grew, until they overran a great part of the World.

"First the **Saracens**...of the country of Arabia where **Mahomet** lived, about the year 700 began dreadfully to waste the Roman Empire.... These are supposed to be meant by the '**locusts**' - that we read of in the ninth chapter of Revelation.

"And then, after this, the **Turks**, who...were followers of **Mahomet**, conquered all the Eastern Empire. They began...to invade Europe 1300, and took Constantinople and so became masters of all the Eastern Empire in the year 1453.... These are supposed to be prophesied of, by the '**horsemen**' in the **ninth chapter of Revelation.**"

Now at Revelation 9:1-4 itself, we read that a fallen star opened the bottomless pit; that a smoke arose out of the pit; and that "out of the smoke, **locusts** came upon the Earth; and unto them was given power as the **scorpions**.... And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the Earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree, but only those who do not have the seal of God upon their foreheads."

This seems to be descriptive of the **Saracens**, who followed Muhammad like locusts. However, they had no power to shake the faith of those Trinitarians who had in baptism been sealed with the mark of the living God upon their foreheads.

Locusts often come up from Arabia's deserts. Mohammad and especially his followers unleashed their Islamic "locusts" to scourge the Mediterranean World and to darken a large area of nominally-Christian civilization. For Mohammad' s "locusts" - similar to those in the vision of Joel (1:4-6f & 2:4-22f) - "were like horses prepared to battle." Revelation 9:7a..

Those horse-like "locusts" went forth to conquer; in regal attire; with savage appearance; and armed to the teeth. Predicted John: "On their heads were as it were crowns of gold, but their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. And they had breastplates like iron breastplates.

And the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots of many horses running unto battle." Revelation 9:7b-9.

Sir William Muir points out in *The Caliphate*: "Like swarms from a beehive or **like locusts** darkening the air, the one Arabian tribe after the other emerged and rolled to the North, and then spread out in great hordes to the East and the West."⁶⁰⁹ Thus, the Arab Muslims **almost totally wiped out the Christian Church** all the way from Northern India to Northwest Africa.

The American Presbyterian Rev. Dr. Albert Barnes comments:⁶¹⁰ "With surprising unanimity, commentators have agreed in regarding this as referring to the Empire of the **Saracens**, or to the rise and progress of the religion and the Empire set up by **Mohammed**.... Mohammedan tradition speaks of locusts having dropped into the hands of Mohammed.... Nothing would better represent...the Saracenic hordes that came out of Arabia - and that spread over the East, over Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Spain, and that threatened to spread over Europe."

Kuyper remarks:⁶¹¹ "The Christian Church of the East, when Islam arose, was stormed unexpectedly. Islam shook her fundamentally, and her most beautiful cathedrals presently fell down into ruins.... Like a swarm of locusts settle on an orchard [*cf.* **Revelation 9:1-21**], presently to leave no leaf, and no blossom on the little twigs stripped bare - so the Christian garden in those lands was gnawed away and totally emptied."

Revelation 9:6 declares: "In those days [of the 'five months' or one hundred and fifty 'day-years'], men shall seek death - but shall not find it. They shall desire to die, but death shall flee away from them."

Even the Muslims themselves would then desire to die. For thus they hoped to be transported into their falsely-imagined ideal place of a lascivious paradise.⁶¹²

However, like the 'living dead'⁶¹³ - before they died, they were first obliged to wage their 'holy war' or *jihad*. This they did - for their own destructive king. But this is mean *Allah* - which the Book of Revelation seems to call: Abaddon-Apollyon.

Onward surged the Muslims. They were all fired up by the battle-cry of their caliphs: 'Before you is paradise; behind you are death and hell!'⁶¹⁴

From A.D. 622, Muhammad's Arabian armies of Muslim horsemen swept not only northward and eastward. They swept also westward, across Christian North Africa and then on into Western Europe. Thus they terrorized the **previously- 'christianized'** Cyprus, Crete, Armenia, Syria, Persia, Kazakstan, Babylonia, Arabia, Palestine, Egypt, Libya, Numidia, Mauretania, Sicily, Spain, Portugal, Sardinia, Corsica, and France. Only the great Charles Martel ('The Hammer') stopped them - in A.D. 732, in Belgium.

That was and is ***Jihad*** - Islam's "Holy Warfare" and ongoing struggle to subjugate the entire World to its deity Allah, as expressed through its prophet Muhammad. The ***Jihad*** resumed again later, and repeatedly - until today Islam dominates all of Northern

Africa from Nigeria through Somalia, Arabia, the Eurasian Heartland, and further from Western Pakistan through Bangla Desh and even to Eastern Indonesia.

Jihad is still very alive and well on planet Earth. This can be seen by noting today's excrescences of the following *jihadic* injunctions to Muslims in the *Qur'an*:-

"Fight, in the cause of Allah, those who fight you!... Slay them wherever you catch them!... Do not fight them at the Sacred Mosque, unless they fight you there; but if they fight you, slay them!... Keep on fighting them, until there is no more tumult!" *Sura* 2:190-93.

"Let those fight in the cause of Allah, who sell the[ir] life in this world for the hereafter - to him who keeps on fighting in the cause of Allah!... Those who believe, fight in the cause of Allah; but those who disbelieve, fight in the cause of Satan. So you must therefore fight against the supporters of Satan!" *Sura* 4:74-76.

"O you who believe! Do not take the Jews and the Christians for your friends!" *Sura* 5:54.

"I will instil terror into the hearts of the Unbelievers. You must smite above their necks, and smite all their fingertips off of them, because they contended against Allah and His Apostle [Muhammad].... When you meet the Unbelievers in hostile array - never turn your backs to them!... It is not you who slew them; it was Allah." *Sura* 8:12-17.

"Slay the Pagans wherever you find them; and seize them!... Fight them! And Allah will punish them by your hands!... Fight those who do not believe in Allah!... The Christians call Christ the Son of God.... They but imitate what the Unbelievers of old used to say. May God's curse be on them!... Believers, fight the Unbelievers who surround you!" *Sura* 9:5,14,29f,123.

"When you meet the Unbelievers in battle, smite at their necks!... But those who are slain in the cause of Allah - He will never let their deeds be lost. Soon He will guide them and improve their condition, and admit them into the Garden" of Paradise. *Sura* 47:4-6.

"Allah loves those who fight in His Cause in battle array, as if they were a solid cemented structure." *Sura* 61:4.

"Strive hard against the Unbelievers!... Hell will be their home - the end of an unhappy journey!" *Sura* 66:9.

It is no wonder at all, then, that Rev. Professor Dr. Alexander Keith has written: "There is practically no part of the entire *Book [of Revelation]* which is interpreted so uniformly, as the exposition of the fifth and sixth seals.... It is applied to the Saracens and the Turks."

Professor Davis's *Short History of the Near East* adds: "The cloud of the **Saracenic invasion** from the **Arabian deserts** rolled **northward!**"⁶¹⁵ See: Revelation 9:7b-9.

Clearly, these 'locust-scorpion' objects are **no mere insects** - but **venemous men!** For ordinary locusts have no king and wear no crown (Proverbs 30:27); whereas these extraordinary "locusts" have a leader.

Too, ordinary scorpions are loners, and not organized for mass action like both locusts and Muslims. Indeed, as stated in Revelation 9:11, these scorpion-locusts "have a **king** over them, who is the [fallen] Angel of the bottomless pit - whose name in the Hebrew tongue is *Abaddon*, but in the Greek tongue has his name *Apollyon*" (alias 'Destroyer').⁶¹⁶

Again, this "king" strongly suggests not only the loner Muhammad - the alleged ambassador or *rasool* of *Allah* (alias the unipersonal Deity of Islam). But to many Christian Theologians it also suggests that the real influence behind Muhammad and Islam, *Allah*, is the 'king of this world' - **Satan himself**.

Satan tries to be like God. Indeed, to many Christian Theologians, he pretends to be that so-called deity *Allah*. Yet he remains only the Destroyer.

In fact, it is very significant what the *Geneva Bible* here calls the messenger or 'the angel of the bottomless pit' in Revelation 9:11. It calls him "Satan's ambassador."⁶¹⁷

Strikingly, *Allah* is sometimes described by **Muslims themselves** as: "the One Who brings damage"; or "the One Who leads astray"; or "the Bringer-down"; or "the Tyrant."⁶¹⁸ As such, this Muslim concept of *Allah* is **really** that of a **great idol** opposing the true Triune God⁶¹⁹ of the Holy Bible (as Calvin too so aptly remarked).

For as the great Protestant Reformer Rev. Dr. John Calvin himself explained:⁶²⁰ "The [Islamic] **Turks** in the present day...proclaim...with full throat that the Creator of Heaven and Earth is their God. Yet by their rejection [of the Deity and Saviourhood] of Christ, they substitute an **idol** in His place."

That is to say, *Allah* is an **idol** substituted in the place of the one and only true and Triune God. And, as the same Calvin declares also elsewhere: "**Turks** [alias **Muslims**]...and such like - have a mere **idol** in place of **God**."⁶²¹

The scourge of Islam, was arrested in its first advance into Christian Western Europe in A.D. 732. Yet it still continued to spread to other areas elsewhere. "One woe is past. But behold - two more woes come after that!" Revelation 9:12.

Having already reached Central Asia between A.D. 700 and 730, Islam next infiltrated even Western China in A.D. 755 - and subsequently overwhelmed Afghanistan and the lands adjacent to it. Then, from around A.D. 1000, the Central Asian Turks (of Turkmenistan) not only spread Islam northward into Central Western Siberia and Southern

Russia and the Ukraine. They spread it also southward throughout Northern India and thence eastward through Malaysia to the Philippines and to Indonesia.

Next, around A.D. 1040, those Turks started moving **especially westward** - across the River Euphrates, through the Holy Land, and **into Asia Minor** (alias the Asian part of the modern 'Turkey'). That latter expansion **wiped out the nominal remnants of the seven churches to which these very warnings in the Book of Revelation were originally addressed.**⁶²²

So despite almost two centuries of resisting the Christian 'Crusades' in Palestine against them from 1096 to 1291 - the Turks had pushed on further toward the West. During that time, all the nominally-'Christian' armies were ultimately unsuccessful in trying to dislodge the Saracens from Palestine.⁶²³

In Revelation 9:13-15, one reads: "Then the sixth angel sounded [his trumpet]. And I heard a voice say...'Loosen the four Angels which are bound in **the great river Euphrates!**' Then the four Angels were unleashed...to slay the third part of men."

This seems to describe the actions of the islamified **Turks** when they would later cross the River Euphrates on their way from Turkmenistan toward their new home in Turkey. They would slaughter many, and indeed succeed in ousting an idolatrous Church from that entire region.

Explains Luther:⁶²⁴ "The sixth angel [announces] the shameful **Muhammad** with his companions the **Saracens**, who inflicted a great plague on the Church - with their doctrines and with the sword." Indeed, the Calvinistic *Dordt Dutch Bible* comments at Revelation 6:12f that the opening of the sixth seal "was followed by the rise...of the **Muhammadans** in the **East**."

It was God in **Christ Himself Who punished His Own backslidden people for their idolatry** [Revelation 9:14-20f]. It was He Who unleashed this Turkish scourge from the Euphrates against the West.

For the Voice from the four horns of the golden altar, comments the *Geneva Bible*,⁶²⁵ is "the Voice of Christ sitting at the right hand of the Father.... The four angels which are bound in the great River Euphrates" signify "the enemies of the East Country who would afflict the Church of God - as did the **Arabians, Saracens, Turks, and Tartars**."

At Revelation 9:14, *Dordt* observes that "**almost all expositors** understand the sect of the Muhammadans" and more specifically the "four nations" of "the Arabs, the Saracens, the Tartars, and the Turks". From the year 620 onward, the Arabs and the Saracens inflicted much violence against the Christians, and especially against the Roman Empire in the East."

And later, "when the [Papal] **Antichrist** was at his zenith, and when 'Orthodox' Christians were being oppressed to the greatest extent, the **Tartars** and the **Turks** broke

through... They overran **and subjugated** a large part of **Asia** and **Africa**. And they destroyed the Greek or the Eastern Empire of which Constantinople was the capital."

Comments Dr. Goodwin:⁶²⁶ "Then succeeds the sixth trumpet, which is **the second woe-trumpet**...ordained to bring calamities **on the other part of the Eastern Empire** which was left standing still...and professing the Christian Religion in **Asia the Less and in Greece**. Chapter 9:14-16, 'saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet - "Loosen the four angels which are bound in the great river **Euphrates!**"'....

"Now according to all the characters and footprints which we find in the **Turkish** stories - no prophecy doth or can more punctually describe any nation or event than this doth **the Turks** and their irruption upon the Eastern Empire. They then came first out of their native country [**Turkmenistan** to the east of the Euphrates in Central Asia] about the year 1040 after Christ.

"They did seat themselves first by the river **Euphrates**. They were divided into four several governments or kingdoms known commonly in historians by these four names - [the] first...at **Iconium**; the second at **Aleppo**; the third at **Damascus**; and the fourth at **Baghdad**...on the river **Euphrates**. Who, having lain hovering thereabout for the space of two hundred years, did - about the year of Christ 1300 - overrun all Natolia or Asia the Less. Joining all into one kingdom under Ottoman the forefather of the present **Great Turk**, they did not cease till they had **won Constantinople itself and all Greece...in the year 1453**....

"**God preserved**...in the midst of all this **Mohammedan tyranny**, under both Turks and Saracens in the Eastern part of the World, thousands of **true believers**: even '**144 000**' (= the perfect numbers 3 x 4 x 10 x 10 x 10). Revelation 7:4 & 14:1f. In 8:13 & 9:12f, "these two woe-trumpets were the **overrunnings by the Saracen and Mohammedan nations**." That was "**the greatest plague in respect of outward war and bondage that ever befell the Christian World**....

"The Holy Ghost has declared that the **preservation from the hurt of those Mohammedan** invasions was the aim of this **sealing** thus beforehand [Matthew 28:19 cf. Revelation 7:2-4f].... You may read in the ninth chapter verse four [of the Book of Revelation] that when these **Saracen locusts under their ringleader Mohammed** were first let loose and had their commission..., that '**they should hurt only those men that were not sealed**'....

"The Christians in the West were preserved from the hurt of these incursions - in that these **Mohammedans** were restrained from breaking in upon the ten kingdoms.... According to all the best interpreters, this **Turkish tyranny and tribulation is to continue even till...the Turk is to be overthrown to make way for...the king[dom]s of the East** under the sixth vial, and to be **destroyed** by the seventh [Romans 11:25-32 cf. Revelation 16:12-17f]."

What does the great modern Calvinist Rev. Professor Dr. Abraham Kuyper Sr. here remark? He observes:⁶²⁷ "The basic thrust of **the book of Revelation** may and should be

applied to the past as well as to the present [situation of] of the Church.... If we take a look at the marginal notes of Revelation [chapter nine in the *Dordt Bible*], we shall then see that they apply it...to **Muhammad**.... In itself, there is nothing against that."

Further, Kuyper added:⁶²⁸ "According to Islamic law, only three choices were left to the Christian population in a militarily occupied land. One either had to embrace Islam and then be absorbed among the 'believers'; or one had...to pay special taxes and then become a *Ghimmi*; or finally, one had to die by the sword. Whoever chose payment of the special taxes, performed a deed of submission in the payment itself, and painfully had to endure it....

"When Omar captured Jerusalem, he wrote in the decree of capitulation that 'the Christians may freely hold their worship services in their churches and chapels. Provided: that every Muhammadan may be present there at all times day and night; that their worship services would never come out onto the streets...; that they would not convert anyone to their religion; [and] that they would never prevent anyone from becoming a Muslim.'"

Kuyper also rightly added:⁶²⁹ "If the Turks during their invasion of Europe had not been stopped, and Islam had not been pushed back out of Spain - the entire Church of Christ would have been exposed to the danger of practically being exterminated. That indeed happened in Western Asia and on the northern coast of Africa where it had once so powerfully flourished."

Now "the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred thousand thousand." Revelation 9:16.

"These Turks and Tartars know how to take the field with several hundred thousand," the *Dordt Dutch Bible* comments here. Indeed, this "is sufficiently known from the histories."⁶³⁰

John also predicted how "out of their mouths - issued fire and smoke and brimstone." Revelation 9:17. It needs to be asked at this point whether "the fire" and "the smoke" and "the brimstone" which "went forth" from the "mouths" of these terrible attackers - is a prediction of the Turks shooting shells propelled by **gunpowder** out of the mouths of their cannons. (The Turks had imported gunpowder into Turkey from China.)

As the knowledgeable Alfred Lord Byron notes in his book *The Byzantine Achievement*:⁶³¹ "The Fall of Constantinople...was the first event of historic importance engineered with the most important weapon of modern warfare: gunpowder.... If it was not for gunpowder, the siege of [Constantinople in] 1453 - would have failed."

Nevertheless, not one of God's elect lost his salvation at the hands of the Turks - nor indeed could do so. And very few of God's elect were killed by them.⁶³² On the other hand, many unsaved and purely-nominal 'Church Members' were exterminated - and thousands more renounced the one true Triune God of the Holy Bible and of Christianity, and apostasized to Islam.

Similar as the **Turks** were to the previous plague of **Arabian** "locust-scorpions" - in fact, essentially an **Islamic** extension of that earlier **Muslim scourge**⁶³³ - there were also certain differences. For the **Islamic Turks** did not merely **hurt** men without killing them (as did the **Islamic Arabians**).

To the contrary. The Turks actually **slew** fully one-third or "the **third** part of men" - in the eastern part of what was at least a nominally-Christian Eastern-Orthodox Civilization.

Yet even here, there was no question of those Islamic Turks completely destroying genuine Christians. Revelation 9:17-19. Most people then destroyed by Islam, were nominal hangers-on and lifeless 'Members' of the deformed Eastern 'Church' - itself infected with the principles of Babylon-on-the-Euphrates. Revelation 9:6,14f,18.

Yet it is true that the Turks (helped by Muhammadan Mongols from 1250 onward) conquered Constantinople in 1453 - and then overran **parts** of Russia, the Ukraine, Romania, Hungary and Austria; and the **whole** of the Crimea, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Wallachia, Albania and Greece. It is also true that Islam, by means of its slave-traders, continued to march southward - first through West Africa; then through East Africa; and thereafter into Southern Africa.

Remarks Rev. Dr. Matthew Henry in his *Bible Commentary* about the four angels bound in the River Euphrates:⁶³⁴ "These four messengers of divine judgment, lay bound in the River Euphrates - a great way from the European nations. Here the **Turkish** power had its rise, which seems to be the story of this vision.... It tells us the armies of **the Mahometan Empire** would be vastly great. And so, it is certain, they were....

"Their artillery, by which they made such slaughter, [is] described by 'fire, smoke, and brimstone' issuing out of the mouth of their horses and the stings that were in their tails.... Mede's opinion is that this is a prediction of **great guns**, those instruments of cruelty which make such destruction.... These were first used by the **Turks** at the siege of **Constantinople**....

"**Antichrist** had his forces of a spiritual nature, like scorpions poisoning the minds of men with error and **idolatry**. So the **Turks**, who were raised up to punish the antichristian apostasy, had their scorpions and their stings too, to hurt and kill the...**bodies** [of those] who had been the **murderers** of so many **souls**."

It might in all probability have been hoped that the Fall of Constantinople to the plague of Islamic Turks in A.D. 1453 - would have brought the nominally-christianized yet still-unreformed Europe to her senses. If only Christendom - and more particularly if only the Eastern-Orthodox - had then repented!

Far worse yet. Even the then-unharmful but nevertheless then-threatened and also-idolatrous Papal West, refused to repent! Revelation 9:20f.

For "the rest of the men who were not killed by those [Islamic] plagues, still **did not** repent of the works of their hands so as to cease worshipping **demons** [or fallen **angels**] and **idols** of gold and silver and brass and stone and wood which can neither see nor hear nor walk. Nor did they repent of their **murders** nor of their **sorceries** nor of their **fornication** nor of their **thefts**" alias their transgressions of God's **Moral Law**.

The Christian Church even in **Western** Europe had become deformed by the tyranny of the Romish **Papacy** - as described by John in his subsequent chapters.⁶³⁵ The nominal Church (both Eastern and Western) had become infested with the **worship of (fallen) angels** and **icons** - and with **violence** and **witchcraft** and **lasciviousness** and **simonies**. Also the Eastern-Orthodox Church - even when under the tyranny of Islam - did not repent of those sins, but continued and still continues in its transgression of God's Second Commandment even till today.

Comments the famous British Puritan Rev. James Durham:⁶³⁶ "How mad the [**Papal**] **Antichristian World** was upon their **idols**!... They are said **not to repent**....

"Notwithstanding...these plagues, neither were **these idolatrous 'Christians'** inwardly brought to loath these sins or to be humbled for them before God.... Even **after** this plague, which fully came to pass also, Papists [were] being never more drunk with their superstitions and profane in their carriages - than **since the Turks destroyed a great part of that Antichristian kingdom**....

"The trumpet describeth Antichrist's kingdom....[and] setteth out God's severe judging [of] a great part of the Christian World...by letting loose **the Turks** upon it, which with great armies **destroyed many** and overcame a great part of the Empire. Yet these that were spared, **did not repent nor forsake their idolatry and superstitions, for all that**. But **Popery grew in its corruption** - even as **the Turks** in **their** dominion."

"**Forsake...idolatry!**" Thus declares the Word of God.⁶³⁷ Certainly the Lord used Islam - to chastise a wayward Early-Mediaeval Church for backsliding unto **images**.

For man is **prone** to turn away from the **invisible** God first to **images**⁶³⁸ and then later often also to **other gods**.⁶³⁹ However, **post-exilic Israelites** - and their successors in the **Early Church** - were **free from idolatry**.

Thus, the A.D. 306 Church Council of Eliberis decreed that "there must be **no pictures** used in **churches**" and that "**nought** that is **worshipped**" might be "**depicted on walls**."⁶⁴⁰ Later, the Church Father Epiphanius stated such would be "a **horrid abomination**."⁶⁴¹ And even at the beginning of the fifth century A.D., Augustine viewed such as a "**perverse custom**" and an "**error**" - inasmuch as "the **one** God should be worshipped...**without an image**."⁶⁴²

Then, neo-paganistic incipient idols increasingly crept and later streamed into the backsliding Church. So God would next use an idol-hating Muhammad to chasten her.

Sad so relate, after Muhammad, even **Islam** often degenerated and sanctioned a folk-islamic use of amulets - as too did the Post-Muhammad **Church**. A **Protestant Reformation** would therefore be needed to deal with **both**.

But at the Pre-Reformation, God then opened His "Book." Revelation 10:1-2. The *Dordt Dutch Bible* applies this to that time - and to its resultant fruit, the Protestant Reformation.

It further comments⁶⁴³ that "others take it as the Book of the Gospel which, when the time the **Antichrist** [alias the **Papacy**] was at its zenith, had been a closed book for the Church. But starting from the time that the [Islamic] **Turks** broke loose against Christendom, as indicated in the previous chapter [Revelation nine], this Book [or **Biblion**] was once again opened up for the Church by several exceptional men of God" (such as Luther and Calvin *etc.*) - especially since the Bible started getting **printed** from that time onward!

In the replay of history from Revelation 12:1 onward, continues the *Dordt Dutch Bible*, one sees "what gradually caused the **Antichrist** to hatch - which finally emerged in about the year 606 A.D..... The **Antichrist** in the West and the **Muhammadans** in the East obtained the upper hand and oppressed the [True] Church of Christ throughout the entire World."

Also the sixteenth-century Luther surveyed the further events yet to happen **from his own time onwards** - as predicted by John in chapters thirteen to twenty of his Book of Revelation. "Here now," explains Luther, "the devil's final wrath gets to work. There, in the East - the second woe: **Muhammad and the Saracens**. Here, in the West - Papacy and Empire: with the third woe. To these is **added**, for good measure, **the Turk** - Gog and Magog - as will follow in chapter twenty."⁶⁴⁴

That Protestant Reformation of the deformed Western Church, to liberate it from its Papal-Babylonish captivity - commenced in 1517, between the Fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453 and the defeat of the Turks at Vienna in 1683. That **Protestant Reformation was firmly established by the middle of the sixteenth century**. That was **just when the Islamic Turkish power was reaching its zenith**.

The Protestant Reformation was and is predestinated to reform the Church⁶⁴⁵ and to replace the works of the false-prophet Muhammad and of all other false-prophets⁶⁴⁶ even down through all the subsequent centuries. For the **Protestant Reformation** - in spite of all setbacks - will **advance** toward **victorious triumph** during the **remaining time of our Earth's History**.

The power of **Islam peaked** in the sixteenth century at the advent of the Protestant Reformation. Its advance into Europe from the East, was checked not only by the rise of Protestantism but also by the resulting Semi-Reformation even of Romanism.

In 1683, the Turks were defeated decisively at the Battle of Vienna. Then, and especially after the French Revolution of 1789 (*cf.* Revelation 11:13?), Islam slowly began

to recede even in the Muslim parts of Eastern Europe and elsewhere. That occurred particularly at the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in Turkey and the Near East right before and during the First World War.

Sadly, however, since the weakening of the West during the Second World War - and its appalling spiritual apostasy especially since then - there are again signs of a revival and **extension of Islam**. Even before the twentieth century, many commentators on Revelation 16:15-17f **predicted** such a revival of Muhammadanism.

All this seems to be adumbrated in Revelation chapters ten and eleven. These appear to be predicting the **Protestant Reformation** (and its consequences), after the **printing** of the Bible, as the very **turning-point** of Church History.

Revelation chapter eleven is the 'bridge' between the 'seal-prophecy' of the 'Islamic' chapters eight and nine and the 'book-prophecy' of the 'Papal-Romish' chapters thirteen to eighteen⁶⁴⁷ of that last Book of the Bible. As such, we need to achieve an adequate understanding of it.

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We shall now spend a little time presenting the Westminster Assembly Calvinist Rev. Dr. Thomas Goodwin's understanding of this important 'bridge' of **Revelation chapter eleven**. Very significantly, he links it also with **Daniel chapter twelve**.

After the mention of the 1260 'days' in Revelation 11:3, in verse 7 (says Goodwin),⁶⁴⁸ the words 'and when they shall have finished their testimony' are there "held out to testify - during that whole time of 1260 years.... Here is the same period of time twice mentioned, under a several computation.

"The one of 42 months, the other of 1260 days - both of which come [down] all to one.... The one is mentioned as **the time that the Pope and his company shall reign**; and the other, as the time for the witnesses to prophesy....

"All these are **not solar days** - that is, 'natural' days consisting of day and night - but '**prophetical days.**' As in Daniel [9:24f & 12:7-12] a day is put for a year, and a week for seven years, and so thirty days for thirty years, and 1260 days for 1260 years.... **1260 years are to be allowed the Beast, the Pope - from his beginning, to his end.**" Cf. Revelation 11:2-7.

Nor does Goodwin differ here from the first great Protestant Reformer. Indeed, in Revelation 11:7, 'the beast' from the 'pit' - insisted Luther - is "the worldly Pope."⁶⁴⁹

Continues Goodwin:⁶⁵⁰ "The days of Christ's Kingdom to come, are called 'the days of the seventh angel' [cf. Revelation 10:7 & 11:15]. And so the times before it, are called '**the days of the sixth angel**' or the sixth trumpet - under which **the Turk reigns** [Revelation 9:13f]....

"If these occurrences have any affinity with the sixth trumpet, it rather lies in this. That whereas the fifth and sixth trumpets have contained **two woes** on the Christian World in the **East** for their **idolatry**, from the **Turks and Saracens** [in chapter nine] - this [new situation described in Revelation eleven] contains **a like woe** on the churches of the Reformation in the **West**, by the **Papists** overrunning their outward court as a punishment of their **carnal gospelling**.

"This, **added to those woes brought upon those Grecian churches by the Turks** - should make the woe of the sixth trumpet complete.... The **vials** being upon **the Turk and Pope** only [Revelation 16:10-16]; but these **other woes upon** those other professors of Christ and His name after a fleshly way, both **Grecian and Protestants** [chapters nine to eleven] - the **one by the Turk**, chapter nine; **the other by the Papists**, here in this eleventh chapter."⁶⁵¹

Explains Goodwin:⁶⁵² "This Beast, the thirteenth chapter describes.... Christ yet preserves another like company of 144 000, chapter fourteenth - even the like number of virgins who are sealed Christians in the West, as under the **tyranny of the Turks and Saracens** He had done the like in the East....

"These two, the **Pope and Turk**, [are] **both enemies to Christ**.... For **Mohammedanism** tyranniseth in the **one**. **Idolatry** overspread the other - as Heathenism had done the Empire."

Rev. Dr. Goodwin further states:⁶⁵³ "In chapters fifteenth and sixteenth... **Christ hath seven vials, which contain the last plagues...to despatch the Pope and Turk**.... The first **five vials do dissolve and ruin the Pope's power by degrees** in the West. Then **the sixth vial breaks the power of the Turk in the East**....

"By these six vials, their power and kingdom not being wholly ruined and removed, **both Turk and Popish party join** their forces. And together with them, all opposite kings of the whole World **against the Christians both East and West**....

"The '**book-prophecy**' [Revelation 10:2 till 19:21] is taken up with the Western oppositions to the great **Antichrist of the West**.... In this '**seal-prophecy**' [of Revelation eight and nine] wherein the **Mohammedan** oppressors bear so great a part, comes in the representation...of those **Eastern Christians under Mohammed**."

Nevertheless, here and there even in the 'book-prophecy' - viz. at Revelation 16:10f & 19:12f & 19:20 cf. 20:10f - there is mention not only of the **Western Papal Antichrist**. In addition, there is mention also of the **Eastern False-Prophet**.

Here, it may be very significant that the birthrate of Europeans has been dropping steadily during the twentieth century. Too, there is now a massive legal and illegal migration of Muslims and their huge families into Europe.

May these two situations not continue unaltered over the next fifty years! For if they do - **it is computed that Europe will have a Muslim majority by the year A.D. 2050 - or rather by the year 1469 A.M. ('After Muhammad')**.

Nevertheless, the famous Puritan Commentator Rev. James Durham⁶⁵⁴ rightly remarks: "The four first vials [in] chapter 16...carry on Antichrist's ruin.... The fifth vial overturneth Rome his seat.... The sixth overturneth Turks."

Yet first, there would apparently be an Oriental and possibly even a **Pan-Islamic thrust westward**. As Revelation 16:12 explains: "The great River Euphrates...was dried up - so that the way of the kings of the East might be prepared."

Comments the 1637 Calvinistic *Dordt Dutch Bible*:⁶⁵⁵ "Some here understand the thus-named actual river called 'Euphrates' - on both sides of which the [**Islamic**] **Turks** and the **Persians** and suchlike nations have their territories in the East, as was mentioned at 9:14 - and **which would still unite with one another**." That would seem to be in a **Pan-Islamic Jihad** or 'Holy War' apparently against the West.

Even the arch-dispensationalist C.I. Scofield, in spite of his ultra-premillennialism, is here on the mark. For, as he strikingly noted in his *Reference Bible*: "This is precisely what has come to pass...with the [**French-Revolutionary**] **Republic of France** and the **despotism of Turkey**."⁶⁵⁶

The drying up the waters of Babylon seems to have a further meaning, too. It refers *inter alia* **also** to an event **prior** to the **final** fall of Papal Rome.⁶⁵⁷ The outpouring of the sixth vial then starts the **diminishing power of Rome-on-the-Tiber** (and also the diminishing power of **Islam-on-the-Euphrates**).⁶⁵⁸

On the latter point, the famous independent Greek-Orthodox Scholar Apostolos Makrakis says:⁶⁵⁹ "The 'Great River Euphrates' [of Revelation 16:12] is taken as a symbol of the barbarian peoples of Asia from which the Beast received new and fresh strength. At the time when the Arab race became emasculated, the Beast was reinforced by Turkish and Tartar Tribes....

"The **Osmanli [or Ottoman-Turkish Islamic] power was advanced by the Tartars and the Asiatic hordes** to which the Scriptures refer as the waters of the river Euphrates. Thus, **the sixth vial rendered this spring of Turkish power dry - so that Mohammadanism might vanish in Europe**." Because of that **diminished power of Islam**, the **"kings of the East"** shall come to Christ. Revelation 15:4 *cf.* 16:12.

Explains the Westminster Assembly Calvinist Dr. Thomas Goodwin at Revelation 16:12*f*: "Now the sixth vial is [poured out by the angry Triune God] upon the great river Euphrates - that is, **the Turk**.... The relics both of **Turk and Pope**, and of all the **Church's** enemies throughout the World at verse 14 - mustering up all their forces **against the Christians in the West** and the [then-converted] **Jews in the East** - are to be **overthrown**."⁶⁶⁰

The Puritan Rev. James Durham comments⁶⁶¹ on Revelation 16:13: "Such would be instrumental in this plague, as was neither within the Church nor the Roman Empire. But such as would have their residence beside this river Euphrates [Revelation 9:14 *cf.* 16:12*f*] - as **the Turks** are observed to have had, before their dominion spread....

"They are said to be loosed from that place...to destroy the waste part of the Christian World - which accordingly came to pass very speedily, when **the Turks** having prevailed over **the Saracens** did with them **combine** in one dominion under the Ottomanean family, which was about 1000 years [A.D.] and some more - from which time their power grew, till a great part of Europe was overrun by them....

"**The Turks**...have led the greatest armies, especially of horsemen, into Europe.... A great part of Europe, being destroyed and overrun by the Turks, are sufficient evidences of the truth of this.... **The Turks** also...are not more terrible in their armies to the bodies of men - than the pestiferous delusion of **Mahomet** is of itself hurtful and destructive to souls."

John sees "**three unclean spirits like frogs** come out of the mouth of the Dragon, and out of the mouth of the Beast, and out of the mouth of the **False-Prophet**. For they [the unclean spirits] are the spirits of demons, working [pseudo-]miracles - which go forth to the kings of the earth and of the whole world." Revelation 16:13*f*(*cf.* Deuteronomy 13:1-9 & 18:20 and First Kings 22:21-23).

Especially the famous independent Greek-Orthodox Scholar Apostolos Makrakis⁶⁶² is worth quoting on this point. Declares Makrakis: "The 'spirit of the mouth of the False-Prophet' is the spirit of pseudo-religion which fires the **Pope** and the **Jesuits** - **Mohammad** and the **Ulemas** [alias the Islamic interpreters of the *Koran*] - and the **simonical high-priests** who have gained control of the holy temples and altars of the **Eastern-Orthodox Church**.

"This spirit is the third power of Satan.... In reality, the system of Satan is inimical only to that of Christ. Hence, the three unclean spirits of Satan's system 'go forth unto the kings of the Earth and of the whole World' and persuade them by means of deceitful words and signs to oppose with all their strength Christ's new social order, which fundamentally destroys and exterminates the old.

"What is the religion of all Europe today? **Islamism in the East; Popery in the West; [Eastern-Orthodox] simony, the ally of Islamism.**"

Comments Princeton's first President, Rev. Professor Dr. Jonathan Edwards:⁶⁶³ "In this last great opposition which shall be made **against the Church** to defend the kingdom of Satan - all the forces of **Antichrist** and **Mahometanism** and **Heathenism** will be **united**...through[out] the **Whole World**.... It is said that 'spirits of Devils shall go forth unto the Kings of the Earth and of the whole World, to gather them together to the battle of the great day of God Almighty'....

"These spirits are said to come out of the mouth of the **Dragon**, and out of the mouth of the **Beast**, and out of the mouth of the **False-Prophet**.... There shall be the spirit of **Popery**, and the spirit of **Mahometanism**, and the spirit of **Heathenism** - all **united**. By the **Beast**, is meant [the **Papal Antichrist**.... By the **False-Prophet**...an eye seems to be had to **Mahomet**, whom his followers call the 'Great Prophet'.... Christ and His Church shall in this battle obtain a complete and entire victory over their enemies. They shall be **totally routed** and overthrown....

"It is said, Revelation 16:16, of the great army that should be gathered together against Christ.... Then it is said, 'And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air. And there came a great voice out of the temple of Heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"'....

"The Devil is utterly baffled and confounded.... He now sees his **Antichristian** and **Mahometan** and **Heathenish** kingdoms through[out] the World, all tumbling about his ears....

"Satan has set up in opposition to the Christian Church...his **Mahometan** kingdom. **It shall be utterly overthrown**. The 'locusts' and 'horsemen' in the ninth [chapter] of Revelation, have their appointed and limited time set them there....

"The **False-Prophet** shall be taken and destroyed. And then, though **Mahometanism** has been so vastly propagated in the World and is upheld by such a great Empire - this smoke which has ascended out of the bottomless pit shall be utterly scattered before the light of that glorious day, and **the Mahometan Empire shall fall** at the sound of the great trumpet which shall then be blown."

Rev. Dr. Albert Barnes comments⁶⁶⁴ that the phrase 'out of the mouth of the Beast' here refers to "**the Papacy**" - whereas 'the False-Prophet' here means Muhammad's religion of Islam. "The word rendered '**False-Prophet**' - *Pseudopropheetou* - does...seem then to refer to some power that was similar to that of the Beast.... There is no opinion so probable as that it alludes to **the Mahometan power**...as such. That was still to continue for a while in its vigour...and was yet to exert a formidable influence against the Gospel; and probably in some **combination**...with **Paganism** and the **Papacy**....

"The name '**False-Prophet**' would, better than any other, describe that power.... To no one that has ever appeared in our World, could the name be so properly applied as to **Mahomet**.... That power...in **connection** with the **Papacy** and with **Paganism** - constitute the sum of the obstruction to the spread of the Gospel around the World....

"**Evil spirits** [alias demons]... 'go forth unto the kings of the Earth'.... No class of men have been more under the influence of **Pagan** superstition, **Mahometan** delusion, or the **Papacy** - than kings and princes.... It might be presented as affecting the whole World - to wit, the **Heathen**, the **Mahometan**, and the **Papal** portions of the Earth." The 'evil spirits' may refer also to **demons** operating through **all these religions**.

Rev. Dr. Albert Barnes explains further too in his *Analysis* and his *Commentary* in Revelation chapter sixteen: "**The Church would ultimately be triumphant....** One great hindrance to the spread of the True Religion, would be taken away by the decline and fall of the **Turkish** power....

"There is **every reason** to suppose that this passage has reference to something in the **future** history of the **Turkish** [or **Islamic**] dominions and to some bearing of the events which are to occur in that history on the ultimate **downfall** of the Antichristian [or papal] power.... The Euphrates is represented as a **barrier** to prevent the passage of 'the kings of the East' on their way to the West....

"Applying the symbol of the Euphrates as being the seat of **the Turkish power** - the meaning is that that power is **such** a hindrance.... That hindrance **is to be removed**.... It refers to what is **still future**."⁶⁶⁵

The **end-result** of the outpouring of this sixth vial, will be the decisive struggle of **Armageddon**, at the **time of the outpouring of the seventh vial**. Armageddon will bring about the division of 'Babylon' into three parts, and prepare the way for the christianization of the nations of the World⁶⁶⁶ and 'the kings of the East.' Yet Armageddon will no more prove to be the end of World History, than were the various decisive battles of Armageddon during the times of the Older Testament.⁶⁶⁷

Comments Rev. Dr. Albert Barnes on Revelation chapter sixteen:⁶⁶⁸ "There will be a mustering of spiritual forces. There will be a **combination** and a **unity of opposition** against the Truth. There will be a **rallying** of the **declining** powers of **Heathenism**, **Mohametanism**, and **Romanism**....

"The **Turkish power**, especially since its conquest of Constantinople under Mahomet II in 1453 and its establishment in Europe, has been a grand hindrance to the spread of the Gospel.... By its laws, it was death to a Mussulman to apostasize from his faith and become a Christian....

"It was not until quite recently...that evangelical Christianity has been tolerated in the Turkish dominions.... The prophecy before us implies that there would be a **decline** of that formidable power, represented by the 'drying up of the great river Euphrates' [Revelation 16:12]....

"Events are occurring which would properly be represented by such a symbol.... There is, in fact, now such a decline of that Turkish power.... There has been for centuries a gradual weakening of the Turkish power.... This gradual decay will be continued.... Turkish power will more and more diminish....

"**One portion after another will set up for independence**.... By a gradual process of decline...what is here symbolized by 'the drying up of the great river Euphrates' will have been accomplished.

"We may look for something that would be well represented by a **combined** effort on the part of **Heathenism, Mohametanism, and Romanism** - to stay the progress and prevent the spread of evangelical religion." Yet Christ commands also the emptying out of the **seventh plague** from the last bowl of His wrath.

For when "the seventh Angel poured out his vial into the air" - predicted John - "there came a great voice from the throne out of the temple of Heaven, saying: 'It is done!'... And the cities of the Nations fell."⁶⁶⁹

The 'cities of the Nations' or of the heathen Gentiles, signify "all strange religions - of the **Jews, Turks** [alias **Muslims**] and others which **then shall fall**."⁶⁷⁰ Revelation 16:19.

The outpouring of the seventh vial, comment both John Cotton and Matthew Henry, overthrows the Antichrist and inaugurates the postmillennial 'Millennium.' Thomas Goodwin observes it is directed against both Islam and the Papacy, and brings in the 'Millennium.' Carey says it brings about the fall of Islam.

Yet also "the cities of the **Nations fell**." Revelation 16:19. This means the domains even of the Turks as **Muslims**. For this signifies, comments the *Geneva Bible*,⁶⁷¹ "all strange religions - as of the...**Turks** and others." Also the *Dordt Dutch Bible* comments that one is here to "understand all other cities outside of Christendom. Such as those of the [Islamic] Turks and the Persians [or Iranians], and other Nations."

Matthew Henry comments here:⁶⁷² "The great 'River Euphrates' some take...literally for the place where the **Turkish** power and empire began.... They think this is a prophecy of the destruction of the **Turkish Monarchy** and idolatry, which they suppose will be effected about the same time with that of the **Papacy** as **another antichrist**....

"If we suppose that **Mahometanism** shall fall at the same time - there will be still a **more** open communication between the western and eastern nations which may facilitate the conversion of the Jews and of 'the fullness of the Gentiles.'" Cf. with this Paul's extended argument in Romans 11:25f.

Later in the last book of the Bible, on Revelation 19:18-20, Barnes comments: "The kings [would still be] under the control of **the Beast and the False-Prophet**, chapter 16:14f & 17:12-14.... There is allusion here to the same assembling of hostile forces which is described in chapter 16:13f....

"There can be no doubt that the writer in these passages designed to refer to the same events." Such include also "the **still-future** scenes that are to occur when **the Roman, the Pagan and the Mahometan powers** shall be aroused to make common cause against the True Religion" alias **Protestant Christianity**.

"The 'Beast' here, as all along" - comments Barnes - refers to the **Papal** power.... The **False-Prophet** had been united with the Beast - in deceiving the nations.... The whole

representation is that of an **alliance** to prevent the spread of the True Religion [of Protestant Christianity] - **as if the Papacy and Mahometanism were combined.**"

However, and nevertheless, "**the Beast and the False-Prophet**" alias "**the Papacy and Mahometanism...will be subdued by the Word of the Son of God.... The True Religion would be as triumphant" - namely **Biblical Christianity**.**

It should be observed, **Luther** stated⁶⁷³ in a marginal note at Revelation 20:2-3, that "the **Turk** only came after a thousand years" after Christ - *viz.* when crossing the Euphrates around 1040f A.D. "But **now** [namely when Luther was writing these words during the sixteenth century], **the Turk wants to help the Pope**, and to **eradicate the Christians**" alias the Bible-believing and Christ-loving Protestants.

Luther concluded:⁶⁷⁴ "**While** all this is happening, there comes in chapter 20 [vv. 7-10] the stirrup-cup" - alias the final draught of the wine of the wrath of God. "Satan...brings up - Gog and Magog; the **Turks** [alias the then-leaders of the international coalition of **Muslims**].... But they are soon to go with him, into the lake of fire."

What does the *Geneva Bible*⁶⁷⁵ comment on 'Gog and Magog' at Revelation 20:8? This. "By them are meant diverse and strange enemies of the Church of God [such] as the [**Islamic**] **Turk**, the **Saracens**, and others - read Ezekiel 38:2 - by whom the Church of God would be tormented grievously."

And the *Dordt Dutch Bible* adds: "The **Turks**, **Tartars** and **Saracens**, who have set up their places of residences mostly in the territories of 'Gog and Magog,' and who together "with the **remnant** of the **Antichristian Empire** would oppose Christians and press them with heavy wars - from which God would wonderfully save them."⁶⁷⁶

No wonder, then, that the 1645 *Westminster Directory for the Publick Worship of God* urges every Minister to stir up his congregation right before delivering his sermon! For he is to get the worshippers there "to **pray** for the **propagation** of the Gospel and Kingdom of Christ to **all nations**; for the **conversion** of the **Jews**, the **fullness** of the **Gentiles**, the **fall** of **Antichrist**, and the hastening of the second coming of our Lord; for the **deliverance** of the distressed churches abroad from the **tyranny** of the **antichristian faction** and from the **cruel oppressions and blasphemies** of the Turk [alias the **Islamic World**]; for the **blessing** of God upon the **Reformed Churches**...and for our **plantations** in the remote parts of the World."⁶⁷⁷

Meanwhile, the Calvinist Kuyper stated a mighty truth about a century ago. Not long before becoming Prime Minister not only of the then-Christian Netherlands but also of her then-colonies such as the largest Muslim country in the World (Indonesia), he emphatically and ethically said:⁶⁷⁸

"The **State** [unlike the Church] should judge differently.... She knows...that she has been called to honour the only true God, also in the education of the nations entrusted to her; that therefore neither pagan [**image worship** transgressing the **Second Commandment**] nor **muhammadan idolatry** [transgressing the **First Commandment**], is to be honoured

or supported by her; and that, to the contrary, according to the unimpeachable testimony of history, only conversion to the **Christian** vital principle is able to open up a vista of national development in the higher sense even to those **nations**...

"**Islam**, even in its noblest form, is not able to deliver, for the existence of a nation as such, anything other or better than either fanaticism or petrification.... The thoroughly untrue representation that the [image-hating] Muhammadan is not an **idolater**, needs to be opposed....

"It should again be professed and acknowledged that '**Allah**' is a god [or idol which was] invented by man himself, which does not even have the same name in common with **the Triune God** of Christians." As such, in the long term, Islam has no good future.

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We have now answered the first two questions. The first was: What is the history and end of Muhammad - the person? The answer was: He was a false-prophet and, unless he repented and came to Jesus as the only Saviour, he was headed for the lake of fire. The second question was: What is the future and end of Islam - the religion? The answer is: ultimate disintegration and abandonment. There remains the third and final question: What is the future of **Muslims** - as fellow human beings **needing a Saviour**? The answer is: Many shall become Christians, and be saved!

Especially with the removal of the religion of the False-Prophet after the victory of the White Horse Rider together with His Christian followers, the remaining Muslims will suddenly see Islam for what it was. In their disillusionment, very probably many of them will then rapidly be converted - and join the Christian Church. Even before that, some conversions do occur.

For God has predestined many Muslims to come back to the True Triune God of the Holy Scriptures Who created and Who maintains them! That Calvin believed this, is seen from his view of Isaiah 19:21-25. It is seen also from his views of the Great Commission - and of the preaching of the Gospel also to **Muslims**, and the baptizing of all of them who convert to Christ (as required by that Great Commission).

In Deuteronomy 23:7-8, God tells His People: "You shall not abhor an Edomite [alias a Jordanian descendant of Esau]; for he is your brother! You shall not abhor an Egyptian; because you were a stranger in his land!"

This, argues Dr. John Calvin, means that the baptized Romanist is our brother - just as the circumcised Edomite was the brother of the Israelite. Interestingly, the Islamic Jordanians *etc.* as Neo-**Edomites** - being Muslims - have at least been circumcised. The same applies today also to the modern **Egyptians**, most of whom are circumcised **Muslims**. And the same applies also to the **Muslim Arabs**, as descendants of the circumcised **Ishmael** the son of **Abraham**.

Thus, on Deuteronomy 23:7-8, Calvin insists:⁶⁷⁹ "Moses says that if the Edomites would yield themselves into the [truly Christian alias the godly Protestant] Church of God - they might be received...and be incorporated thereinto altogether. For he who offered himself to be circumcised [and who now offers himself or herself to be baptized], was always received...."

"Let us therefore diligently note here of the children of [the circumcised] Esau...that if any of them would renounce his own kindred, he would be accounted in the number of this blessed flock" of God's True People. Similarly, also Ex-Muslims (converted to Christ) should renounce the Islam of their former co-religionists.

"Now we here call to mind that when God made His promise [Genesis 17:12-26f cf. 21:4-20 & 25:1-17], it was unto the whole stock of Abraham.... God had a certain regard and bare a special favour unto all that house [Genesis 18:18f], and unto them which were to issue from it.

"We see how He says: 'As concerning Ishmael, I have heard you' [Genesis 17:20f]. And indeed, it was not for nought that God commanded Ishmael should be circumcised. We know what Circumcision imports. It is [the predecessor of Baptism and] a sign of the favour of God. Now seeing it was given unto Ishmael, it is great reason that he should approach more near unto God than the Pagans who were altogether defiled and who had no sign that God loved them.... But here [with Ishmael and the Ishmaelites], the case is of having some warrant of adoption. Now Ishmael had it...."

"And so it was with Esau. For he was then a son of Isaac. Yes, he and his brother Jacob were twins.... Likewise at this day, we [Calvinistic Protestants] be far nearer neighbour to the [co-baptized] Papists than to the [unbaptized yet still circumcised Judaists and Islamic] Turks.... For they [the Papists] have Baptism, which is a visible sign whereby we see that God held those of His House and of His Fold. You see then, how the Papists are as it were the Edomites" who had received Circumcision.

Now, Baptism has replaced Circumcision (cf. Colossians 2:11-13). Indeed, Calvin also insisted that circumcised Muslims - on coming to faith in Christ - should, together with their infant children, indeed be baptized.⁶⁸⁰

Calvin elsewhere gives us another comment on Deuteronomy 23:7. There, he states⁶⁸¹ that "although Esau had cut himself off from the prerogative of believers, yet the door was again opened to his children - provided they returned to their source and origin, and in the humility of faith admitted the primogeniture of Jacob who had been chosen when their [fore]father [Esau] was passed by."

Rev. Professor Dr. Calvin stated further in a kindred sermon⁶⁸² that "we ought notwithstanding to call to mind the brotherhood which they had with us. And therefore let us endeavour as much as is possible for us to bring them back again, so that we may be knit together again!"

"And how knit together again? I do **not** mean that **we should turn aside** from the pure truth of God..., but that **they should enter**.... They should approach near unto God, and we all of us thus be reconciled - yielding obedience unto our heavenly Father, so that we may all have one Head, Jesus Christ, Who will defend us under His wings....

"We are to **receive them with all gentleness**, by reason of the brotherhood which God has set between them and us. And we must not only do so; but we also must seek them as much as is possible for us to do so....

"As touching the **Egyptians**, it is said that they also shall be received into the Church.... When God gave an entrance unto the Egyptians to be received into the Congregation in the third generation, it was not to the intent that the people of Israel should defile themselves with the abominations of Egypt or meddle any whit at all with them. But rather that the Egyptians should not remain in so desperate a case as they were in, but be brought to **worship the living God** and to **dedicate themselves wholly** unto Him....

"If the Egyptians would forsake all their own corruptions, they might be **grafted...into the Church of God**." Cf. Luke 23:26 and Acts 2:10 & 8: 27-39 & 11:20 & 13:1 & 18:24f and Romans 11:11-32. Let us therefore note that God's opening of the gate into His Church, both to the **Edomites** and the **Egyptians**, was not to have them bring in their infections to pervert this service, or to make any medley [or syncretistic mixture of religions], but rather that the Edomites and Egyptians should come and agree in all points unto His Law, and yield their **consent** unto that **pureness of doctrine** which is therein contained. And therefore nowadays, seeing that God has showed Himself so gracious unto us, as to make us His Church - let us be ready to receive them who would be reclaimed thereunto! Yes, let us have our arms stretched out...also to such as are our kinsfolk afar off - **endeavouring, for all that, to win and to gain them!**"

Not just Calvin, but also the 1637 Calvinistic *Dordt Dutch Bible* - commissioned by the famous 1618f Calvinistic Synod of Dordt which formulated the 'Five Points of Calvinism' - saw the **Holy Scriptures as predicting the ultimate christianization of the nations now under the control of Islam**. Thus it comments that Psalm 22 is a "prophecy about **the conversion of the Nations** throughout the **whole World**" - meaning their conversion to Christ and Christianity.

Psalm 47 forecasts that after His ascension, Christ "would rule everything as King" and bring about "the spiritual submission of the **Nations**" and of their "**governors**." Psalm 48 announces that from the Zion of the Christian Church, "**salvation** would go out into the **whole World**."

Psalm 65 records that 'all the ends of the Earth' would come to faith in Christ. Psalm 72 predicts the prosperity of Messiah's expansive 'dominion' in **Turkey** and the **Mediterranean World** and **Arabia** and **Africa** and even 'unto the ends of the Earth.' Indeed, Psalm 87 predicts the christianization even of the **Egyptians** and the **Babylonians** [or **Iraqis**] and the **Philistines** [or **Palestinians**] and the **Lebanese** [and **Syrians**] and the **Ethiopians** [and **Eritreans**] *etc.*

Psalm 110 promises to use Christ's willing Church "to conquer the World" for Him. Psalm 145 declares 'all flesh shall praise His holy name' - meaning "all nations" and "all people." Psalm 149 states believers shall "conquer the Devil, the World, and all the Power-wielders of this World." And Psalm 150 means that 'everything that has breath shall 'praise the Lord.''⁶⁸³

The *Dordt Dutch Bible* continues that according to Isaiah,⁶⁸⁴ 'in the last days' when Christ would be incarnated, "the Gospel will be preached throughout the whole World" - so that "all nations shall flow" toward the Christian Church. For from that 'Zion' - "the Law" would "go forth." Indeed, 'of the increase' of Christ's 'government and peace - there shall be no end.'

Thus, 'the Earth shall become full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.' Then, "to Him the nations of the entire Earth shall assemble" - as, down through history, God's 'Ensign' Jesus "Christ...gathers His Church from the four corners of the World" and as Christ's Church starts to "grab hold of the Gentiles" and "conquer them." This is "the victory which the Lord will give His Church." For "the Church of Christ will fight against and conquer all her enemies" - during "the onward flow of the Holy Gospel...into all the World."

In Isaiah 19:21-25, God predicts: "The Lord shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day.... The Lord shall smite Egypt and heal it; and they shall return to the Lord....

"In that day, there shall be a highway.... The Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptians into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. In that day, Israel shall be the third with Egypt and with Assyria - even a blessing in the midst of the land.... The Lord of hosts shall bless, saying: 'Blessed be Egypt, My People; and Assyria, the work of My hands; and Israel, My inheritance!'"

The Assyrians [or Iraqis] and the Egyptians shall both "accept the Christian religion"; and then 'shall Israel be the third.' Also "the Tyreans" [or the Lebanese in and around Tyre] shall become "converted to the true God," and "distribute" all "their goods and riches" to "mitigate the needs of poor Christians.... The Gentiles...shall turn unto the Lord and live according to His Laws and Commandments" when "the Church of the Lord...will be gathered everywhere" - even among all "the various nations to which the Gospel would be preached."

Here, Rev. Dr. John Calvin comments:⁶⁸⁵ "The Prophet says that the Lord will be gracious and reconciled to the Egyptians. He at the same time shows that as soon as they have been converted, they will obtain forgiveness.... It will therefore be a true conversion - when it is followed by a calling upon God.... There is no man who ought not to acknowledge in himself what Isaiah here declares concerning the Egyptians, in whom the Lord holds out an example to the whole World. The Prophet now foretells that the Lord will diffuse His goodness throughout the whole World! As if he had said: 'It will not be shut up in a corner or be known exclusively, as it formerly was, by [but] a single nation.'

"Here, He speaks of two nations [Assyria and Egypt] that were **the most inveterate enemies of the Church [both in Old and in New Testament times]....** And if the Lord is so gracious to the **deadly enemies of the Church - that He pardons and adopts them to be[come] His children** - what shall be the case with **other nations**?! This prophecy thus includes the calling of **all nations**" - and hence of even **diehard Islamic nations, like Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Saudi-Arabia.**

"Through the undeserved goodness of God, **the Assyrians and Egyptians shall be admitted to fellowship with the chosen People of God....** There is a mutual relation between God and His People, so that they who are called by His mouth a 'Holy People' (Exodus 19:6) - may justly in return call Him their 'God.' Yet this designation ['Holy People'] is bestowed indiscriminately on Egyptians and Assyrians....

"By calling the **Egyptians the 'People of God'** - He means that they will share in the honour which God designed to bestow in a peculiar manner on the Jews [meaning the Older Testament's Israelites] alone. When He calls **Assyrians 'the work of His hands'** - He distinguishes them by the title peculiar to **His Church.**" Thus Calvin.

What a great day is coming! For the **Muslims of Egypt, the Judaists of Israel and New York, and the Islamic nations of the Neo-Assyrian Iraq and Iran,** - will yet come to Christ and join His Church!

God makes a precious promise also in Isaiah 59:18-20. There, it is predicted that the Lord God "will repay according to their deeds - fury to His adversaries; recompense to His enemies - **to the islands He will repay recompense!** So shall they **fear the Name of the Lord from the West, and His glory from the rising of the sun [in the East].**

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. **'Then the Redeemer shall come to Zion** [alias the Christian Church], and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob' - says the Lord."

Here, Calvin comments:⁶⁸⁶ "This work of redemption shall be so splendid and illustrious - that **the whole World shall...praise and celebrate....** Struck with fear, it shall render glory to God....

"**He means the conversion of the Gentiles....** Even to the **utmost** boundaries of the **Earth,** the name of God shall be revered and honoured, so that **the Gentiles** shall not only tremble but shall serve and **adore Him** with **true repentance....**

"'A Redeemer shall come to Zion' [Isaiah 59:20].... Paul quotes this passage (Romans 11:26-29), to show that there is still some remaining **hope** among the **Jews....** Because God is continually mindful of His Covenant, and 'His gifts and calling are without repentance' - Paul **justly** concludes that it is impossible that there shall not at length be some remnant that **come to Christ** and obtain that salvation....

"**The Jews [too] must at length be collected, along with the Gentiles** - so that out of both, 'there may be one fold' **under Christ** (John 10:16).... He could not be the Redeemer of the **World**, without belonging to...[also the] **Jews**."

Further, listen to the Calvinistic *Dordt Dutch Bible* on Daniel! There, the Messianic Stone in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, "after destroying the image" depicting the successive Pagan World Empires, expands itself "throughout and over the entire surface of the Earth" and "means the extension of Christ's Kingdom all over the World." Ultimately, Christ would "give His Own a blessed outcome" throughout "the whole World - after the Gospel would be preached to every creature, Mark 16:15."

For then, "Christ shall rule in the hearts of the godly among all nations.... The entire human race shall be brought true spiritual redemption through Christ the Prince.... His voice...converts many people" and "has power over all nations."⁶⁸⁷

In Hosea, the Israelites' long-lasting misery would "be followed by their final conversion to Christ" and "glorious fruits" of and for "the entire body of Christ" - after "Israel's conversion to Christ." Then "He will also conquer...and triumphantly exhibit His wrath and victory." Indeed, in Joel - "prophecies as regards the blessed condition of the Church" apply to "all kinds of nations" unto salvation. This shall yet, and consistently, be the case - "whether Jews or Gentiles."

In Obadiah 18-19, we are told that 'the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame. But the **house of Esau**, shall be for stubble.'

This, comments the *Dordt Dutch Bible*, means that "**the Church** through the power of her Head Jesus Christ, shall **consume all her enemies**." Such are here "depicted by the **Edomites**" (cf. modern **Islamic Jordanians** as their descendants).

"In that day of the **Church's** victory over her enemies, 'they...shall take possession of Mount Esau...and...the Philistines.' The last means the now-Islamic **Palestinians**."

"This is a prophecy, according to the style and condition of the Old Testament, about the **expansion of the Gospel of Christ among the inimical Gentiles**. Cf. Amos 9:12 and **Zephaniah 2:7-9**."

For then, Christ's servants alias His '**saviours shall come up on Mount Zion**' and '**judge Mount Esau**.' For '**the kingdom shall be the Lord's!**'

This means, comments the *Dordt Dutch Bible*, that "the Saviour uses His **servants** to preach His salvation to people for their preservation. This is why they, as stewards of salvation and as instruments of the Holy Spirit, are called 'saviours' of men.... Similarly, **the Saviour** often bodily gives His people heroes and 'saviours' and **redeemers who deliver them from distress and oppression by tyrants**." The Lord "shall be King and Ruler - namely the Lord **Christ**, Who was appointed by His Father as an everlasting **King of His Church** and of the **whole World**. Psalm 2:6-8 and Luke 1:33 etc."

In the previously-mentioned Zephaniah 2:5-7, God says: '**O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy you.... And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah.**'

"Understood spiritually," explains the *Dordt Dutch Bible*, "this means that the **Philistines** [alias the **Islamic Palestinians**] and other nations of the Gentiles will subject themselves to the people of God in the time of Christ, and will be **incorporated into Christ's Church**. See Isaiah 11:14."

As for **Moab and Ammon** (in the modern **Islamic Jordan**), 'the Lord will...famish all the gods of the earth [or territory]. And men shall worship Him!' Zephaniah 2:11f. This means - states the *Dordt Dutch Bible* - that at "that time, men shall honour and worship the true God not only in Judea. But **every nation** [shall **worship the true God**] in her own land and city.... See John 4:21."

Indeed, '**you Ethiopians also - you shall be slain by My sword.**' Thus, "you shall indeed first be destroyed. See Second Chronicles 14:9. But after that, you too shall be brought to Christ. See under [Zephaniah] chapter 3:10."

What implications does this have for Missions to Islam? Does it perhaps not imply that, according to Zephaniah, **even the Muslims not just of Africa's Ethiopia and Eritrea but even of its Morocco shall yet get saved**? See Zephaniah 3:10!

In Zephaniah chapter three, the Prophet "predicts how God would bring the Gentiles to know Him; how He would cleanse His **Church** from her sins; and how He would protect her and destroy her enemies, but glorify her." Zephaniah 3, heading, *Dordt Dutch Bible*. God promised: '**Then shall I turn to the people [of] a pure language.**' Zephaniah 3:9. This means, says *Dordt*: "I shall regenerate My elect among the Gentiles, through the Holy Spirit, so that their mouth and heart shall be clean."

Furthermore. '**From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, My suppliants - even the daughter of My dispersed - shall bring My offering.**' Zephaniah 3:10. Comments *Dordt*: "Some translators render this: 'The present which they shall bring Me, shall be those scattered in the lands next to the rivers of the **Moors**'" - in [**Muslim**] **Morocco**."

There would be an "expansion of the Church" until "every nation" worships God "in her own land" - "all the heathen nations, whosoever and wheresoever they may be.... God's Church shall henceforth be spread throughout the entire World...."

'**Then I shall take away out of your midst, them that rejoice in your pride.**' Zephaniah 3:11. "For God's Church," comments *Dordt*, "shall henceforth be spread throughout the entire World." John 4:21-23."

Indeed, 'I shall make you a name and a praise among all people of the Earth' (Zephaniah 3:20). Because, remarks *Dordt*, "**the Church would be extended throughout the entire World**" - even among "the Moors" in Islamic **Morocco**!

In Haggai (2:7), God promises to 'shake all nations' - viz. "when His Apostles go and preach...throughout the entire World." For Christ is "the 'Desire of all nations' "Whom all Gentiles or nations would desire to embrace."

Zechariah (1:20f & 8:7 & 8:20f & 9:10 & 10:11 & 14:20f) "predicts the destruction of the enemies of the people of God" and "the conversion of the Gentiles.... God would gather [them] from all the corners of the World." God would gather His "people and bring them together, through the preaching of the Gospel, from all the ends and areas of the entire World" and in "great heaps."

Indeed, "the dominion of Christ would spread itself out over the entire face of the Earth" - until even "the Assyrians [or Iraqis] and [Islamic] Egyptians together with other Gentile nations...shall subject themselves to the sceptre...of Christ.... For the nations previously unclean, shall then be pure and holy before the Lord."

Malachi (1:11 cf. 3:1-4) has "prophesied...that Christ...would plant and establish the true religion throughout the entire World." He "prophesies the right service of God which believers from all the nations would perform for Him in the New Testament.... Throughout the World...people will honour and call upon God.... This was fulfilled in Christ's time, and is further being fulfilled thereafter.... He still daily overcomes and restricts the enemies of His Church - until He will finally make all of them into a footstool for His feet."⁶⁸⁸

We now come to the glorious promises of the Newer Testament. In the Gospels, Christ 'sends forth judgment to victory' - "until He obtains the upper hand."

His parables of the mustard seed and the leaven, insists the *Dordt Dutch Bible*, mean His Kingdom will "widely extend itself and impregnate the entire World." The parable of the seed cast into the ground shows "the continual progress of the preaching of the Gospel."

Luke predicts "the rapid expansion of the Gospel throughout the entire World." And in Luke's Acts, Christ is "the promised Messiah and Saviour of the World." Indeed, not just Christ but also His Apostles were 'to be a Light of the Gentiles...for salvation unto the ends of the Earth.'⁶⁸⁹

In Romans chapter eleven, "after the conversion of the Gentiles - the Jews too shall be converted." For there shall yet be 'the receiving back' of the Jews "into the Church of Christ, when the Jews shall turn to Christ as a great multitude.... The Jews or the Jewish Nation" shall be "regenerated unto the Church of God.... Later, they shall repent as a great multitude...."

'The fullness of the Gentiles' means "the full number" - including the fullness of those nations currently Islamic. Here in Romans 11:25, the words to 'come in' mean to become part of the Church "by professing the Christian faith in the Church of God...."

"**When** the fulness of the Gentiles **shall have come** in..., a very great multitude equivalent to the entire Jewish nation" shall be saved. For they day shall come when they too shall be "powerfully called **through the preaching of the Gospel**."⁶⁹⁰

In First Corinthians 15:22-28, Christ shall keep reigning as King and "fulfil His royal office" till the Father finishes putting all things under Christ's feet and "shall once and for all have conquered and destroyed" them. So we must abound "with a serious zeal and diligence, always progressing and increasing...in the work that the Lord...**commands** us to **do**" - knowing we shall "not be without fruit and merciful **reward**."

In Ephesians 1:23 *cf.* 3:9, God 'keeps on filling all things in all people' - and "not only to rule them but to protect and to give them spiritual life and movement." Paul wished 'to make all men see what is the fellowship...which from the beginning of the World has been hidden in God.'

Here, 'all men' means "all nations, both Gentiles and Jews, and all that pertains to them." This implies "the subjection of all creatures under Christ as the Lord of lords, and King of kings...of all nations and peoples."

In "Second Corinthians 3:15-16 and other places...the future conversion of the nation of the Jews to Christ is predicted." That will probably be the **last** nation of all the nations yet to be converted to Christianity.

In Second Thessalonians two "the Apostle declares that the coming of Christ in judgment will not take place as soon as some were attempting to make them believe. For the falling away and the **antichrist** first had to come.... The real antichrist" would then be 'enthroned in the temple of God' which "cannot be understood of the temple of Jerusalem...."

"By this is to be understood **the Church of God**. This the antichrist will either invade or oppose and oppress with His dominion."

That occurred when "the Roman Empire...was much broken and subjugated by the **Saracens** and **Muhammadans** in the **East** and by various **barbarian nations** [and then by the **Papacy**] in the **West**...**about six hundred years after the birth of Christ**." Yet "**Christ** in His Own time shall - **gradually** - consume even the **antichrist** and **deprive him of his stature in Christendom**...by the pure **preaching** of the holy Gospel through which the Spirit of the Lord works powerfully in the hearts of men."

Thus, one should pray that 'the Word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified.' This means: "May it speedily and **successfully** be **spread** and promoted...and bring forth worthy **fruits**!"⁶⁹¹ Second Thessalonians 3:1.

First John 2:2 states Christ atoned even "for all people in the entire World from all nations who would yet believe in Him" as the Saviour "of the elect believers in the **whole World**." Too, the same John states in the Book of Revelation that Christ 'the Lion of the tribe of Judah' goes forth in His "conquering power over the Devil and the World."

By His Church's "pure preaching..., Christ...the King of kings...spreads this Gospel throughout the entire World with the power of His Spirit.... And through His servants He overcomes all opposition in such a way that...He maintains the upper hand throughout" - in spite "not only of the Muhammadans in the East but especially of the Romish Antichrist in the West."

Yet not only that. For, in addition to God saving Christians from domination by Muslims - God shall further actually christianize the Muslims.

On this, the great Calvinist Rev. Professor Dr. Abraham Kuyper rightly remarks:⁶⁹² "The proclamation of the calling of the Nations goes throughout the whole prophecy to [Old Testament] Israel. Moor [in Morocco] and Tyrian [in Lebanon], Egyptian [and also Assyrian in Iraq] and Persian [in Iran] - shall turn to God....

"Even for the Jews [also in Israel], the time shall come when they shall again in great numbers bow before the King Whom God has anointed over Zion.... Thus the appointment of our King [Jesus] extends over the whole World!"

At Revelation 11:15, John foresees the final situation when the seventh angel trumpeteers and great voices in heaven say: "The kingdoms of this World have become our Lord's and His Christ's - and He shall keep on reigning for evermore!" There, the *Geneva Bible* comments:⁶⁹³ "Albeit Satan by the Pope, Turk [or Islam], and other instruments troubleth the World never so much - yet Christ shall reign!"

This the 1643^f Westminster Assembly's *Larger Catechism* anticipates. It expects that "**the kingdom of sin...[shall] be destroyed; the Gospel propagated throughout the World; the Jews called; the fullness of the Gentiles brought in**" and "**Satan trodden under our feet**."⁶⁹⁴

By Revelation 16:19's fall of 'the cities of the nations' - one is to "understand all other cities outside of Christendom. Such as those of the [Islamic] Turks and the Persians and other Nations."

As Rev. Dr. Barnes explains on Revelation 16:12^f,⁶⁹⁵ at a "still future" time "the kings of the East would be converted to the True Religion.... There was some hindrance or obstruction to their conversion. That is, as explained, from the [Islamic alias the] Turkish power....

"The destruction of that power - represented by the 'drying up' of the Euphrates - would remove that obstruction.... The way would thus be 'prepared' for their conversion.... We should most naturally therefore look, in the fulfilment of this, for some such decay of the Turkish [or Muslim] power as would be followed by the conversion of the rulers of the East to the Gospel."

In spite of its long-term resilience and periodic resurgences against the Gospel, **Islam** is slowly **crumbling** even in our own day, as a result of the ongoing impact of **Protestantism** - as well as a result of the technological and other advances which that

Protestantism has either directly or indirectly produced. The Islamic Caliphate has now been shattered.

Indeed, there is today slowly but very surely an increasing spread of Protestant-Christian truth in Muslim lands, and elsewhere too - throughout the World. There is an increasing drought in the hearts of Muslims, and an increasing thirst for the refreshing waters of God's most Holy Word. The Islamic waters of the Euphrates, are drying up. Revelation 16:12.

God's true children, some of them still imprisoned in what Luther calls the 'Babylonian Captivity' of Romanism (to which must be added also 'the Babylonian Captivity of Islam') - are gradually, yet constantly, being liberated into the congregations and denominations of the Reformation. Thus Cotton, Edwards, and Hopkins.

In this manner, "the way of the Kings of the East" is being "**pre**-pared." Revelation 16:12. As a result, they too are to come to the True Protestant-Biblical Religion - where their elect shall be saved by its Christ-according-to-the-Scriptures.

According to the Puritans Thomas Brightman and John Owen and Jonathan Edwards, this refers to the **universal proclamation of the Gospel** - and to its willing embracement by the Orient alias "the kings of the East." According to Gill and Barnes and the independent Greek-Orthodox Scholar Apostolos Makrakis, it similarly represents **the christianization of the Muslims**.

Comments Rev. Dr. Albert Barnes on Revelation chapter sixteen:⁶⁹⁶ "We may look for a **general turning** of the princes and rulers and people **of the Eastern World to Christianity** - represented (verse 12) by its being said that 'the way of the kings of the East might be prepared'.... Nothing would be more likely to contribute to this or to prepare the way for it, than the removal of that Turcoman [or Turkish-Islamic] dominion which...has been an effectual barrier to the diffusion of the Gospel in the lands where it has prevailed. How rapidly...the Gospel would spread in the East, if all the obstacles thrown in its way by the Turkish power were at once removed!"

Observes the great Westminster Assembly Calvinist Rev. Dr. Goodwin:⁶⁹⁷ "The seventeenth chapter [of Revelation] doth expound and interpret under whose **antichristian tyranny** - as great as that of **Rome Heathenish** or of the **[Islamic] Turks themselves** to Christians - Christ yet preserves a...company of 144 000 [cf. chapters seven and fourteen].... They, after the rejection of the Whore, in chapter nineteenth are brought in singing - in like **triumph!**"

On Revelation chapter nineteen, Rev. Dr. Barnes comments quite emphatically:⁶⁹⁸ "**The religion of Christ would finally prevail**.... All persecution and sorrow here, would be followed by joy and triumph." Christ on His horse "is here the symbol of the **final victory** that is to be obtained over the Beast and the **False-Prophet**...and of the **final triumph of the Church**."

It should be noted here that Christ's campaign would be won in three subsequent stages. Let us now consider them in sequence.

Initially, it appears that Christ shall **begin** to smite the Nations with His Sword (alias His **preached Word**) - in order to render them harmless. This will happen particularly at the end of 1290 day-years. This event will ostensibly occur within 30 day-years after the fall of the abominable 'Babylon.' The latter occurs at the termination of her 1260 day-year hegemony.⁶⁹⁹

Next, after this, it seems Christ will '**tread down** the winepress' and '**sprinkle** His garments.' Revelation 19:13-15. Here, He apparently **converts the kings** (thus Hengstenberg) **and the Muslims** (thus Bede and Makrakis), and **baptizes** the remnants of the nations into a **Christian World-Order**.⁷⁰⁰

For in Revelation 21:24-26, one reads that "**the nations**...shall walk in the light" of the heavenly city or Church Militant-Triumphant. "**The kings of the Earth** bring their glory and honour into it...and shall bring the **glory and honour of the nations** into it." This seems to imply also **the conversion to Christ of all nations** on Earth. That includes **even those nations which at the present moment still embrace Islam**.

As Luther insists in his *Preface to the Book of Revelation*:⁷⁰¹ "We can profit by this Book, and make good use of it...for our warning - against the great and perilous and manifold offence [or attack] that is to come upon the Church.... This has happened before now under the Papacy, and **Mohammed**, and all other heretics.... If only the Word of the Gospel remains pure among us, and we love and cherish it - **we are not to doubt that Christ is with us**.... Christ is with His saints, and wins the **victory** at last!"

Also the Calvinist Dr. Abraham Kuyper had great expectations. He stated, after the beginning of the twentieth century when he was Prime Minister of the Netherlands and her then-colonies such as the largest Muslim country in the World (Indonesia):⁷⁰²

"A colonial programme of Anti-Revolutionary [Calvinists] in which the **christianization** of Indonesia is not **the point of departure**, is unthinkable.... It should be the inspiring **chief ingredient** for everyone who honours God's Christ also as '**the Saviour of the nations**'.... King Jesus is to come to that honour, **even with the peoples of the [Indonesian] Archipelago!**"

For the nations as such - including also the **then-demuslimized nations** like those of **Iran** and **Saudi-Arabia** - shall be saved, and will walk in the light of the New Jerusalem. Indeed, even their then-saved leaders shall bring the glory and honour of those nations into it. Revelation 21:24-26.

Christian, may we thank God for giving us faith in Christ - and also praise the Lord that we have been baptized with the faith-affirming seal of the living God upon our foreheads! Revelation 7:2-4 & 9:4 & 14:1 & 22:4f and Matthew 28:19. May we persuade also others to trust the Lord Jesus - and to receive His seal, believingly!

May we stand firm against Islam and all other false-prophets (such as Romanism, Communism, Socialism and Humanism)! May we work for the Papalized Church's full liberation from its Babylonian captivity! May we labour hard to convert Muslims to Christianity! May we call upon all men to repent!

May we understand that history is on our side! Because history is controlled not by Islam, and still less by Satan, but by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

His Kingdom is yet destined first to cleanse and then to absorb - **all** of the kingdoms of this World. For He shall reign - and His blessed rule shall continue to expand for ever and ever! Revelation 11:15.

Make haste, O day in God's Own plan -
when Heathen, Jew, Muhammadan
shall come to Jesus Son of man
and Son of God ere time began!
O Holy Spirit, You still plan
To give our Father - **every clan!**

- Melita (U.S. Navy Hymn) 88.88.88 (words: F.N. Lee)