

## **An Evaluation of Walter Veith's Video "The Islamic Connection"(\*)**

*"The Islamic Connection / Total Onslaught"* is a video of a presentation made by Walter Veith on the topic of Islam. In the video, Walter Veith presents "evidence" to support his view that there is a direct connection between Islam, the Roman Catholic Church, and the ancient & modern Babylon mystery religion. The video basically asserts that the religion of Islam began as a covert initiative launched by the Roman Catholic Church, and that at its core Islam is a Luciferian religion under the control of Rome.

Walter Julius Veith is a South African zoologist and a Seventh-day Adventist author and speaker known for his work in nutrition, creationism. According to statements made by Walter Veith during his video presentation, he was brought up as a Roman Catholic and at some point in his life converted to Adventism. Many Seventh-day Adventists give Veith a free pass in his handling of historical evidence because they are pleased by what he has to tell them about the evidences of science. Walter Veith used to be a Professor who taught the theory of evolution so he has great knowledge of the theory. But when it comes to the topic of Islam he is not very sophisticated in the way that he thinks; the argument of Islam was an initiative launched by the Catholic Church with the express objective of destroying the faithful apostolic Christian community that had been established by the Early Church is a perfect example for that. Walter Veith's video is either highly inaccurate or grossly distorted.

The Arab Muslims of the fifth trumpet protected the Church of the East from the attacks of the Papal apostasy and the Turks of the sixth trumpet protected, the Protestant Reformation from the assaults of the Papal apostasy. Revelation 9 clearly show that Islam was a movement appointed by God himself to stay the persecution of the Papal power, and to deliver His people out of the hands of their enemy.

Before the great disappointment on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1844, God gave the 1843 chart, to establish the foundational truths for His people. This chart contains all points of belief, which were believed and preached by the Millerites to convict the people of sin and to turn back from their evil ways. After the test and great disappointment God gave the 1850 chart. On the previous 1843 chart, the wrong calculations were corrected, namely that Jesus should return in 1843, the old truths of the 1843 chart were confirmed and in addition the new biblical insights were included. The reader may study the prophetic charts and see what Ellen White has to say speaking of those charts.

On both, the 1843 and the 1850 charts, we see the role of Islam brought to view under the 5th and 6th trumpets of Bible prophecy. Martin Luther, 1545, and many others, before and after him explained Revelation Chapter 9 as involving Islam and Muslims. The 1843 chart; later again, the Adventist 1850 chart shows **the years 606 AD, 1,299 and 1,449 all of which are connected with Muslims and showed the struggles against Eastern Rome and the**

**Catholic supremacy. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet, or the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> woe, from Revelation 9, which shows the Arab and Turkish Muslims and their struggles against Western Rome.**

Walter Veith seems to have traveled the world (so he says) and provides lots of pictures to back-up his claims. He seems fairly convincing as many among the Seventh-day Adventist believe in his teaching that the ancient orders and secret societies (Freemasons, Knights Templar, Illuminati and The Ancient Arabic Order Of The Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, etc.) are involved in the creation and manipulation of Islam and notes how Islamic secret societies are linked to Judeo-Christian ones as well as showing many Pagan influences in both Catholicism and Islam.

In reviewing the video, it appears that Walter Veith has done extensive research on Roman Catholicism and the occult mystery religions, including Freemasonry and the New Age movement. Walter Veith often quotes from the published writings of Helen Petrovna Blavatski, the founder (1875) of the Theosophical Society. He also extensively quotes from Alice Bailey, an esoteric Theosophist, spirit medium and author, whose channeled writings spearheaded the development of the modern New Age movement from its Theosophical Society roots. The writings of Madame Blavatski and Alice Bailey are considered by comparative religion experts to be the primary foundation for the contemporary New Age spirituality movement.

In the video *The Islamic Connection*, Walter Veith passionately promotes his view that there is a strong and direct connection between Islam, Catholicism, and the occult mystery religions, and that these three movements are Luciferian at their core.

**Walter Veith basically believes and teaches the following:**

The Roman Catholic Church and its Jesuits launched Freemasonry as a global means of bringing key religious, political, military, banking and business leaders under the influence of Rome and initiating them into the Luciferian mystery religion of Babylon.

He believes and teaches that the religion of Islam was an initiative launched by the Catholic Church with the express objective of destroying the faithful apostolic Christian community that had been established by the Early Church in the geographical area of the Near and Middle East. The “inner circle” leadership of Islam is aware that Islam is a Babylon mystery religion and that at its core Islam worships Lucifer. Thus in essence Islam and Roman Catholicism are the same religion.

In *The Islamic Connection* video, Walter Veith uses a PowerPoint slide presentation featuring dozens of pictures in which he endeavors to point out the solid connection between Catholicism and the occult mystery religions and Islam, thereby demonstrating his view that Islam is a Luciferian religion under the control of Rome.

**“EVIDENCE” PRESENTED IN THE VIDEO**

**PILGRIMAGES**

The practice of Islam involves the Hajj, the once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage that Muslims with

financial means are obligated to make to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. *The Islamic Connection* states that pilgrimages were a symbol of pagan religions and the Hajj involves “worship at the shrine of Mohammad”, therefore Islam is connected with paganism.

**Evaluation:**

By the same logic, one could conclude that the Hebrew religion of the Israelites was connected with paganism, because it involved three annual pilgrimage festivals (Hebrew chag), whereby Israelite men were obligated to appear before the LORD in Jerusalem to celebrate the festivals of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost and Tabernacles (see Lev. 23:14-17). The history of Islam and the very essence of its theology have resulted in Islam being categorized by comparative religion scholars as being monotheistic and anti-pagan.

Walter Veith in his video, *The Islamic Connection*, refers to the Hajj as “worship at the shrine of Mohammed”. The Masjid Al-Haram (the Grand Mosque in Mecca), and the Ka’aba (the central cube in the Grand Mosque), have no connection whatsoever in any way to be a “shrine of Mohammed”. The idea that the Ka’aba is a shrine to Muhammed is entirely absent in Islam.

Muslims believe that the Ka'aba was originally built by the prophet Abraham and his firstborn son Ishmael as a house of monotheistic worship. However, by the time of Muhammad, the Ka'aba had been taken over by pagan Arabs to house their numerous tribal gods. In 630 A.D., Muhammad and his followers took over leadership of Mecca after years of persecution. Muhammad destroyed the idols inside the Ka'aba and re-dedicated it as a house of monotheistic worship. It should be noted that Muslims do not worship the Ka'aba and its environs. Rather, it serves as a focal and unifying point among the Muslim people. During daily prayers, Muslims face toward the Ka'aba from wherever they are in the world (this is known as "facing the Qiblah").

In Daniel 6:10 we read about Daniel (messengers to Israel), who observed three daily prayers. We read how his prayers were done while facing the direction of Jerusalem. In 1 Kings we read how Solomon and his people prayed in the direction of the Temple that he built for God in Jerusalem (1 Kings 8:22-44). In these verses Solomon states repeatedly that servants of God, the people of Israel and foreigners, should pray toward the city He has chosen (Jerusalem) and in the direction of the temple he has built there for God's Name; thus the concept of Qiblah.

**MOHAMMED’S WIFE KHADIJA WAS A ROMAN CATHOLIC NUN**

*The Islamic Connection* states that Mohammed’s wife came from a Roman Catholic convent.

**Evaluation:**

*The Islamic Connection* doesn’t provide any evidence whatsoever to substantiate this claim. Islamic history documents on Muhammad’s wife Khadijah bint Khuwaylid does not mention anything about her being a nun, but portrays her as a successful businesswoman who married Muhammad, and later was his first convert to Islam. *The Islamic Connection* does not provide any historical evidence to demonstrate that “Roman Catholic” monasteries, nunneries or convents even existed in Arabia at the time Khadija was still a young spinster around 575

AD. Even if Khadija had been a Catholic nun before she broke her vow of celibacy and married Muhammad, this doesn't demonstrate that the founding of Islam was a Roman Catholic initiative. If being a former Catholic is potentially so bad, then by the same logic one needs to be careful about the activities of all former Catholics, including Walter Veith!

### **THE GOD "ALLAH" WAS A PAGAN DEITY**

*The Islamic Connection* asserts that the "god" of the Muslims, Allah, was a pagan deity.

#### **Evaluation:**

Muslims believe in Allah, the Supreme and Eternal, Infinite and Mighty, Merciful and Compassionate, The Creator and The Provider. According to Islamic belief, Allah is unique (wāḥid) and inherently one ('aḥad), all-merciful and omnipotent.

The word Allah in the Arabic language means God, or more accurately, The One and Only Eternal God, Creator of the universe, Lord of all lords, King of all kings, Most Compassionate, Most Merciful. The word Allah is also used by Arabic speaking Jews and Christians before Qur'an.

The Arabic Bible reads in Genesis 1:1 "*In the beginning Allah...*" and in John 3:16 reads "*For Allah so loved the world...*" *لَأَنَّ هَكَذَا أَحَبَّ اللَّهُ الْعَالَمَ* This word is dear and precious to the Arabic speaker because Allah is that word which conveys deep meaning.

Arabic, is one of the world's oldest languages, it is spoken throughout northern Africa and the Middle Eastern nations. Furthermore, because Arabic is the language of the Qur'an, millions of Muslims in other countries speak Arabic as well. Arabic, in 1974 was made the sixth official language of the United Nations.

In this widely spoken language Allah is the ONLY word used by Arabic speakers to refer to this Creator God who is also Master of the Judgment Day. If one were to pick up an Arabic translation of the Bible, would see the word "Allah" being use where the word "God" is used in English. Actually, the Arabic word for Almighty God, "Allah", is quite similar to the word for God in other Semitic languages. For various reasons, some mistakenly believe that Muslims worship a different God than the God of The Old Testament and The New Testament. This is certainly not the case, since the Pure Monotheism of Islam calls all people to the worship of the God of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and all of the other prophets.

*"Lo! We inspire thee as We inspired Noah and the prophets after him, as We inspired Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes, and Jesus and Job and Jonah and Aaron and Solomon, and as We imparted unto David the Psalms"* (an-Nisa` 4:163)

*"Say: "We believe in God, and in what has been revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and in (the Books) given to Moses, Jesus, and the prophets, from their Lord: We make no distinction between one and another among them, and to God do we bow our will (in Islam)."* ('Ali `Imran 3:84)

*Say ye: "We believe in God, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to (all) prophets from their Lord: We make no difference between one and another of them: And we bow to God (in Islam)." (Al-Baqarah 2:136)*

The word Allah has indeed been used at certain periods of world history in the worship a pagan god's. The explanation for this behavior is as simple as the definition of the word Allah in the Arabic language. This word, simply stated, means "THE DEITY". And anything that an Arabic speaking person would seek to worship as a God, would be referred to with the same term.

Many Christians assume that the Allah of the Qur'an is not the God of the Bible and refuse to use this name for the God of the Bible. Ironically, this belief only persists in non-Arabic lands. Arab Christians consistently use the word Allah to signify the God of the Bible. Oddly enough, the Arabic "Allah" has a much firmer Biblical foundation for a designation of "God" than the English "God". The English word "god" has pagan Germanic roots to *Gott* – a designation for Odin, the chief Teutonic deity, who lives on top of the world and procreates with his blonde, blue-eyed goddess wife of love, fertility and beauty, Ferya. However, this stops no English speakers from using this pagan originated word to designate the God of the Bible. Arab Christians, Jews, and Muslims have all designated the God of the Bible as "Allah".

How about the Elohim from the Hebrew, its root "EL" has also been invoked in the name of pagan God's, yet the word was used by the Hebrew people as well to describe the Most High! We're God's people wrong to use such a term when describing the deity of the God of Israel? The truth is, when and if you we're to visit any Christian church in the Arabic speaking world today, you will discover that the word used for God in their Arabic Bibles is indeed the word Allah. Are those Christians going to hell for using this word once used by pagans? Or do we simply need to explain that the Allah (DEITY) we worship is the Allah of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob? I believe it's very clear in both the Bible and the Qur'an that the God being referenced is exactly the same one!

The accusation that Muslims worship another god other than the one that Christians or Jews do is not a new one. In Chapter 2:139 Allah inspired the Prophet to say the following when conversing with the Jews and Christians on this topic:

*"Say: Will ye dispute with us about God, seeing that He is our Lord and your Lord; that we are responsible for our doings and ye for yours; and that We are sincere (in our faith) in Him?" (Al-Baqarah 2:139)*

The Qur'an is not calling people to the worship of a new god, but rather leading them back to the religion that was given by God starting with Adam, Noah and Abraham in Genesis. *Allah* is the standard Arabic word for God. The term is best known in the West for its use by Muslims as a reference to God in the context of Islam. It is also used by Arabic speakers of all Abrahamic faiths. If one is to assert that Muslims worship a pagan deity because the Arabic word for "God", *Allah*, had previously been used by pagan Arabic-speakers to denote

their notion of “god”, then by the same logic one must assert that the English word “God” is also a reference to a pagan deity, because it is derived from the modern German word *Gott*, which originally was the old German word “*gudan*”, a German pagan deity.

## THE QUR’AN TEACHES THAT JESUS DID NOT DIE ON THE CROSS

*The Islamic Connection* video quotes the Qur’an verse of An-Nisa 4:157 to demonstrate that Islam teaches that Jesus did not die on the cross, thus confirming *The Islamic Connection* view that Islam is obviously a Luciferian religion.

### Evaluation:

On his “Total Onslaught” on Islam this is the only topic that Walter Veith quote the source of Islam, the Qur’an directly. Of all the issues raised in *The Islamic Connection* video, perhaps the most profound topic concerns the controversial Qur’an verse of An-Nisa 4:157. It would be accurate to say that traditionally most Muslims believe that Jesus did not die on the cross, mainly because the Qur’an verse of An-Nisa 4:157 seems to teach that Jesus was not crucified, nor did he die. This controversial verse appears to confirm the popular Christian view that Islam is an antichrist religion. But does the Qur’an really teach that Jesus did not die on the Cross?

Here is the verse of An-Nisa 4:157 as quoted from the Qur’an:

*“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**”. {An-Nisa 4:157, Yusuf Ali translation, parenthesis in original, bold emphasis supplied}.*

Most Muslims have traditionally understood this verse to mean that Jesus did not die on the cross, and at the last minute he escaped crucifixion. The most popular explanation is that God miraculously caused all the disciples to look like Jesus, and in the confusion one of the disciples, some says Judas Iscariot, was mistakenly crucified in his place. Thus it looked like Jesus was being crucified, but in reality it was not Him, and He escaped and ascended to heaven without seeing death. In view of the profound nature of issues pertaining to the death of Jesus, it is very appropriate that the verse of An-Nisa 4:157 and the teaching of the Qur’an on the death of Jesus be very carefully examined.

## TRADITION AND SCRIPTURE ARE NOT ALWAYS THE SAME

Before examining what the Qur’an actually teaches on the topic of the death of Jesus, it will be useful to bear in mind that when considering the beliefs of any religion, one needs to be aware that some of the popular “traditions” of a religion may well be at variance with the actual teachings of that religion’s scriptures. This situation can be evident in all religions, including Christianity.

For example within Christendom, the Bible passages of Romans 14:5-6 and Colossians 2:16-18 have been very much misunderstood by the majority of Christians:

*“One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord”.* {Romans 14:5-6 NIV}.

*“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ”.* {Colossians 2:16-18 NIV}.

The vast majority of Christendom has understood these two passages to mean that under the New Covenant, the Sabbath is no longer binding upon the believer, and one is free to choose any day of the week, for example Sunday, as a special “day to the Lord”. Thus Sunday has become Christianity’s traditional day of rest and worship. Adventists caution that we should avoid focusing on any one or two Bible texts in isolation. Instead, Adventists advocate a hermeneutic of carefully examining the context of all verses, and also carefully examining the overall weight of evidence of all Scripture on any topic under consideration. In harmony with this principle of *context* and *weight of evidence*, Adventists believe that the Ten Commandments and keeping the seventh-day Sabbath is very much part of the biblical New Covenant, even if Christian “tradition” deems otherwise.

In reading several verses before and after the above verse of 4:157, it is plainly evident from the context that the verse is specifically describing the Jews. The Qur’an passage as a whole is a description of the apostasy of the Israelites and Jews from the way of God.

The Qur’anic verse of An-Nisa 4:157 is basically saying that the Jews did not kill or crucify Jesus, even though they thought they had, and they boasted that they had. We can now ponder on the question of who then did “kill” Christ Jesus, the son of the Virgin Mary.

#### WHO “KILLED” JESUS OF NAZARETH?

According to the Bible, it was not the Jews who had actually crucified Jesus, because under Imperial Roman law the Jews did not have the authority to carry out capital punishment. Jesus was actually crucified by Roman soldiers:

*“Finally Pilate handed him [Jesus] over to them to be crucified. So **the soldiers took charge of Jesus**. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here **they [Romans] crucified him**, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.... **the soldiers crucified Jesus...**”* {John 19:16-18, 23 NIV, brackets, bold and underline emphasis supplied}

The Qur’an is certainly accurate in saying that the Jews did not crucify Jesus. However, although the Roman soldiers were the ones who physically carried out the crucifixion of Jesus, according to the Bible neither the Jews nor the Romans were in reality the ones who actually “killed” Jesus. In the words of Jesus himself:

*“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends”* {John 15:13 NIV}.

“I lay down my life for the sheep” {John 10:15 NIV, underline emphasis supplied}.

“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life — only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again” {John 10:17-18 NIV, underline emphasis supplied}.

It is of note that the Spirit of Prophecy writings of Ellen White make a very interesting statement in regard to the death of Jesus:

“But it was not the spear thrust, it was not the pain of the cross, that caused the death of Jesus. That cry, uttered “with a loud voice”, at the moment of death, the stream of blood and water that flowed from His side, declared that **He died of a broken heart. His heart was broken by mental anguish. He was slain by the sin of the world**”. {Desire of Ages, page 772, bold emphasis supplied}.

When the controversial verse of An-Nisa 4:157 is examined in the context of its immediate passage, which is focused on the apostasy of the Israelites and Jews, it is readily apparent that An-Nisa 4:157 is in full harmony with the Qur’an verses which teach that Jesus died and resurrected to life. The verse is also in full harmony with the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy accounts of the crucifixion of Jesus. Thus it is inappropriate to use Chapter An-Nisa 4:157 as evidence to support the claim that Islam is a Luciferian religion because the Qur’an teaches that Jesus did not die on the cross, when in fact the Qur’an actually does teach that Jesus died on the cross and assure us that no one killed Him by the cross.

### **THE CRESCENT MOON AND STAR SYMBOL**

*The Islamic Connection* shows several slides of the Crescent Moon and the Moon & Star symbols as they are used in Islam. *The Islamic Connection* then shows slides of some similar symbols being used in the ancient pagan Babylon religion. The inference is that Islam has its roots in the pagan Babylon religion.

#### **Evaluation:**

The only source of Islam, the Qur’an does not specify any symbol for Islam and the current symbols are the results of the understanding and imagination of Muslim artists, politicians, or thinkers during the past times. The crescent is commonly regarded as a symbol of Sunni Islam, and is often placed above minarets and domes of mosques. The symbol has become associated with the Caliphate [Islamic political leadership]. The crescent is used in the tradition to sight the moon with the naked eye marking the beginning of the Muslim month of Ramadan, and is also used for the Islamic calendar, which is based on the lunar cycle. No mention is made in the Qur’an of the moon, or of using the star as a symbol.

Many Christians believe that the Crescent Moon and the Moon & Star symbols as they are used in some Islamic sites like schools or mosques have their origin in the ancient pagan Babylon religion. They say that this is where Islam has its roots and that Allah is a moon God! By the same logic, one could conclude that Christianity has its roots in paganism. The cross is a pagan symbol that was adored by pagans thousands of years before Jesus was born. The Roman Catholic Church adopted the cross symbol hundreds of years after Jesus was

crucified. From Christmas to the cross many pagan tradition and symbols found their way into the Christian world, yet this does not mean that Christianity has its roots in the pagan religion.

Given that the Crescent Moon & Star symbol was introduced into religious Islam only relatively recently, it can hardly be asserted that the use of this symbol demonstrates that Islam has its roots in the ancient pagan mystery religion of Babylon.

### **THE CATHOLIC CHURCH USES A CRESCENT & STAR SYMBOL**

*The Islamic Connection* shows a slide photo of a Catholic church in Germany that has a clock tower with the clock having a crescent moon attached to one finger, and a star attached to the other finger. This is presented as evidence for the connection between the Roman Catholic Church and Islam. Another slide is shown of a stained glass window in a Catholic Church in New Orleans. The window's artwork has a crescent & star symbol in it.

#### **Evaluation:**

Given that the Crescent & Star symbol has been a relatively recent adoption by Islam, the use of this symbol on two obscure Catholic churches among the hundreds of thousands of Catholic churches world-wide can hardly be proof that the launch of the religion of Islam around 600 AD was a covert initiative of the Roman Catholic Church. If using same symbol means to have same core then what about the cross that Christians use in every Christian denomination, including the Seventh-day Adventist church? Does all this Christian churches has pagan core just because they are using the cross as a symbol which been used by pagan religions long before Christianity?

### **ISLAM IS PAGAN BECAUSE MOHAMMED CONTEMPLATED IN A CAVE**

*The Islamic Connection* presents slides showing the Virgin Mary coming out of a cave. Jesuits are also shown coming out of caves, and it is stated that pagan sacrifices were carried out in caves. Because Muhammad was contemplating in a desert cave when he was first inspired with the contents of what became the written Qur'an, the inference is made that Islam is of pagan inspiration and is related to the Mariology teachings of the Catholic Church.

#### **Evaluation:**

By the same logic, one can suspect that perhaps Adventist TV evangelist Doug Batchelor is a covert pagan infiltrator into the Adventist church, because he underwent a religious conversion while contemplating in a desert cave. The fact that Doug had a Roman Catholic family background makes him even more suspect! There is apparently nothing intrinsically bad about contemplating in a cave, for the Lord God Jehovah spoke to the prophet Elijah when he spent the night in a cave in the Sinai desert (see 1 Kings 19).

### **A MOSQUE HAS BEEN BUILT ON THE SITE OF A PAGAN TEMPLE**

A slide is shown of a mosque that has been built on the site of the pagan temple at Luxor, Egypt. The inference is that Islam must therefore be connected with the pagan mystery religion of ancient Egypt.

**Evaluation:**

By the same logic, one could suspect that Adventist evangelist John Carter of “The Carter Report” may be a covert pagan, because his “Community Adventist Fellowship” ministry in Arcadia CA is housed in what was a New Age Christian Science church complex prior to its purchase by The Carter Report. Also, John Carter’s major public evangelism meetings in Los Angeles were held in the Shrine Auditorium, a large auditorium that belongs to the 33rd degree Scottish Rite Freemasons, the same masons who take an oath involving Mohammed and are called “Shriners”. Furthermore, by the same logic Adventist evangelist Mark Finley may also have connections with the Babylon mystery religion and Islam, for he held an Easter Sunday revival meeting in the same Shrine Auditorium owned by the Scottish Rite Masons. The meeting was connected with Finley’s “Acts 2000 Revelation of Hope” global satellite evangelism event held in the Los Angeles area. Furthermore, by the same logic Muslims in Drammen/Norway may also have connection with Seventh-day Adventism for they bought an SDA church and convert it to a mosque!

**SOME MOSQUES ARE BUILT NEAR CATHOLIC CATHEDRALS**

*The Islamic Connection* presents a slide photo showing that the Catholic Cathedral in Amman, Jordan, is located on land adjacent to a mosque. While showing the PowerPoint slide, presenter Walter Veith makes the statement as he shows some symbols, “same symbolism, same religion.”

**Evaluation:**

By the same logic, if an Adventist Church has a cross on its building and it is located on a lot adjacent to a Catholic Church which also has a cross on it, does this “same symbolism” make the Adventist Church the “same religion” as the Catholic Church?

**A CATHOLIC CARDINAL SAID THAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH STARTED ISLAM**

*The Islamic Connection* video states that Alberto Rivera, an anti-Catholic activist, has testified that he heard a Catholic Cardinal in South America acknowledge that the Catholic Church started Islam.

**Evaluation:**

Even if a Roman Catholic Cardinal really did claim that the Catholic Church started Islam, this claim is not necessarily truth. *The Islamic Connection* video asserts that the Catholic Church is a religion of Lucifer, the father of lies. If the Catholic Church is of the “father of lies”, it would thus be unwise to assume that a statement made by Catholic leaders represents factual “truth”. Should we consider the statements made by Catholic leaders about Ellen White and Seventh-day Adventist church as “truth”?

**THE QUR’AN “DEMOTES” JESUS CHRIST**

*The Islamic Connection* video states that the Qur’an, the revered scripture of Islam, “demotes” Jesus Christ.

**Evaluation:**

It is NOT true that the explicit doctrine of the divinity of Christ is absent from the Qur'an. There are many verses in the Qur'an which do highly elevate the person of Jesus Christ. In fact one of the main titles for Jesus in the Qur'an is **Isa Al Masih** (Jesus the Christ). Another is "**the Word of God**", a title for Jesus given in chapter 3:39 & 3:45; and chapter 4:171.

Christ's **preexistence and divinity are part of the message of the Qur'an**, but this is mostly overlooked because there are many verses speaking out against dehumanizing Christ. Yet the Qur'an sees in Jesus God's Word and Spirit from Him. Therefore Jesus cannot be only of human nature.

Like the Bible the Qur'an speaks about the virgin birth of Jesus, it calls **Jesus the second Adam** and the **Word of God, Spirit from God and Word of Truth**. It acknowledges His divinity and preexistence saying that Jesus was God's word sent to Mary. Obviously, in order to reach her, He had to exist before His conception. The many Qur'anic verses that seem to deny Christ's divinity, **do in reality warn us not to dehumanize Him**. EGW said:

**"The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us.** It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God." {OHC 48.6}

According to E.G. White our study is the humanity of Jesus Christ which is a **golden linked chain which binds our souls to Christ and through Christ to God**. Interestingly the Qur'an support EGW's saying in many ways as we read in the Qur'an again and again talking about **the humanity of Jesus as the Messiah son of Marry**.

**THE INITIATION RITE OF SHRINER FREEMASONRY INVOLVES AN OATH WITH HOMAGE TO THE QUR'AN AND MUHAMMAD**

Although Masonic rites are primarily secret initiations, information published in the public arena does indicate that the highest initiation into the Shriners involves an oath using the Qur'an.

**Evaluation:**

Shriner Freemasonry, an appendent body to regular Freemasonry, is officially called "The Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine". The order utilizes Arabic cultural emblems in its insignia and in the architecture of its buildings. However the fact that an initiate into the Shriner order must take an oath involving homage to the Qur'an and Muhammad, does not prove that there is any direct connection or affiliation between Islam and occult Freemasonry. And it certainly does not demonstrate that Islam is a Babylonian mystery religion. The fraternal activities of Shriner Masons do not in any way resemble the religious teachings and practices of either Sunni or Shiite Islam, or any of the minority sects of Islam.

It should be noted that while one of the Shriner oaths of initiation pays homage to Islam, the Shriner oaths also involve homage to the Bible, and this homage does not in any way implicate the Bible as having an affiliation with Freemasonry or the Babylon mystery religions. In the tradition of Free-masonry as a whole, Shriners must believe in a Supreme

Being, or God, and the majority of them profess the Christian religion. However this profession does not demonstrate that the teachings and practices of Masonry are in harmony with the pure teachings of the Bible and the Qur'an.

### **THE VIRGIN MARY IS THE QUEEN OF ROME AND THE QUEEN OF ISLAM**

*The Islamic Connection* stresses that the Virgin Mary is well featured in the Qur'an, evidence that there is a strong connection between the Catholic Church and Islam. Walter Veith makes the profound statement that the Virgin Mary is, "Queen of Rome and Queen of Islam!"

#### **Evaluation:**

It is true that one of the chapters in the Qur'an, Chapter 19, is titled "Maryam" (Mary), and the most common title for Jesus in the Qur'an is "Jesus son of Mary". However none of the verses about Mary in the Qur'an elevates Mary to a status beyond that which is described in the Bible, which teaches that Mary was a "virgin", "has found favor with God", "was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit", was the "mother of Jesus", and that she has been "blessed". The number of verses dealing with Mary in the Qur'an is about the same as number of verses on Mary in the New Testament.

Islam is so strongly opposed to the worship of idols and images, that in Islam it is forbidden to display a painting or other graphical representation of Prophet Muhammad or of any Bible prophet that shows their face. While the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches openly worship and venerate images and icons of Jesus, Mary and the apostles, such practice is totally forbidden by the Qur'an and is entirely absent from Islam. It is utterly and absolutely absurd to suggest that in Islam the Virgin Mary has been elevated to the status of "Queen of Islam".

### **POPE JOHN PAUL II HIGHLY ESTEEMED THE QUR'AN**

*The Islamic Connection* displays a photo of Pope John Paul II kissing a copy of the Qur'an. The implication is that the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church highly esteems the venerated scripture of Islam.

#### **Evaluation:**

If Pope John Paul II were to have actually read the Qur'an, he would find that it contains a most severe denunciation of the type of religious practice that is a hallmark of the Catholic Church, including the most severe rebuke against all form of worship and veneration of images and relics. The Qur'an teaches against any form of priesthood that administers sacraments; teaches against a hierarchical leadership structure with a prime leader who has authority over his subordinates (such as the pope); teaches against the idea that the performance of sacraments can bring salvation and eternal life; and teaches against the allowance of alcohol, tobacco, pork eating and immodesty in the life of believers. It is apparent that Pope John Paul's act of kissing the Qur'an was nothing more than a publicity stunt designed to impress Muslims with his piety in an endeavor to gain their respect and support. It would be a complete mistake to assume that John Paul's act of kissing the Qur'an represents some kind of endorsement by the pope for Islam and its beliefs.

## **YASSER ARAFAT GAVE HOMAGE TO THE POPE**

The video shows a photograph of Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat kissing the hand of Pope John Paul II in an apparent act of homage.

### **Evaluation:**

It should be noted that Yasser Arafat was not an imam, nor did he have any other kind of religious leadership role within Islam. His role was that of a politician, and he knew very well that courting the influence of the pope had the potential to bring about international political advantages for his Palestinian people. Arafat followed in the footsteps of several prominent leaders of Western countries that have also paid homage to the pope. To see a Muslim political leader pay homage is certainly a very ominous sign and is in harmony with the prophetic word of God, which states: “*all inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast...*” (Revelation 13:8 NIV).

### **EVALUATION CONCLUSION**

“*The Islamic Connection*” video fails to present any credible evidence to support its view that Islam is a Luciferian Babylon mystery religion; that Islam was founded by the Roman Catholic Church; and that Islam is controlled by an inner circle of leadership that is under the authority of Rome. Most of the information on Islam presented in the video is either highly inaccurate or a gross distortion of the facts. Almost all of the arguments offered are based on fallacious reasoning and aberrations of logic. The overall effect of the video on Adventists who view it is to instill in them an attitude of hostility toward Muslims and a reluctance to want to befriend them for the purpose of sharing the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the gospel.

#### **(\*)Important note:**

*An Evaluation of Walter Veith’s Video “The Islamic Connection” is originally written by Will Baron, Member-at-Large, Adventist Muslim Fellowship Association (AMFA) and Author of the Book Deceived by the New Age. This article is largely based on Will Baron’s article which can be found in the original form on: <https://amfa.adventistfaith.org>*