

## From Our E-Mail & Mailbox

Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2001

"Thoroughly read the God inspired web site!"

I loved the detailed information that was acquired, by scripture and with honest history. I grew up in a Southern Baptist church and I know the flaws.

For me now and awhile I've always considered myself a Bible-believing Christian and I know Baptists are the most doctrinally Bible based. I can now again be glad to be a Baptist. Thanks again for this web site.

If possible I would like to have a Hardcopy of the Baptist Pillar. If I could get previous newsletters I would send a donation that would pay for them too....

Thank You, A.T.B.

August 21, 2001

I came across your website today and was overjoyed that a ministry like yours was in Canada! Praise God!

About 8 months ago I learned the difference between the KJV and the modern "bibles" and I couldn't believe my eyes when I found out they were NOT the same. I put away my NIV and bought a KJV and I just finished reading it from cover to cover.

Please send me your Baptist Pillar Magazine as I am hungry for solid, Bible-believing fundamental literature.

Thank you for your church, your website, your magazine and your decision to stay true to the King James Bible.

In Christ, D.B. Lethbridge, Alberta

I hope the \$20.00 Cdn covers postage. If there's a problem I can be reached at ...

Monday, Sept. 10, 2001

**GOD BLESS YOU! AND YOUR MINISTRY IN CANADA!**

K.P.

Friday, Sept. 21, 2001

Would love to have hard copy of publication. ...Let me know of any charges due.

Thanks and God Bless, T.H.

Friday, Sept. 28, 2001

Just a note of thanks for your article "Those Anabaptists" I'm working on a critique of a book written by W. P. Stephens, Zwingli An Introduction to His Thought, Oxford Press. There was a reference made to Thomas Munzer and I was unsure how he figured into Zwingli and his two rebel students Manz and Grebel. It must have been very disheartening for Zwingli when they contacted such an outright zealot.

I'm a Baptist Pastor (SBC) in ..., AZ. Now that I have found your site I'll check back from time to time.

Once again thank-you for having the information I needed. God bless and keep you all 'til we meet together at the foot of His throne.

Bro. F.E.

Saturday, Sept. 22, 2001

"Excellent Website!!!!!"

What an excellent resource! I just found your website, and I appreciate your stand on the KJV, God's word. Additionally, God has been speaking to me about the universal church, which I have subscribed to for 27 years. I heard another brother preach a message on 1 Cor. 12:13ff and it made a lot of sense to me. Your articles are opening my eyes even more. Now I'm beginning to wonder why I missed it all these years. We're never too old to learn, are we? I'm a former Roman Catholic and the background about the RC church and the universal church really resonated with me.

Anyway Brother, thanks so much for the wonderful site, and God Bless you.

Sincerely, J.R.C.,

Just a quick note to request "The Baptist Pillar." A friend of mine loaned me one and I was impressed. Keep up the good work and may the Lord bless your endeavors for Him.

Yours In Christ, B.H. Midland, WA

### Editor's Note

In *The Baptist Pillar* we use articles taken from many different publications and written by many different authors. Please realize that this does not necessarily mean we agree with the doctrinal position of the publication or the author of the article, but that the particular article presents a scriptural truth we do agree with.

If you would like to receive *The Baptist Pillar*, please write and request one. Also, feel free to copy it and hand it out.

(The Truth About Jihad continued from page 10)

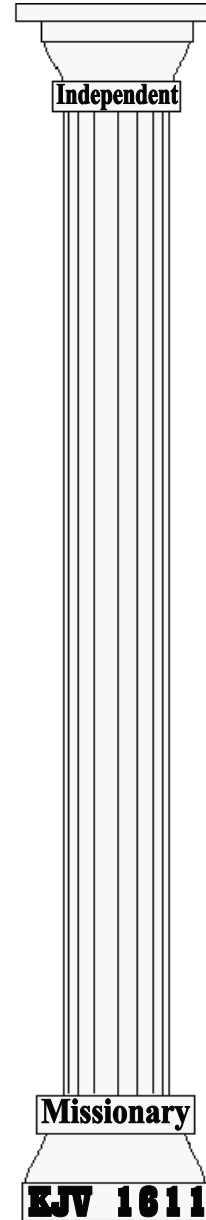
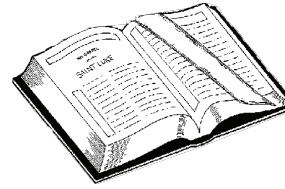
is the last stage of jihad. It is clear from this that jihad does not always mean *qital*. The whole life of a true believer is jihad." (Mu'arif al-Quran, vol. iv, p. 488)

**Sayyid Abul Ala Maudoodi**

He expressed his opinion as follows:

[i.] "In the terminology of the Shari'ah, *qital* and *jihad* were two different things. *Qital* is applied to the military venture undertaken against the armies of the enemy. *Jihad* is applied to the total effort mounted by the whole nation for the success of the objective for which the war began. During this struggle, *qital* may stop at times, and may also be suspended. But *jihad* continues till the time when that aim is achieved for which it began." (Newspaper Mashriq, Lahore, 12 October 1965)

[ii.] "Jihad means not only fighting with weapons, but is applied collectively to the whole struggle made for success in war. The field of battle is only one of the many fronts of this struggle." (Newspaper Kohistan, Lahore, 18 September 1965) □



# THE BAPTIST PILLAR

"... The church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

I Timothy 3:15



**CANADA'S ONLY TRUE BAPTIST PAPER**

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## FALSE RELIGION OF ISLAM

By Dean Robinson

(The following is a brief study on the subject of Islam. Many different sources were referred to which made this research possible. The purpose of the study was to offer a short analysis of some of the basic beliefs, ideas, and views held to by the typical Muslim.)

**INTRODUCTION:** Islam is not a religious cult in the strictest sense of the word but it is a major world religion, a false religion vastly different and opposed to Christianity. Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world with one out of every 5 people on the face of the earth being a Muslim. It is considered to be one of the four largest religions in the world, behind Christianity, Judaism, and Hinduism. It is estimated that by the year 2010, Islam will move ahead of Judaism to become the second largest religion in America. Hundreds of millions of people all over the world have embraced the Islamic faith to where entire countries are ruled and dominated by Islamic teachings, practices, and laws. Islam is a religious, social, and political force which every born-again Christian and every American should be aware of.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

It is recorded that Islam first got its start around 600 A.D. by a man named Muhammed in an area in what is known today as Saudi Arabia. This man claims to have received supernatural visions and revelations

from Allah (Islamic name for God) through the archangel Gabriel: one hundred fourteen to be exact. These visions and revelations were recorded and written down known as the Koran (Arabic term for "the recitation"), the holy book of Islam. Muhammed claimed he was the true and final prophet to restore true religion and the praise of Allah throughout the world.

In order for us to understand the basic history and beliefs of Islam, there are some religious terms that need to be defined:

1) **Islam** -- is the name of the religion which came out of the revelations and teachings of Mohammed; it is the Arabic term for "submission."

2) **Muslim** -- name given to one who adheres to, follows the religion of Islam. It means: "one who submits." A Muslim is to submit to the will of Allah as revealed by Muhammed.

Muhammed was born in Mecca in 570 A.D. After his father's death he was raised by his grandfather and an uncle. His uncle was a merchant who traveled and Muhammed accompanied him, becoming a camel driver. It has been explained that when Muhammed began to see the polytheistic, idolatrous Arab tribal society around Mecca deteriorating in his day, that he decided to withdraw to a mountain cave near Mecca and spend a month (28 days) in meditation. This hap-

(False Religion of Islam continued on page 4)

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## THE TRUTH ABOUT JIHAD

### Where did the Taliban come from?

The first devotees came from the poverty-stricken refugee camps that sprung up along the Pakistani border during the Afghan-Soviet war. The young men of these camps learned a fierce and fundamental strain of Islam through the madrassas, Islamic schools that dotted the Afghan-Pakistani border. In September 1994, Mohammad Omar, then a mullah and today the leader of the Taliban, created the militia in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar. From the start, its goal was to unite a divided and war-plagued Afghanistan under a strict and unyielding version of Sharia -- Islamic law as written in the Koran, the life of Mohammed and his followers, and Muslim scholars through the ages.

### Building an Islamic state

After seizing control, the Taliban instituted strict enforcement of Sharia, Islamic religious law. Modern conveniences such as computers, televisions, movies and radios were banned under the pretext that they diverted minds from the tenets of Islam. Any depiction of living things, including photography, paintings and sculpture was banned. Men were required to wear beards at least a fist-length below the chin. Women and girls were banned from schools and the workplace and ordered to wear burqas, a one-piece gown with a built-in mesh screen from which to see and breathe. Enforcement for breaking Taliban law is meted out by the Department for Promoting Virtue and Preventing Vice. Infractions such as improper beard lengths may merit a public beating. More serious crimes such as theft or blasphemy could result in an amputation or execution.

### Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

He was a famous Indian Muslim scholar and a leader of the Indian National Congress before independence, later becoming federal education minister in India. He writes:

"There are serious misconceptions regarding what is jihad. Many people think that jihad means only to fight. The critics of Islam too labour under this misunderstanding, whereas to think thus is to utterly narrow the practical scope of this sacred commandment. *Jihad* means to strive to the utmost. In the Quran and Sunna terminology, this utmost exertion, which is undertaken for the sake of truth rather than personal ends, is indicated by the word *jihad*. This effort could be with one's life, or property, or expenditure of time, or by bearing labour and hardship, or fighting the enemy and shedding blood." (*Mas'ala Khilafat*, p. 47)

### Late King Faisal of Saudi Arabia

(*The Truth About Jihad continued on page 10*)

## TEN WAYS TO HELP YOUR PASTOR, YOUR CHURCH, AND YOURSELF

By Ron Hood

1. Treat him with the proper respect. Treat him the same way you would a doctor, a lawyer, or a politician. A pastor's role is more important than all of these professional roles because he is God's appointed leader for you and your family. Therefore esteem him very highly in love for his work's sake (1 Thess. 5:12-13).
2. Follow your pastor as he follows Christ, 1 Cor. 11:1, Heb. 13:7. Never blindly follow anyone but always follow the man of God who is following Jesus Christ as set forth in the Word of God, Phil. 3:17-21.
3. Pray for him often (see Eph. 6:18-20; 2 Thess. 3:1-2). You know how much opposition you receive from the world, the flesh, and the devil; your pastor receives even more, therefore, pray for him!
4. Obey him as he admonishes you and teaches you the Word of God, see 1 Thess. 5:12 and Heb. 13:17. These verses teach that you should submit, obey, and follow.
5. Do not speak against or listen to any gossip or slander about your pastor, 1 Tim. 5:19 reads, "Against an elder receive not an accusation..." and Eph. 4:29 reads, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth..." and Prov. 6:16-19 teaches that God hates for us to hurt people with words. Listening to gossip and slander is just as much a sin as speaking it.
6. Support him financially so he can keep his mind on the work of the ministry (see 1 Tim. 5:17, 18 and Phil. 4:10-19). The ministry of the Word of God is twice as important as just making a living. If a man cannot properly care for his family, he will be distracted from the ministry. It costs your pastor just as much to live as it does you, and in some cases more because of the additional transportation and the way he is expected to dress.
7. Encourage your pastor. Tell him when he has helped you. Eph. 4:29 teaches that we should speak that which edifies. You minister grace to your pastor when you tell him how he has helped you. He will be a more effective, dedicated servant of God if you give him some feedback on his ministry to you (see Prov. 3:27). It will also be very encouraging if you tell your Sunday School teacher, husband, or wife, and children how they have helped or been a blessing to you.

(*Ten Ways to Help continued on page 10*)

(*Closed Communion continued from page 8*)

5:19) By denying these truths which are fundamental to the gospel of salvation by grace through faith alone, Islam has laid the groundwork for a false gospel of self-righteousness and salvation by works.

The differing concepts of sin between Christianity and Islam leads to differing views of salvation. Islam's "salvation" is based on an individual's good works outweighing their bad works. The Bible teaches that salvation is not a reward but "the gift of God" (Romans 6:23). Heaven is the eternal abode of those who have received Christ as Saviour. Islam teaches that salvation is indeed a reward for a life of relative piety and righteousness. The Koran states: "Then those whose scales are heavy, they are successful. And those whose scales are light are those who lose their souls."

It is taught that a Muslim cannot be assured of attaining Paradise (Koran's concept of Heaven) unless he dies in a "jihad" (holy war). Then he goes immediately to paradise, which explains why Muslims are willing to die in terrorist acts. Note this quote from the Koran: "And they who have suffered in my cause and have fought and fallen, I will blot out their sins from them, and I will bring them into gardens beneath which the streams do flow."

One writer wrote describing a Muslim's concept of paradise as a type of desert oasis "where they will recline on soft couches, drinking cups of wine handed to them by maidens of paradise, of whom each man may marry as many as he pleases."

### FIVE PILLARS OF THE FAITH

Every Muslim who hopes to escape the judgment of Allah, must fulfill his religious duties which are the works of the "Five Pillars of the Faith":

**1. Recite the Muslim creed** -- "There is no God but Allah and Muhammed is his prophet." To say the creed with conviction and sincerity makes one a Muslim.

**2. Pray 5 prescribed prayers a day toward the holy city of Mecca.**

**3. Give alms to the poor.** Muslims are required to give one-fortieth of their income as charitable contributions.

**4. Fast during the entire month of Ramadan** (9th month in the Muslim's lunar calendar). This is when the Muslims are supposed to fast for 28 days from all food and drink from sunrise to sunset in atonement for their own sins over the previous year. In actuality, what this involves is sleeping all during the day and eating all night.

**5. Make a pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca at least once in a lifetime.** For those unable to physically go, they can hire a substitute to go in their place.

### CONCLUSION

According to the Bible, Allah is not God, Muhammed is not his prophet, and the Koran is not the Word of God. Islam is a false religion and utterly without power to

save from sin because it doesn't recognize Jesus Christ as the Saviour. No person, no matter how religious or how sincere he may be, can possess truth or salvation apart from the Lord Jesus Christ. The person and work of Christ is the crucial divider between Christianity and Islam. Christ's atoning death is the perfect and only sacrifice which God will accept in behalf of sinners.

Our message to Muslims is that they, like all men, are hopelessly lost. All are naturally at enmity with God. There is no good in us that can merit God's favor and there is no good we can do to endear ourselves to Him. Being utterly lost and completely unable to save ourselves, God did all that was required to reconcile men to Himself by sending His only begotten Son. Christ bore our sin, died on the Cross as our Substitute, shedding His precious blood as a complete, all-sufficient, perfect sacrifice for sin, and He arose again bodily from the dead. Repenting of one's sins and believing on Christ, trusting Him for salvation, is all that is necessary to be saved.

Islam claims to be a religion of peace and tolerance when in fact it is characterized by violence and religious bigotry. It is the Christian's duty to diligently witness to, not dialogue with the Muslims. We must stand for the true Gospel and against all other false gospels. Islam has rejected the essential teachings of the Word of God. The so-called prophet Muhammed brought an erroneous message from a false spirit that is totally opposed to the Gospel of God's grace. The message of Islam is a curse, not a blessing. "There is only one true religion. It was prophesied in the Garden of Eden, typified in the days of Noah, confirmed to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and realized in the Person and work of Jesus Christ."

There is no doubt that Muslims have a definite zeal for their god. They desire to follow Allah and express their worship of Allah through their lives. But the fact remains, Muslims need Christ and His saving Gospel which is still the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth. They need not only to hear and believe this life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ, but they also need to see it demonstrated in the lives of believers to serve as an example of what the Lord can do with a life that is totally and truly surrendered and submitted unto Him. Islam offers this world two choices: the Koran (conversion) or the sword (death). Bible-believing Christians have only one choice to offer the world: the Cross and empty tomb of Jesus Christ.

In this age of ecumenicalism and tolerance, many people would like to emphasize the resemblances and similarities between Islam and Christianity. While the two religions may share many historical persons and events in common, there is still an unbridgeable gap between them. "There is no possible compromise between biblical Christianity and Islam and none should be sought."

□

## WE WILL SURVIVE

It happened here, who would have guessed,  
This nation so supreme;  
It happened here, on our fair land,  
And we cannot escape the scene.

The buildings great, came down to earth,  
The cost of lives was high;  
The smoke of terror quickly rose  
And hid our peaceful sky.

No man can number the tears that fell  
From loved ones' eyes that day;  
The hearts that cried, as thousands died,  
Mommys & Daddys were taken away.

Will we survive?... You know we will  
We stumble, but we do not fall,  
For we are still America...  
...The greatest land of all!

We did not come to be, you see  
(This land where heroes trod)  
By man's design, or mortal strength,  
We are ONE NATION UNDER GOD!!

*written by Pastor Maury Gibson  
Harvest Baptist Temple, Mackinaw, IL*

*(Ten Ways to Help continued from page 2)*

- Praise doesn't cost – it pays great dividends – in the home, in the church, in the school, and on the job.
8. Be patient and understanding with your pastor, your mate, and your children. Do not expect your pastor or his family to be perfect, they are human. John 1:5, and James 5:17 teach that a man of God has the same human weaknesses and temptations that we all face.
  9. Stay busy serving the Lord. this will bless your life and be a tremendous encouragement to your pastor. You have a spiritual gift, so use it. John 13:17 teaches, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." Happiness doesn't come from knowing what is right, happiness comes from doing what is right. Therefore, serve the Lord.
  10. Be a blessing to your pastor, your family, and all who know you by being a soul winner. People all around us are lost in sin, dying and going to hell. Do all in your power to win them to Jesus Christ. Tell them what Christ has done for you and what He can do for them. Reflect on what your salvation means to you and then realize that those who are lost in sin need the same joy, peace, assurance, and hope that you have. ☐

*(The Truth About Jihad continued from page 2)*

This internationally famous figure declared:

"Honoured brethren! You all have been called to raise the banner of jihad in the way of God. Jihad is not just taking up the gun or raising the sword. Jihad is to invite to the Book of God and the Example of the Prophet, to hold fast to them, and to stick to them despite difficulties, distresses and afflictions of all kinds." (Umm al-Qura, Makka, 24 April 1965)

### Ghulam Ahmad Pervez

In his commentary of the Quran, this religious thinker of Lahore writes:

"Jihad means labour and struggle. The Quran has made its true meaning clear by using the word *qu'ood* (sitting) to mean the opposite: 'Those who sit back from among the Muslims'...Hence it means action..."

"The jihad of the true believer includes the smallest action, going up to the highest deed of sacrifice. The last stage of this exertion is that where man risks his precious life to join the battle against falsehood." (Mu`arif al-Quran, vol. iv, p. 481)

This theologian who compiled the well-known Sirat an-Nabi (Life of the Holy Prophet) by Shibli, wrote:

"Jihad is generally taken to mean *qital* and fighting, but this limitation of significance is entirely wrong...It means striving and effort. Its technical meaning is also close to this, i.e. to undertake all kinds of struggle and exertion for the supremacy, propagation and defence of the truth, to make sacrifices, to employ in the way of God all the physical, material and mental resources which He has given to His servants, so much so as to sacrifice one's own life and that of one's family and nation. To oppose the efforts of the opponents of truth, to foil their plans, to counter their attacks, and to be ready to fight them in the field of battle is also jihad. Regrettably, our opponents have reduced the scope of this important and broad significance, without which no movement in the world has or can succeed, to merely war with the enemies of the faith. It is necessary here to dispel the misconception, namely, that most people think that *jihad* and *qital* are synonymous. This is not so...One is general and the other is particular, i.e. every jihad is not *qital*, but among the various kinds of jihad one is *qital* or fighting the enemy." (Sirat an-Nabi, vol. v., pp. 199--201)

### Ghulam Ahmad Pervez:

"*Qital* is also included in jihad. One can say that it

*(The Truth About Jihad continued on page 12)*

## THE BIBLE, THE BAPTISTS, AND THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

by Dr. Thomas Cassidy, Pastor First Baptist Church  
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One of the most controversial subjects being discussed in independent Baptist churches today is the identity of the Bride of Christ. Unfortunately, more confusion exists as to the meaning of the term, than as to the identity of the Bride. Much of the controversy surrounding the identity of the Bride is centered on our understanding of Revelation 19:7-9. "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed [are] they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."

There are many differing opinions as to the true identity of the Bride of Christ. Some say the Bride is Israel, which will be reunited with its Messiah during the Millennium. The Old Testament does portray Israel as the "wife" of the LORD, but describes her as unfaithful, divorced, and rejected. Israel will be reunited with her estranged Husband at the time of the second coming, but according to Zechariah 12:10 and 13:9 that reunion will take place on earth, not in heaven as the events of Revelation 19 obviously do. Some say the Bride is all the redeemed from all ages (John Gill's note on Matthew 22:2 in his New Testament Expositor is a good example of this view). This cannot be true because, (a) Everyone that will be saved is not yet saved at this time (tribulation saints, and those born and saved during the Millennium), (b) John the Baptist was definitely saved, but said he was not part of "the Bride" (John 3:29).

And some say the Bride is "The Church", meaning the universal, invisible, mystical body of Christ made up of all of the redeemed from the time of Christ until the rapture. This is by far the most prevalent view held today by most Baptists. Those who hold this view generally interpret Ephesians 5:23-33 and 2 Corinthians 11:2 to mean the "universal" church rather than the local church, to whom the letters were addressed. The problem with this position is Eph. 4:4&5, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism..." It is obvious here that the Bible clearly teaches there is only

one body. This passage does not indicate a numerical singleness, but a typical singleness. By this I mean there is only one type of true New Testament church (called the body in Col. 1:18). We must now ask ourselves a question. Which type of church is the true New Testament church? Is it the "universal, invisible" church of liberal ecumenical protestantism, or the local, visible church of the Independent Baptists?

There are three positions that prevail today. (1) The true church is local, and visible. (2) The true church is universal and invisible. (3) The true church is both local and universal, both visible and invisible. The first position is both logical and Biblical, having over 99 verses of Scriptural support. The Second position is logical, but without any Scriptural support. The third position assumes the Bible is wrong, not one (type of) body, but two (types of) body, which of course means, if the Bible is wrong, God is a liar!

So, what is the answer. Does the Bible specifically say, one way or the other, what the identity of the Bride of Christ really is? I believe it does, and does so most emphatically.

I believe much of this confusion is based on two unfortunate facts. 1. A misunderstanding of the identity of the true New Testament church. 2. A misunderstanding of what is meant by the term "Bride of Christ." If we can clarify these two areas of confusion, we can make much progress in identifying the Bride of Christ.

The word "church" is used seventy-seven times in the New Testament. The word "churches" is used thirty-seven times. Of these 114 references to "church" or "churches," by reading the context, you can see that 99 references are to local churches. One reference is to the assembly of the Nation of Israel in the wilderness, and the remaining 14 are references to the "church" generically, that is, no church specifically, all churches in general.

In referring to the true New Testament church, the Bible uses three metaphors: The Body of Christ (Colossians 1:18, 24), The Bride of Christ (John 3:29; Rev. 18:23; 22:17 cf. Eph. 5:31-32; 2 Cor 11:2), and The Building of Christ (1 Cor 3:9; Eph. 2:21). I fear that many (if not most) who call themselves Baptists, misunderstand one, two, or occasionally all three of these metaphors. Most Independent, Unaffiliated Baptists realize the church of the New Testament is Local, Visible, Organized (having officers: Pastors and Deacons), and duly Constituted (having been properly planted, exercising church authority, and having a membership roll). However, when we see the metaphors: Body, Bride, and Building; we often revert to the "universal, invisible, mystical" thought patterns of protestant teaching.

*(The Bible, The Baptist and The Bride continued on page 7)*

(False Religion of Islam continued from page 1)

pened to be the month of Ramadan, the ninth month in Islam's lunar calendar. During this time he claims Allah, through the angel Gabriel, first spoke to him and this is when Islam had its start. Muhammed continued to have visions and revelations and began to claim he was restoring the true religion of Abraham, Moses, Jesus, etc. which had been corrupted. These visions and revelations were later recorded as the **Koran**. The Koran records Abraham as saying: "*This am I commanded, and I am the first of the Muslims.*"

After conflicts for several years within his own country and people, Muhammed was able to convince many of his fellow Arabs that Allah was the only true god. Sources today indicate that Allah was in fact one of the 360 idol-gods worshiped by the Arab tribes. Allah was originally a mood god to the Arabs. Muhammed's proclaiming of Allah as the only god caused so much opposition in Mecca that he and his followers in 622 A.D. had to flee 250 miles to what is known as Medina. It was here that Muhammed became the political and religious leader in Medina and the town became the center for expansion of Islam. Muhammed eventually gained enough followers that he conquered Mecca in 630 A.D. He destroyed all the idols in the town and declared it a **mosque** (Arabic word for "temple"). In the next few years after this Muhammed's followers spread Islam over Palestine and Syria. Over the period of years, Muhammed married 15 wives. He said he did so for political reasons and because so many Muslim women were left without husbands who had been killed in battles of war.

When Muhammed died, he left no male heir to take over and so Islam splintered into different groups. The biggest group is the **Sunnite** sect which claim to recognize and follow the teachings of the immediate successors of Muhammed. They practice a moderate form of Islamic interpretation of the Koran. Over 90% of the Muslims in the Mideast, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Libya are of this group.

The next biggest group is the **Shi'ite** sect who claim to be the rightful line of succession to Muhammed. This group is much more literal in its interpretation and application of the Koran and is much more militant and fanatical. About 93% of Muslims in Iran are of this group.

Muhammed died in 632 A.D. and was buried in Medina. This is a known historical fact but Muslim tradition tells a different story. They claim that he went to Jerusalem on a white horse and ascended to heaven from a rock that is now enclosed in the **Dome of the Rock** (*Mosque of Omar*) on Mt. Moriah. This is why Jerusalem is considered a holy place for Muslims.

#### THE KORAN AND ITS TEACHINGS

It is traditionally taught that there is no ceremony, no ritual involved in a person who wants to become a Mus-

lim. All one has to do is to believe and say: "**There is no god but Allah and Muhammed is his prophet.**" After saying this, the person is obligated to do all the duties of Islam. One must remember that the word "Muslim" means: *one who submits*. Islam basically offers the world two choices: the Koran (conversion) or the sword (death). According to the teaching of the Koran, conversion to Islam can either be by persuasion or force. We must understand that the spread of Islam through the centuries has been carried out largely on the battlefield. Islam has been advanced by the widespread use of war, torture, and force of arms. Islam has swept over the world slaughtering Jews and Christians alike. Islam is a fighting religion. Conquest is a religious duty in Islam. The Koran urges Muslims to take up arms against the "infidel" (anyone who is not a Muslim). The Koran specifically says: "When ye encounter unbelievers, strike off their heads until ye have made a great slaughter among them, and bind them in bonds." In another place it says: "those who fight against you, kill them wherever ye shall find them ...You Allah are our protector. Give us victory therefore over the infidel nations." "**Kill thine enemy**" is the practical teaching of Islam.

The Koran is the final authority in Islam. It is the recordings of all the visions and revelations that Muhammed supposedly received directly from Allah. There were 114 in total. These revelations in the Koran are believed by Muslims to have come to Muhammed over a period of 23 years. The Koran is divided into 114 "sura's" or chapters and contains many quotations and references to the Bible. Quoting from one source: "The Koran offers a religion that relies upon methods of violence and force -- a doctrine of holy wars that brings inducements to political revolution and assassinations which have produced wars and tragedies unimaginable. The Koran offers a theology that is distinctly anti-Christ, claiming a method of salvation based entirely upon works."

Islam claims to revere the writings of all the supposed great prophets of the world yet the Muslims definitely exalt and honor the "prophecy" of Muhammed (i.e. the Koran) above the Scriptures and any other religious writings. Muslims believe that Muhammed is the prophet who fully revealed the final truth and they will not compromise that belief. A leaflet prepared by the *Institute of Islamic Information and Education* states: "Muhammed is the very last Prophet of God to mankind. He is the final Messenger of God. His message was and is still to the Christians, the Jews, and the rest of mankind. He was sent to those religious people to inform them about the true mission of Jesus, Moses, David, Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham." The leaflet continues: "Muhammed is considered to be the summation and the culmination of all the prophets and messengers that came before him. He purified the previous messages

(The Bible, The Baptist and The Bride continued from page 7)

true obedience to His Word, by being faithful to His true New Testament church, and all that church membership entails.

The second passage that we must look closely at is Hebrews chapter 12:22-24. "But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than [that of] Abel." Here we see a prophecy of our coming into heaven and seeing all that is in store for us there. We see first of all (1) an innumerable company of angels, (2) the general assembly, (3) the church of the first born, (4) God the Judge, and (5) the spirits of just men made perfect, (6) Jesus the mediator, and (7) the blood of sprinkling.

Number 1, the angels, is self explanatory.

Number 2, the general assembly, is an interesting group. In the time of Christ the Greek nation was divided into many independent City-States. Each City-State had its own Assembly, or governing body, that made all of the laws for that City-State, and functioned as a general court of last appeal. We see this City-State Assembly illustrated in Acts 19:28-41. However, all of the people living in the Greek nation at that time did not live in one of the organized City-States, some lived in the rural areas, not under the governing authority of any of the City-States. These un-represented people (not part of any particular assembly) would meet together once a year in a great General Assembly and conduct the business of the rural areas of the nation. The Bible says there will be a General Assembly in heaven, that is, a group of people who are not represented by, or under the authority of, any of the organized specific assemblies. The Bible clearly identifies the specific Assembly as the local New Testament church (see Scripture quotations from above paragraphs). This heavenly "General Assembly" are clearly those folks from the gospel era who were saved, but were never baptized into the membership of, and faithful to, any of the Lord's specific assemblies, the New Testament churches.

Number 3, the Church of the First Born, is that group of saved, baptized people who were members of, and faithful to, the Lord's (the First Born, Col. 1:18) true New Testament churches.

Number 4, God the Judge is also self explanatory.

Number 5, the spirits of just men made perfect, is a reference to the Old Testament saints according to Hebrews 11:32-40.

The rest, 6 & 7, are also self explanatory.

So then, we see there will be a gathering in heaven of three distinct groups of redeemed people, (a) the General Assembly (those saved during the Gospel era, but not members of, or under the authority of, any Special

Assembly), (b) the Church (Special Assembly) of the First Born, and (c) the spirits of just men made perfect (Old Testament Saints). These three groups will be (a) General Assembly: the friends of the Groom (John 3:29), (b) the church: the Bride (Eph. 5:31), (c), Old Testament Saints: the honored Guests (Rev. 19:9). We see, therefore, that the Bride of Christ is not all of the redeemed, nor even all of the saved from the Gospel Era (Church Age), but only those faithful members of true New Testament churches.

WAIT A MINUTE!!! It sounds to me like the writer of this article is a "Baptist Brider." That depends on what you think a "Baptist Brider" is.

If the average Christian is asked for a definition of the "Baptist Bride" position, he would be hard pressed to give an intelligible answer. Some would say the "Baptist Bride" position means "Only Baptists are going to Heaven." Others would say, "Only Baptists will be raptured." Others would say only, "I don't know." If the Baptist Bride position means only Baptists are going to heaven, then I'm not a Baptist Brider. If the Baptist Bride position means only Baptists will be raptured (partial rapture theory), then I'm not a Baptist Brider (nowhere does the Bible ever teach the "rapture of the Church", but it does teach the rapture of the saints, all of them: Old Testament saints, New Testament saints, church members, and non-church members, all will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air). But if you believe the Baptist Bride position means the Bride of Christ will be made up of those who have been faithful to the true New Testament church of Jesus Christ, then, yep, I'm a Baptist Brider! I have to be. You see, I believe the Bible - all of it! The Bible says the Bride is the Church. It also says the Church is local and visible. If you have a local, visible church, then you must also have a local visible Bride, for the Bible teaches they are one and the same thing. If you have a universal Bride, you must also have a universal church, for they are still one and the same thing!

Why is all of this so important? If we win souls, but do not make every effort possible to baptize them into local New Testament Baptist churches, and teach them to be faithful to the local New Testament church, we cheat those precious souls out their full reward (2 John 1:8). A proper understanding of the true New Testament church is absolutely necessary in order for our church members to realize it is their faithfulness to their local church that will enable them to be called out of the family of God and placed into the Bride of Christ following the judgment seat of Christ, at the Marriage feast of the Lamb, and receive their full reward. Every pastor must be made to understand that his job is to: Pray, Prepare, Preach, Protect, Preserve, and Perfect the Flock. The pastor's final task will be to Present the church, the Bride of Christ, faultless, a chaste virgin, to the Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ, at the Marriage Feast of the Lamb. Think about it. □

(False Religion of Islam continued from page 5)

Islam has even gone as far as to actually deny that Jesus Christ was ever crucified. In the booklet "Christian Muslim Dialogue," it says on page 3: "The reader will be surprised to learn that in the Bible Jesus did not die on the cross." Muslims teach that Jesus Christ did not atone for anyone's sins, although He was Himself sinless. Various Muslim traditions say that Jesus Christ either miraculously substituted Judas Iscariot for Himself on the cross, or that Allah miraculously delivered Him from the hands of the Romans and Jews before He could be crucified. Most Muslims believe that Jesus Christ was taken bodily into heaven without having died. Koran says: "they slew him not nor crucified him, but it appeared so unto them...they slew him not for certain, but Allah took him up unto himself."

To deny Jesus Christ's crucifixion is to deny His resurrection. Muslims believe in a resurrection, but not the resurrection of the crucified Lord Jesus Christ. So here we see that Islam denies the basic, essential message of the Bible: the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In doing so, it has taken away the Saviour and has rejected God's saving grace. Islam says it has a high regard for Jesus as a prophet of Allah but no amount of respect for Jesus as a prophet can be acceptable to God when the Person and work of Jesus Christ are outright denied.

#### WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ was indeed God manifest in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16). John 1:1 and 14 says God dwelt as a Man among men. The Lord said to the religious people of His day who rejected His deity: "if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ was crucified and His crucifixion and resurrection are the basic message of the Bible. About one-third of the words of the first 4 books in the New Testament are given to eye-witness accounts of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The basic essential message of the Bible is the gospel of Jesus Christ, His death on the Cross for sinners, His burial, and His glorious resurrection from the dead.

The Bible teaches that from birth man is a sinner and cannot help or save himself. He must have a substitute to atone for him and the only substitute God will accept is Jesus Christ and His death on the Cross. The death of Christ is the only means of salvation. It is the only means of reconciliation to God. Without the crucifixion, God's Word makes it clear there can be no forgiveness of sin and no eternal life. If Jesus Christ did not die on the Cross and rise from the dead, there is no salvation from sin.

Islam unashamedly rejects these basic truths which comprise the gospel. While many people try to argue that Christians and Muslims worship the same God, 2 John

verse 7 and 9 say otherwise: "*For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. . . Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*"

Denying the doctrine of Christ reveals Islam as a deception and an antichrist religion. The Koran has substituted false doctrines which present another gospel. No matter how intellectual, civilized, or scientific Islam is made to appear, it is still a religion which embraces and proclaims a false gospel and the Bible declares it and those who believe it to be accursed. "*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*" (Galatians 1:6-8)

#### FALSE CONCEPT OF SIN AND SALVATION

For a true Muslim, the Koran is the "word of Allah," and is to be believed and practiced literally. Apart from being a Muslim, there is no hope for a person according to the Koran. The Koran says: "Whoso desires any other religion than Islam, that religion shall never be accepted from him, and in the next world he shall be among the lost." Another quote: "The true religion with God is Islam." These two quotes simply signify that there can be no compromise, concession, or agreement between true Christianity and orthodox Islam.

Biblical Christianity and Islam teach a different concept of sin and salvation. Islam believes mankind is born pure, without sin. From the tract entitled "Introducing Islam to Non-Muslims," it is explained: "Muslims believe that people are born free of sin. It is only after they reach the age of puberty and it is only after they commit sins that they are to be charged for their mistakes. No one is responsible for or can take the responsibility for the sins of others." What this does is to deny the Biblical teaching that all mankind sinned in Adam, i.e. Adam's sin has been imputed to the whole human race: "*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*" (Romans 5:12). Second, this is a denial of the Biblical teaching that the sin of man is imputed to Christ, i.e. Christ became sin for us on Calvary's cross: "*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*" (2 Corinthians 5:21) Third, this is a denial of the Biblical teaching that the righteousness of God is imputed to men upon believing, i.e. believers possess the righteousness of God: "*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*" (Romans

(False Religion of Islam continued on page 11)

from adulteration and completed the Message of God for all humanity. He was entrusted with the power of explaining, interpreting, and living the teachings of the Koran." **Muslims believe that all mankind must be brought into subjection to the teachings of the Koran in order to experience peace and blessing.**

In the Koran, Islam is more than a religion; it is a complete way of life that includes political, economic, social as well as religious conduct. All Islam claims to follow the Koran but there are a multitude of interpretations and applications of it among Muslims.

At first glance to the general public, Islamic belief appears to be almost compatible with Christianity. Often people claim that the Muslims believe in the same God as Christians with the exception that they do not accept Jesus Christ. It is often said that Christians, Jews, and Muslims are worshiping the same God but in different ways. Muslims have capitalized on this misconception and now urge Christians and Jews to worship the one God (Allah) with them, and work together for solutions to the world's many social problems.

Based on the Koran, Muslims believe in one god (Allah but not the Trinity); they believe in God as the Creator and Jesus as a prophet (but not as Saviour); they believe in the resurrection of all (including animals), final judgment, and eternal punishment. They believe in all of these things but not according to the Bible's definition of these things. When you carefully study the Bible and compare it with the teachings of the Koran, it becomes obvious that the god of Islam is not the God of the Bible. Islam rejects the biblical doctrines of the Trinity and the Deity of Christ, among other things.

#### What Muslims Believe About God

For the Muslim, Allah is the only true God. The Muslim concept of Allah is not what God reveals Himself to be in the Bible. To say that God and Allah are two names for the same being reveals a lack of understanding of the Bible or the Koran or both. The Muslims teach there is no such thing as the "blasphemous" doctrine of the Trinity, i.e. the Godhead is One but exists in three Persons. Christians are referred to as unbelievers, infidels by the Muslims because they believe in the Trinity. In a booklet entitled "*Christian Muslim Dialogue*" on page 16, it states: "The Trinity is not biblical. The word 'trinity' is not even in the Bible or Bible dictionaries; it was never taught by Jesus and was never mentioned by him. There is no basis or proof in the Bible whatsoever for the acceptance of the Trinity." The Koran states that Christians worship 3 gods: God, Jesus, and Mary. It denies that there is a Trinity in the Godhead. It also says that those who say that God is a Trinity are to be severely punished: "Surely they are disbelievers those who said Allah is one of the 3 in a trinity. But there is none who has the right to be worshipped but one God (Allah). And if they cease not from what they say, verily a painful torment will befall the disbelievers among them."

The Muslim god is unapproachable by sinful man; he is so perfect and holy he can only communicate with mankind through a progression of angels and prophets. The Muslim god is a god of judgment, not grace; a god of wrath rather than love. Muslims have no concept of God as a loving and compassionate Father. Muslims never do refer to God as "Father;" they explain He would have to have a wife and children to be called such a name. This means, of course, that Muslims deny the deity of Christ. The Koran states: "It is not meet for Allah, the he should have any son. Allah forbid." Another quote plainly says: "God has no Son."

#### What Muslims Believe About Jesus Christ

To the Muslim, Jesus Christ is just one of many prophets of Allah. He is not the eternal Son of God or God Himself. Jesus Christ was a prophet for His people in His day. The Koran says: "Jesus is not more than a servant whom we favored, and proposed as an instance of divine power to the children of Israel." Muhammed, say the Muslims, is Allah's last and greatest prophet and all should heed him, superseding Jesus and all other prophets.

From the booklet "Christian Muslim Dialogue," it says on page 3: "The reader will be surprised to learn that in the Bible Jesus never claimed to be God." Islam sees Jesus Christ as a prophet of God who otherwise is no different from other men. The Koran says: "Jesus was no more than a mortal whom Allah favored and made an example to the Israelites." According to the Koran, the main significance of Jesus is that He prophesied the coming of Muhammed. All Muslim commentators teach that Jesus' promise of the coming of the Comforter in John 16:7 is a prophecy that Muhammed would come.

According to the Koran, anyone who says "God is the Messiah, Mary's Son, God shall prohibit him entrance into Paradise and his refuge shall be the fire. They are unbelievers who say God is the Third of Three." Another quote: "Kill those who join other gods with God (Allah) wherever ye shall find them; and seize them, besiege them, and lay wait for them with every kind of ambush."

In reference to Jesus Christ, the Koran states: "The Messiah, Son of Mary, is but an apostle; other apostles have flourished before him. And his mother was a just person, they both ate food." In other words, Jesus was just a human; God does not eat food, argue the Muslims. Another quote: "God has no wife, therefore he can have no son."

In a pamphlet entitled "*Prophethood in Islam*" it states: "The Koranic account of Jesus emphatically rejects the concept of his divinity and divine sonship." In a tract called "Is Jesus Really God," written by the Institute of Islamic Information and Education, it states that Islam totally rejects the Biblical teaching that Jesus is God manifest in the flesh.

(False Religion of Islam continued on page 8)

# News

**NYTimes:** Islamabad, Pakistan—Blasphemy is a capital crime in this volatile Islamic nation, so Dr. Younus Shaikh, while teaching at a medical college, might have wisely avoided any discussion of the personal hygiene of the holy Prophet Muhammad.

But the topic came up during a morning physiology class. And the doctor talked briefly about seventh-century Arabia and its practices regarding circumcision and the removal of underarm hair.

Some students found his remarks deeply offensive. "Only out of respect, because he was our teacher, did we not beat him to death on the spot," said Syed Bilal, 17.

Instead, they informed a group of powerful mullahs, who in turn filed a criminal complaint. Lest the matter be treated with insufficient urgency, these clerics dispatched a mob to the medical school and the police station, threatening to burn them down.

Precisely what Dr. Shaikh said in class last October is now a matter of mortal dispute, but he has been jailed ever since, awaiting trial and pondering the noose. Defending himself presents a conundrum, What can he safely say?

Pakistan, a nearly bankrupt nation with 140 million people, a military government and an expanding nuclear arsenal, is drifting toward religious extremism. Blasphemy cases are its version of the Salem witch trials, with clerics sniffing out infidels, and enemies using the law to settle personal scores.

Accurate crime statistics are a low priority here, but the number of those imprisoned on blasphemy charges is estimated in the hundreds. Only the most sensational cases get much notice: when vigilantes murder the accused, or the bold judge who set him free. When a man is condemned to die if a few pages in the Koran are torn. When a newspaper is shut down after publishing a sacrilegious letter.

Dr. Shaikh is charged under Provision 295-C of the law: the use of derogatory remarks about the holy prophet Muhammad. Whether such an offense is intentional or not, the mandatory punishment is death.

## WHY IS THE MOST GENEROUS NATION IN THE WORLD ALSO THE MOST HATED NATION IN THE WORLD?

United States citizens are the most generous people on earth as they share some of their wealth and labor all over the world with needy people they don't know or never expect to meet. They just know that other human beings are out there needing some help and encouragement.

United States citizens sponsor world-wide church mis-

sonary and charitable organizations that build and staff hospitals and clinics, build and staff schools and training facilities, send volunteer work teams with materials to build or repair homes, and provide food and medicines to many poor countries. The United States government lends or donates billions of dollars for foreign aid.

### SO WHY DO SO MANY COUNTRIES HATE US?

Much of our government foreign aid money to many countries hurts their people instead of helping them. It goes for armaments and private armies to empower dictators friendly to powerful U.S. corporations and for extravagantly luxurious life styles. This undercuts the people's ability to overthrow unpopular regimes.

Our munitions corporations make the U.S.A. the world's largest seller of war materials as they jealously try to restrict munitions makers in other countries from competing against them in the world-wide war materiel market. World-wide peace would greatly curtail profits of the animosity-seeking munition makers.

The U.S.A. is accused of bullying smaller nations whose belligerent actions don't meet with our approval.

Moslems fanatically resent any unMoslem influences or unbelievers on their sacred soil. Arab nations do not have a "melting pot" philosophy as is expected in the U.S.A.

Many foreigners are jealously angry that U.S. citizens have so much worldly goods and that they have so little.

People are good all around the world. Bad leaders and harmful culture customs can brainwash and provoke good people to behave badly. ☐

If you don't stand for something,  
you'll fall for anything.



Deal with the faults of others as your own.

## Notice:

**The Baptist Pillar** would like to apologize for this late edition of our paper. Due to the Sept. 11th attack on the U.S., the editor being in Europe at this time and the delay in returning to Canada *The Baptist Pillar* is later than usual and as a result this edition will be for the months of October, November and December. We will continue with the regular editions in January 2002.

**Pastor John Reaves, Editor**

*(The Bible, The Baptist and The Bride continued from page 3)*

When we see the term "Body of Christ", we often forget this term is a metaphor used to illustrate truth concerning the true New Testament church. The term "Body" when referring to the church is never used in a mystical fashion, but is used simply as an identifier. Here at First Baptist Church, we have a day school ministry called Spring Valley Baptist Academy. Our Academy has a "student body", this body is not mystical, or universal, or invisible, but merely identifies our students as a group of young people belonging to Spring Valley Baptist Academy. The "Body" of Christ is said to be "fitly joined together" in Eph 4:16. That word "joined" is the same root word we use for "joint", as in the "elbow joint", the "knee joint", and so forth, indicating our body is all one piece, joined together in one place, visible, and organized (the arm bones are connected at the elbow, if one arm bone and one leg bone were joined at the elbow, we would not be very well organized!), and the "Body of Christ" is joined together, in a local, visible, organized body. In like manner, "the Body of Christ" is a metaphor of identity, a group of people, joined together, belonging to Jesus Christ! There is nothing mystical about it. The term "Body of Christ" is simply a way to illustrate the relationship between Jesus Christ and His local, New Testament churches. The "Body" metaphor illustrates the church's service to the Lord. That service is Pastoral (caring for established churches), and Missionary (establishing new churches). Every person in a true New Testament church ought to be involved in one of these areas of service. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for the people in the church. The Sunday School teachers help teach the people in the church. The nursery workers help greatly in assisting the Pastor by providing safe and loving care for infants and toddlers during the services. The members of the church assist the Pastor, and the Missionaries, by the regular giving of their tithes and offerings. The term "Body of Christ" illustrates the relationship of Christ to His church in the area of service.

Likewise the metaphor "Building" is simply a reference to that which Christ has built, namely His true New Testament church (Matt, 16:18). In Eph. 2:21, the "Building" is said to be "fitly framed together." Together means "all in one place", or local, and if local, then also visible, and organized (not a pile of wood, but a framed together building). The term "Building" refers to the relationship between Christ and His church in the area of His guarding, keeping, and protecting the church. As a building is a place of shelter and safety during a storm, so also is the true New Testament church a place where we will be kept safe and sheltered from the storms of daily life, and be protected from the onslaughts of the world, the flesh, and the devil. The "Building" or Temple of God also speaks of our worship of Him as a "Royal Priesthood," offering Spiritual Sacrifices to Him who is our keeper and protector. Now we come to the

"Bride." Each true New Testament church is pictured as a bride, with Christ as the Bridegroom. This metaphor is used to illustrate the love relationship of Christ for His churches, and the obligation for the Lord's churches to be faithful, in contrast to the false churches that are pictured as a harlot in Revelation chapter 17. "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:" This false church is (a) unfaithful [a great whore] (b) condemned [under judgment] (c) universal [sitteth upon many waters]. This chapter goes on to say, "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication," which identifies this false church as a state church ("with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication"), formalistic ("And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:"), and persecutes the true New Testament church of Jesus Christ ("And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration."). So we see that the term "Bride" refers to the relationship of Christ to His churches in the area of purity (separation), and possession (the Bride belongs to the Bridegroom), in contrast to the false, unfaithful "church" called a "harlot".

There are two passages of Scripture to search in order to properly identify the Bride. In Genesis chapter 24 we see a beautiful picture of the Bride. Abraham (type of God the Father), sends his servant (type of the Holy Spirit), into a far country to call out a bride for his son Isaac (type of the Lord Jesus Christ). In reading this passage there are some very important things to notice. (1) The servant (the type of the Holy Spirit) was sent (in verse 4) "unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac." The servant was sent only to the country (kingdom) of the Father, to call out a wife only from the kindred (family) of the Father. In the New Testament the Kingdom of God is clearly identified as consisting of all of the redeemed (Matt 8:11; Luke 13:28-29), and the family of God (Eph. 3:15) is identified as also including all of the redeemed. It is from this kingdom, and from this family, that the servant is instructed to call out a bride for the son. The bride is to come out of the kingdom of the father, and out of the family of the father. You will notice that Isaac did not marry the whole family, but only one part of the family, Rebekah (the one who was faithful in doing all that the servant asked of her). All of the redeemed will not be part of the Bride, but only those members of the family of God who have proved their love for the Lord through

*(The Bible, The Baptist and The Bride continued on page 9)*