

# **God's War on Terror**

## **ISLAM, PROPHECY AND THE BIBLE**

*A fresh understanding of Biblical prophecy  
from an Eastern perspective  
as viewed by an ex-Muslim terrorist*

**By Walid Shoebat**



# Mahdi



You can't imagine how I felt when I read the Bible and found so much that describes the Mahdi who I had learned so much about growing up. The shock to me was that, while a character identical to my Mahdi was seen throughout the pages of the Bible, this character was not called "the Mahdi", but rather "the Antichrist." Were the prophets of the Bible Islamophobes? After all, the Mahdi to us Sunni Muslims was "The rightly-guided and awaited One."<sup>1</sup> Shi'a Muslims refer to him as Sahib Al-Zaman "The Lord of the Age." This is exactly what the Bible calls Satan: "The lord of the age" (II Corinthians 4:4).

You might think that this is simply a coincidence. Once I am done demonstrating the dozens of similarities between Islam's system and that of the Antichrist, you will not be able to claim mere coincidence. You may want to create a chart, and using the laws of probability try to figure out what the real odds are. My guess is the odds would be one in trillions. Would you bet fifty cents on such odds? If not, why then gamble with your own soul? But what should really frighten everyone is that this Antichrist story is not simply a nightmare story that one reads about in some ancient sacred texts, but it is rapidly becoming a reality right before our eyes.

## KHILAFAT

According to Islamic tradition, the Mahdi doesn't merely emerge as some vague great religious leader, he will return to reinstate the office of the Caliphate. Islam directs its followers: "If you see him, go and give him your allegiance, even if you have to crawl over ice, because he is the Vice-regent (Khalifa) of Allah, the Mahdi."<sup>5</sup> "For he will pave the way for, and establish the government of, the family [or community] of Mohammed...Every believer will be obligated to support him."<sup>6</sup>

## HADITH

**B**riefly, the Hadith, or Sunna are the records of both the words and the deeds of the “prophet” Mohammed. In other words, the Qur’an is “thus says Allah” and the hadiths are “thus says Mohammed.” The hadiths are crucial to understand when one debates with Muslim apologists. Whenever a non-Muslim brings up the issue of Islamic terrorism, the standard Muslim apologist will almost inevitably say something like, “show me a single verse in the Qur’an that teaches violence?” This has been a common technique to throw off Westerners, because whatever verse is given, it will then be explained away as speaking of self-defense or as commandments that were only given on one particular occasion. In other words, all of the commandments in the Qur’an which call Muslims to jihad are obsolete and not applicable today.

*But this is sheer trickery.* Public-image-jihad, remember? The first response to such a question should always be this question: Do you consider Mohammed to be the best authority to interpret the Qur’an? In other words, are the Hadith authoritative to all Muslims? This results in a Jesus style “checkmate,” because if a Muslim denies the authority of the Hadith, then he is denying Mohammed’s authority as prophet. Most often, the wiggly Muslim will claim that he does not believe in many of the Hadith (particularly the ones that you cite in the course of the discussion). But this argument will always end when a powerful Qur’anic verse is given that states “O you who believe, obey God and obey His Messenger and those in authority among you. If you fall into dispute about a matter, refer it back to God and His Messenger if you believe in God and the Last Day...” (Qur’an 4:59) After this, in accordance to this commandment from Allah, any Muslim who denies the Hadith is not only denying Allah’s commandment, but Allah himself. This is comparable to a Christian denying the New Testament. In reality most wiggly Muslims do not deny the Hadith at all—they simply deny it in front of you.

Few Westerners realize that Muslims are allowed to conceal the truth regarding this issue when speaking to non-Muslims. The Sunnah is as important to a Muslim as the New Testament is to a Christian, “The Sunnah is everything besides the Qur’an that came from God’s Messenger. It explains and provides details for the laws found in the Qur’an.”<sup>7</sup> There are no serious scholars today who would deny the 200 or so commandments found in the Hadith, which promote nothing short of jihad by the sword—including unprovoked invasions for the sole purpose of advancing the worship of Allah.

Always keep in mind, the difference between Islam and Christianity can be summed up in one statement—Christianity is Calvary, Islam is Cavalry. The goal of Mohammed, the Khalifa, the Mahdi, and all obedient Muslims, is to achieve one goal and one goal alone—

to advance only Allah's glory as the supreme god by jihad; invitation first, then war until there are none left who will not say "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is His messenger." Allah commands all of his followers to engage in jihad until there is literally *no one left on the earth who does not worship Allah*: "Allah's Apostle said, 'I have been ordered to fight the people till they say: None has the right to be worshipped but Allah.'"<sup>8</sup>

## CALIPH

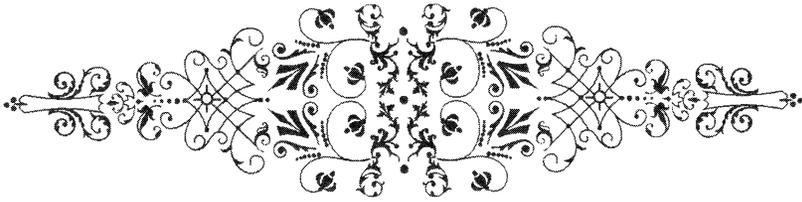
**H**istorically the Caliph is the supreme political, military, and administrative leader of all Muslims worldwide. Try to understand it this way; the Caliph is essentially the Vicar of Mohammed as the Pope is the Vicar of Christ to Catholics worldwide. The office and government of the Caliph is known as the Caliphate (Khilafat). It is the only form of government that is fully sanctioned by Islamic jurisprudence.

But since 1924, after nearly fourteen centuries of "divine rule," the office of the Caliph was finally abolished. Today, the movement throughout the Muslim world to reinstate the Caliphate is exploding with a force that is volcanic. With the mandate to have both seats of the Mahdi and Caliph in one, Mohammed said "There would be a caliph in the last period of my Ummah...He would be Imam Mahdi."<sup>9</sup> In other words, this last Khalifa, when he is installed, would be the Mahdi of the End-Times.

## THE MUSLIM JESUS

**T**he second most important Muslim end-time character is Isa-Almaseeh, the Muslim Jesus. The Islamic narrative regarding Jesus is drastically different from the historical and Biblical Jesus. The Jesus of Islam is in no way a "savior" or redeemer. He is merely one more prophet out of a long line of prophets sent by Allah. The special title of Messiah, although retained in the Islamic tradition, actually is void of any truly Biblical Messianic qualities. According to Islam, Jesus will not restore the nation of Israel to the Jewish people. Nor will Jesus' purpose be to save and deliver his faithful followers from the ongoing persecution of the Antichrist. In Islam, Jesus comes back as a radical Muslim to lead the Muslim armies, to abolish Christianity and to slaughter the Jews. As ironic and as perverted as that may sound, that is exactly what fundamental Muslims throughout the world believe and are awaiting. Are apocalyptic Christians behind this doctrine as well?

## Section II



# The Madhi vs. Antichrist

## Why Are They So Similar?

# Both Deny The Trinity and The Cross



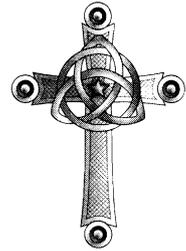
Out of the hundreds of parallels that exist between the Biblical Antichrist and the Islamic Mahdi, I have compiled the 43 most important ones. Get ready for a wild ride.

Most Western Christians understand Antichrist to only be an imposter—one who claims to be Jesus Christ, though he is not. This view lacks the deeper nuance that the Bible ascribes to the Antichrist. On the one hand, the Antichrist attributes to himself titles that belong to Jesus alone, but on the other hand he also bears several titles that exhibit his clear opposition to Christ and all that He stands for.

The “Anti” in Antichrist refers to the fact that he will be both against Christ and all that Christ stands for, while at the same time, he will also attempt to be a replacement for Christ. Antichrist will be Anti-Trinity, Anti-Son, Anti-Crucifixion, and Anti-God-in-the-flesh. Islam’s theology fulfills these denials perfectly; every Muslim in the world denies all of these doctrines. Better than any other world religion, Islam is a perfectly tailored polemical response which stands firmly against the most crucial aspects of the nature of God as described in the Bible.

While Satan is not only called by the various titles that we would expect, such as “the evil one” or “the prince of darkness,” often he also ascribes to himself various titles that belong only to God. The same can be said for the Antichrist—Satan’s “son of perdition” who like his father, also displays a classic split-personality that claims attributes belonging to the true Messiah in order to demand obedience and worship. The Qur’an clearly denies the Trinity: “They blaspheme who say that Allah is the third of three.” (Qur’an 5:73)

Yet the Bible affirms the Trinity, even in the Old Testament: “Come near to Me, hear this; I have not spoken in secret, from the beginning; From the time that it was, I was there, And now the Lord God and His Spirit Have sent Me.” (Isaiah 48:16) Amazingly, in one verse we see it: “From the time that it was (from the beginning was The Word), I was there, and now the Lord God (The Father) and His Spirit (The Holy Spirit) have sent Me (The



Son).” Yet the Qur’an calls this blasphemy. What is more amazing is that the context of Isaiah 48 is a confrontation between God and the Harlot of Babylon (Lady of Kingdoms). This Harlot is definitely anti-Trinity.

## ISLAM EXALTS MOHAMMED

**T**his self-exaltation of Satan and his son of perdition is evident whenever Muslims, in their most important and significant declaration of faith, The Shahadatan declare that “There is no god but Allah and Mohammed is his messenger.”

Nowhere in the Bible do we see an attempt to so elevate a prophet by placing him side by side with God in creedal form. It is unimaginable to think of a creed that demands, let’s say, “There is no god but Jehovah and Ezekiel is His messenger.”

Why so much emphasis on one particular prophet? Why would the Muslim creed not insist that Mohammed is *one* of Allah’s messengers? But, *the* messenger! That makes him more important than Jesus Christ Himself! Why would Mohammed allow himself to be so elevated—even above Jesus himself?

Biblically speaking, the Antichrist will never say that he was the one who died on the cross; and he will deny that Jesus ever went to the cross. Nor will the Antichrist say that he is the Son of God or a member of the Trinity—he will deny all of these ideas. Throughout the Bible, the attributes of the Antichrist are always described as being entirely opposite the characteristics of Christ. While Jesus is called The Truth, the Antichrist is called the Father of Lies (John 8:44). Christ is called The Holy One; the Antichrist is called the Lawless One (II Thessalonians 2:8). Christ is The Son of God, while the Antichrist is the Son of Perdition (II Thessalonians 2:3). Christ is called The Mystery of Godliness; the Antichrist is called the Mystery of Iniquity (Revelation 17:5). He will not have the same name as Christ, yet he will claim just enough messiah-like attributes to form an effective camouflage to deceive the nations of the earth.

As we examine the attributes of Allah and his messiah figure, “The Mahdi,” we will see that they perfectly match what the Bible has warned us of. In the many comparisons made, take special note, not only of the quantity of the similarities, but also of their incredible specificity.

## Both Deny The Father And The Son



Doctrinally, Islam and the Antichrist spirit are in perfect agreement because both deny the Trinity and the Divine Sonship of Christ, as the Bible describes: “Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist, he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.” (1 John 2:22-23)

Whoever denies the reality of the Trinity and the fact that Jesus is the Son of God embodies the spirit of the Antichrist, *period!*

Knowing this, Antichrist will never say I am the Son of God, instead He will mock such a notion. This is crucial. The religion of Islam has as one of its most core and foundational beliefs, a blatant denial of Jesus as God’s Son. This denial is found several times throughout the Qur’an. According to the Qur’an, whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God commits a terrible blasphemy and is cursed by Allah. But beyond the fact that the Qur’an clearly teaches Antichrist doctrines, Islam has also created a perverted Jesus that is an affront to the historical Jesus of the Christian faith.

Growing up, I was always taught that when Jesus returns, he will declare himself to be a Muslim, He will deny all the claims of being God, or the Son of God, and lead many Christians to convert to Islam. Regarding those who do not convert to Islam, the Qur’an states that Jesus will be a witness against them on the Day of Judgment: “There is not one of the People of the Scripture (Christians and Jews) but will believe in him before his death, and on the Day of Resurrection he will be a witness against them.” (Qur’an 4:159)

Muslim scholars explain that the phrase “will believe in him before his death” means that Christians and Jews will “confirm that he is alive and has not died and he is not God or the Son of God but [merely] His [Allah’s] slave and Messenger, and Isa (Jesus) will testify against those who had called him Son of God.”<sup>10</sup>

The so-called moderate Sheikh Kabbani agrees: “Like all prophets, Prophet Jesus came with the divine message of surrender to God Almighty, which is Islam. This verse shows that when Jesus returns he will personally correct the misrepresentations and misinter-

pretations about himself. He will affirm the true message that he brought in his time as a prophet, and that he never claimed to be the Son of God. Furthermore, he will reaffirm in his second coming what he prophesied in his first coming bearing witness to the seal of the Messengers, Prophet Mohammed. In his second coming many non-Muslims will accept Jesus as a servant of Allah Almighty, as a Muslim and a member of the Community of Mohammed.”<sup>11</sup>

Ayatullah Baqir al-Sadr and Ayatullah Murtada Mutahhari, authors of *The Awaited Savior*, concur “Jesus will descend from heaven and espouse the cause of the Mahdi. The Christians and the Jews will see him and recognize his true status. The Christians will abandon their faith in his godhead” (sic).<sup>12</sup>

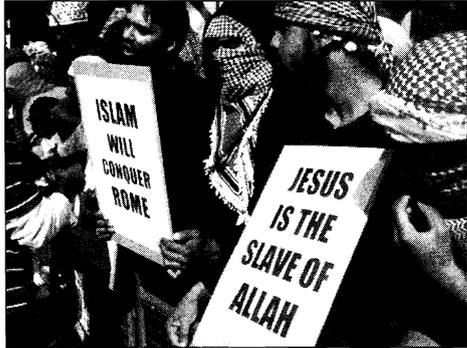
Once again, the canonized doctrines of Islam perfectly fulfill what the apostle John defined as the Antichrist spirit. The Bible warned Christians long ago to “test the spirits to see whether or not they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God. And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.” (I John 4:3)

The litmus test to know whether or not a spirit is from God or from the devil is specifically whether or not it acknowledges that Jesus Christ the Son of God has become a man. Any spirit that does not acknowledge this is from Satan and is the “spirit of the Antichrist.” This by itself proves that Islam is possessed with an Antichrist spirit.

## Both Are Blasphemous



The Apostle John also adds “This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.” (I John 4:2-3) “Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have



gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the Antichrist.” (II John 1:7)

From these verses, we learn that the antichrist is a spirit that is identified as a “liar” and a “deceiver” which specifically denies:

1. That Jesus is the Savior of Israel and the World.
2. The Trinity, or that Jesus is The Son of God.
3. That Jesus is God who came in the flesh.

Both Mohammed and his Mahdi perfectly embody this Antichrist spirit. Mohammed denied both “the Father and the Son.” The Mahdi will come in Mohammed’s spirit and will do the same. What is most holy to Christians is considered blasphemous in Islam, and what is holy in Islam is blasphemous to Christians. An understanding of Islam’s reversalist or contrarian ideology is crucial for everyone who wants to understand Satan’s attempt to contradict and undermine the basic teachings of the Bible.

Islam makes it one of its highest priorities to deny all of the above points regarding Jesus and His relationship with the Father. Just ask any Muslim, “what are your main objections to Christians” and their immediate response will be “Jesus is not the Son of God. Neither is He God. Neither is God our Father. Neither did He die on the cross.” Try it.

My Catholic mother-in-law asked me prior to marrying her daughter “Do you believe in Jesus?” Being a Muslim I responded “of course.” “Then you can marry my daughter,” she said. However, had she asked me, “Do you believe He is the Son of God?” I would have said “Absolutely not.”

The trick that Muslims use however, is that Islam teaches that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, after all the Qur’an calls him “Al-Maseeh.” While it is true that Islam does retain the title of Messiah for Jesus, when one asks a Muslim to define what the title actually means in Islam, the definitions given are always hollow and fall entirely short of containing any truly Messianic substance.

In Islam, Jesus is merely another prophet in a very long line of prophets. Biblically speaking however, the role of the Messiah among other things also entails being a Divine Priestly Savior, a Deliverer, and the King of the Jews.

As we shall see throughout this book, rather than being a Messiah who saves or delivers Israel and all of his faithful followers in any way, in the Islamic traditions, Jesus instead returns to lead Israel’s enemies against her in battle and to kill or convert all Jews and Christians to Islam. This would be the equivalent of calling Adolph Hitler—rather than Jesus—Israel’s deliverer.

For now, we see that the apostle John informs us that just before the final hour, a very specific “spirit” will dominate the earth. This spirit will deny many of the essential Biblical octrines regarding who Jesus is and what He came to do. Islam could not epitomize this spirit any more perfectly. This spirit was “already in the world” (I John 4:3) even in John’s time.

Several cults existed in John’s day and continued with such a spirit. Islam stemmed from these Christian heretical groups such as the Gnostics and the Nestorians. While John’s warning in the first century was speaking primarily to the heretical Gnostic Christians, when Islam came along, it literally adopted nearly every early Christian heresy and absorbed them all into one new heretical potpourri that we call Islam. As such, John’s warning against the spirit of the Antichrist was virtually consummated in the religion of Mohammed, the greatest heresiarch that the world has ever known.

## TAWHID AND SHIRK

**I**n Islam the most essential belief is called Tawhid which refers to the strictest form of Unitarian monotheism imaginable—the absolute oneness of God. In Islam, God is utterly alone. And because adherence to Tawhid is the highest and most important commandment in Islam, then the greatest sin is called Shirk which is opposite of Tawhid. Shirk

is idolatry, or “associating partners with God.” As one Muslim group in Toronto has stated in their publication *Invitation to Islam*:

“Murder, rape, child molesting, genocide...These are all some of the appalling crimes which occur in our world today. Many would think that these are the worst possible offences which could be committed. But there is something which outweighs all of these crimes put together: It is the crime of shirk. As the Qur’an said: ‘Surely, they have disbelieved who say: ‘Allah is the Messiah (Jesus), son of Mary’ but the Messiah (Jesus) said: ‘O Children of Israel! Worship Allah exclusively...’ (Qur’an 5: 72) This verse is evidence that those who associate with Allah are Kuffar and commit shirk akbar (greater shirk). If a person dies (committing shirk akbar) and never repents of it, he will be a permanent resident in hell-fire.’”<sup>14</sup>

While the unpardonable sin in the Bible is to deny, or *blaspheme*, the Holy Spirit as God, in Islam believing that God is the Holy Spirit is an unpardonable sin (Matthew 12:31). The Holy Spirit according to Islam is the angel who spoke to Mohammed. Yet the being that spoke to Mohammed bears far more resemblance to Lucifer than to any heavenly angel. Imagine that believing in the divinity of Christ is considered by many Muslims to be a far worse sin than committing murder!

Meanwhile, in the backwards world of Islam, the Muslims of Sudan are even now carrying out a literal genocide against the Black Sudanese while the rest of the Muslim world turns its collective head and looks the other way. But believe that Jesus is the Son of God and you stir up a hornet’s nest. Neither the demons nor the Muslims can tolerate the truth that *Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and the Lord of All!*

## ISLAM DENIES THE SON

This denial is found several times throughout the Qur’an: “In blasphemy indeed are those that say that God is Christ the son of Mary.” (Qur’an 5:17) “They said, ‘The Most Gracious has begotten a son!’ You have uttered a gross blasphemy. The heavens are about to shatter, the earth is about to tear asunder, and the mountains are about to crumble. Because they claim that the Most Gracious has begotten a son. It is not befitting the Most Gracious that He should beget a son.” (Qur’an 19:88-92) “...the Christians call Christ the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouth; (in this) they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. Allah’s curse be on them: how they are deluded away from the Truth!” (Qur’an 9:30)

The Qur’an literally pronounces a curse on those who believe that Jesus is God’s Son—people who say such things utter “gross blasphemies” and are likened to unbelievers or

Kuffar infidels. In his Institutes of Religion, Protestant Reformer John Calvin rightly stated that “[The Muslims], although they proclaim at the top of their lungs that the Creator of Heaven and earth is God, still, while repudiating Christ, they substitute an idol in the place of the true God.”<sup>15</sup>

While Islam attempts to create an acceptable form of monotheistic worship, it not only leaves out the most essential aspects of a saving relationship with God, but it also confronts these things head on and calls them the highest forms of blasphemy. “Far be it from God that he should have a son!” These words encircle the inside of the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem. This is the very location where for centuries God’s people; the Jews, worshipped in their Temple awaiting their Messiah. This is also where Jesus, the Son of God, the Jewish Messiah, will someday rule over the earth. Islam has literally built a monument of unreserved defiance to this future reality.

But what is the “grievous penalty” that shall befall those who believe such things? According to Islamic narrative, Jesus will return to kill these, “polytheist Trinitarian Christians.” But it does not end here. The Qur’an does not stop at denying that Jesus is the Son of God or that God exists as a Trinity.

## ISLAM DENIES THE CROSS

**W**ith tears in his eyes, the apostle Paul warned the Thessalonians that, “many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.” (Philippians 3:18). The Church Father Polycarp of Smyrna, a disciple of the Apostle John, also linked a denial of the cross to the Antichrist spirit in no uncertain terms when he said that “Everyone who does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is an antichrist and whoever does not confess the testimony of the cross is of the devil...such a one is the firstborn of Satan”<sup>16</sup> It should not come as a surprise then that Islam also denies the most central event of all of redemptive history—the crucifixion of Jesus: “That they said (in boast), ‘We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah;’ but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not: Nay, Allah raised him up unto Himself; and Allah is Exalted in Power, Wise.” (Qur’an 4:157-8)

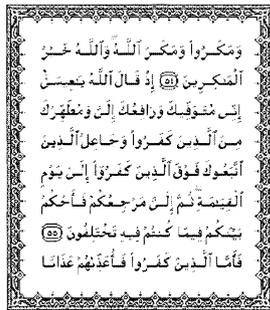
Ironically, among Islamic scholars, there are actually numerous conflicting theories regarding exactly what happened to Jesus. As such, it is actually the Muslims who have “only conjecture to follow.” But despite their inability to arrive at any form of consensus regarding what happened to Jesus, Muslims are very much in agreement on at least one issue: He never died on the cross!

## Both Are Called Deceiver



When anyone picks up the Bible, they are almost immediately confronted with the fact that Satan is the greatest deceiver in history. It was shortly after having eaten the forbidden fruit that Eve said, “The serpent (Satan) deceived me, and I ate.” (Gen. 3:13). In the New Testament, John the Apostle reminded us all that anyone who denies that Jesus has come in the flesh “is the deceiver and the antichrist.” (II John 1:7). Paul the Apostle elaborates on the deceptive role of the Antichrist when he also warned that “The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.” (II Thessalonians 2:9-10) And as the Bible concludes, it encourages us all with the fact that in the end, “the devil, who deceived them, [will be] thrown into the lake of burning sulfur...” (Revelation 20:10)

Amazingly, all such unsavory descriptions of Satan are easily found scattered throughout the Qur’an (more detail later), but I will start with the most damning reference—Allah’s bragging by calling himself Khayrul-Makireen, which literally means The Greatest of all Deceivers. (Qur’an 3:54) He refers to Himself with such title in Qur’an: 8, 30; 27, 50; 13, 42; 10, 21; (14, 46); (43, 79); 86, 15 f; 7,100.



Above, the first verse says “And they conspired, Allah also conspired, for He is the greatest of all deceivers” (Qur’an 3:54)

But what are the circumstances in Qur'an 3:54 that are causing Allah to be deceptive? Interestingly, the deception is regarding the story of Jesus, as verse 55 states, "When Allah said to Jesus, I shall cause you to die, then will raise you up to myself..." Allah deceived the people by not allowing Jesus to die on the cross and resurrecting Him instead.

As Christ was going about to do His father's work, Satan was concocting schemes for his firstborn Mohammed.

All of the most revered interpreters of the Qur'an; Ibn Katheer, Al-Tabari, Al-Jalalyn, and Al-Qurtubi, interpret Qur'an 3:54 as referring to Allah deceiving people to believe that Jesus was crucified when He was not. Qurtubi observes that some scholars have considered the words "the best of schemers" to be one of God's beautiful names. Thus one would pray, "O Best of Schemers, scheme for me!" Qurtubi also reports that the Prophet used to pray, "O God, scheme for me, and do not scheme against me!"<sup>17</sup>

How is it that in the Bible it is the Devil and his vessel the Antichrist that are repeatedly referred to as the schemers, liars and the deceivers; but in the Qur'an, it is Allah who is the greatest of all deceivers? Satan knows full well who he is, and as he was inspiring the Qur'an, he couldn't help but brag a little.

The Arabic word 'makara' means to deceive, scheme, hatch up, cook up, or connive. The Arabic Bible in Genesis 3:1 uses the same word for Satan.

In Ahl-Alquran (International Qur'anic Center) Sharif Sadeq explains the meaning of makara as attributed in the Qur'an "conniving is a weapon, like any other weapon, could be used for good or evil like a knife or a gun." According to Sharif, there are two types of conniving; one which is forbidden, the other noble.

## **BOTH ATTEMPT TO DECEIVE CHRISTIANS AND JEWS**

**N**ot only do Satan and Allah share the characteristic of being deceivers par excellence, they also both love to specifically target one group above any others—Ahlul-Kitab or "The people of the Book [the Bible]" as the Qur'an calls them. The Bible warns that Jews and Christians are Satan's favorite target, yet in the Qur'an, and all throughout this "sacred text," they are targeted by Allah. Does not Jesus warn "For false Christ's and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible"? (Matthew 24:24) See, I have told you ahead of time. "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it."

As a Muslim I understood that according to Islamic tradition, the Mahdi will find some supposedly "lost" portions of the Old and New Testaments and even the Ark of the Covenant, and through these finds, he will argue with Jews and Christians, and win some