

What is happening in Israel and why?

Terrorist Attacks from a Biblical Perspective

We all know and have seen pictures and videos of the ghastly human atrocities happening in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank.

At 6:35AM on October 7, Israeli time, the first air raid sirens sounded in southern and central Israel to warn that rockets were being launched from Gaza, in an attempt to overrun the famous Iron Dome defense system, while militants on motorized paragliders landed near a Music Festival where 3000-5000 partiers were celebrating: 260 people killed at will and many others kidnapped.

What unfolded on the news was the attempt at another holocaust. Elderly people executed at bus stops, IDF soldiers captured and killed, their bodies mutilated, military leaders abducted, people slain in their cars, children shot in their car seats — all on the sabbath. Women ravaged and killed; children brutalized, allegedly beheaded or burned alive. And 29 Americans are reported dead.

It is one of the worst atrocities in recent history. Hard to watch the godless inhumane treatment of a people group. It's appalling, fear inducing, and maddening, and a real time look into the sickened state of a wicked heart, and a Satanically inspired religion. NOTHING rises to the level that one human should treat another this way.

And it's provoking to our sense of God-given justice. Not that we quench a lust for blood and vengeance, but we do understand the how the Bible gives Israel, just like it would any country, the right to put down the evil and engage in a just war to eliminate the evildoers.

What happened calls for a response, not just because it is Israel, and that the land of the Bible is under attack, but because of the MAJOR significance the nation of Israel has in Bible's past and future.

We know **why** this is happening and how it is a foretaste of what is yet to come at a scale infinitely larger than anything you've seen on Fox, Cox, or Twitter.

So why is this happening?

What you are watching is not primarily political. It's theological.

Gen 3 — the curse: promise of the Seed

Gen 4 — Cain vs. Abel, first murder — before there was racial tension or people groups.

Satanic — **1 John 3:11-12**

John 8:44 — behind Satanic false religion of Islam that is murdering men, women, and children.

John 10:9-10 — steal, kill, and destroy

New world, post Gen 3, lies in the power of the Evil One (1 John 5:19)

Gen 6 — wickedness and violence so brutal, God had to wipe out the entire human race

Gen 10-11 — the table of nations, people groups spread, God keeping people groups apart because of the unity of their depravity.

TURN TO Gen 12:1-3, 7 — emphasis on the Blessing, Seed (Messiah), and **LAND**

Gen 15:17-21 — the covenant God made with Himself included a **LAND**

Gen 16:1-18 — out of unbelief and pragmatism, Abraham ran ahead of God and invented a plan that had a human, rather than miraculous origin. **Ishmael** and his children = the source of a conflict that has continued ever since then.

So the tension that exists between the children of Abraham is, **Who inherits this promise?** Isaac or Ishmael.

Of course, we know — it's Isaac. This is where the Torah (OT) and the Quran differ — who was offered on the altar? Muslims say Ishmael, where the mosque in Jerusalem, The Dome of the Rock, currently is. Where the Temple of Solomon was built, as was the Temple in Jesus's day, built by Herod.

Genesis 22:1-18 — Isaac, the son of the promise.

So the seed passed through Abraham to Isaac — **Gen 25:23**- God told Rebekah that 2 nations were in her womb, the division would continue: Jacob and Esau.

But its clear that **Isaac, not Ishmael** was the recipient of the promise, through whom salvation would come to the ends of the earth.

Genesis 26:1-5 — Abrahamic promise passed on to Isaac.

Genesis 28:10-19 — Repeated to Jacob, the dream of Jacob's staircase/ladder.

Genesis 32:24-32 — Jacob was a rascal. More than a prankster — a supplanter. Always striving for an advantage, and could hoodwink just about anybody, except God. Who came to him on this day — actually the pre-incarnate Christ (Jesus before Bethlehem).

This is where we hear the word Israel for the first time in the Bible — it means “one who strives with God; includes the idea of one who prevails or is victorious.”

Just like in the NT, Peter was no longer Simon when God renamed him, so Israel is no longer Jacob. That is his name, Israel. And the Israelites are the descendants of Jacob.

But when you hear that, you need to hear, NOT Ishmaelites, and NOT Edomites. All the descendants of Ishmael and Esau fill the middle east and spread out to form nations and nations of people with one reality — we are against Israel, and throughout the OT, war against Israel.

So the promise of a Savior, the blessing that overturns the curse of Genesis 3, and the inheritance of a land where God's people will dwell comes through and to Israel.

The conflict you are seeing in Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, from Iran and other Arab countries and people groups CELEBRATING throughout the world are living in the tension of **Genesis**.

MOREOVER: We are feeling the ripple effect of that moment of weakness if Abrahams's faith when he listened to his wife and slept with his maid and bore an heir.

Don't think sin has devastating consequences? Think again.

PPT — THE PROMISE IS THAT ISRAEL WILL BE IN THE LAND AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD WITH HIM AT THE CENTER, EXALTED AND ENJOYED

What happens next? Israel's 11th son, Joseph is sold to Egypt, raised up to lead, a famine, God's people left the land and came into Egypt for **430 years**.

God raises up **MOSES** to lead the people out of bondage.

Pharaoh becomes the first of many who oppress and ultimately seek to destroy the Jewish people.

As you know, God delivered Israel and kept His promise to Abraham — and brought Egypt to its knees, so that as He told Pharaoh: *"But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth."* (Exodus 9:16)

God brought down Egypt and all their gods with them.

In fact, throughout the history of Israel, whenever God gave Israel the victory, this would be the effect:

Under Joshua:

*"**that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty**, so that you may fear the Lord your God forever.""* (Joshua 4:24)

David to Goliath:

*"This day the Lord will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, **that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,**"* (1 Samuel 17:46)

Under Elijah:

*“Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, **today let it be known that You are God in Israel** and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word. “Answer me, O Lord, answer me, **that this people may know that You, O Lord, are God...**” (1 Kings 18:36–37)*

God drew attention to Himself by raising up Israel as His people, and gave them victory as a way of showcasing His glory before the watching world, but it was to the end that He might draw the nations to Himself.

SO MOSES:

When God delivers His people through the Red Sea, prepares them to reenter the promised Land — in fulfillment of a promise, but then seeks to enter into another covenant with them.

MOSAIC COVENANT:

Exodus 19:5-6 (24:3-8)— right before He gives them the 10 commandments/the LAW; He gives them a chance to demonstrate that they are in fact, God’s people who will walk in obedience to His ways.

WE KNOW: Ten Commandments/the Law = designed to show his people their need for a Savior. The Savior is coming to Israel, and to the world, but they don't see the need for a Savior. They want a military conqueror.

PPT - God will purify His people, but if they disobey Holy Spirit commandments, He will scatter and judge them

And no sooner have they committed to be God's people and to trust Him, that they rebel and turn to idols. So what does God do? **He doesn't let them into the LAND, just yet.**

After 40 years, enough time for a generation to die off and God to teach them what they would not learn, Israel is allowed to go in to the **LAND** under Joshua.

And they do, and it works, and they are blessed. They dwell in the land and are established. "So the Lord gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it. And the Lord gave them rest on every side, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the Lord gave all their enemies into their hand. Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass." **(Joshua 21:43-45)**

They are in the land and they want a king, so they choose a Saul (a tragedy) who ultimately paves the way for **David**, the man after God's own heart — the best King of Israel's history.

David leads the nation as King and fights the enemies of Israel — Philistines **(Palestine is a pejorative term for the land spoken by people who refuse to acknowledge Israelites as a people group)**. When they call it Palestine, it is said with a view of delegitimizing Israel's right to possess what God gave to them.

DAVIDIC COVENANT

Namely Jesus the Messiah, who would reign as King over God's people from Jerusalem forever — see **2 Samuel 7:1-16**. This covenant is fulfilled when King Jesus reigns over Israel on David's throne in the Millennial Kingdom in earthly Jerusalem as promised — **READ Ezekiel 37:21-28.**

The Messiah will rule and reign on David's throne from Jerusalem, in Israel.

So you understand why this piece of real estate is important to the people of Israel. They are laying claim to this piece of land because God, the only one and true living God, Yahweh, made a covenant to them.

You also understand why they as a people have not become extinct like all the other people groups in the Bible. They keep coming back. They get pushed out and always return. Not just because they are compelled by the promises, but because God has a special calling on them as a people. He has a particular future for them.

Again, it is important for you to know — it was **never** the goal of God's people that they would be the only people that God would save, and everyone else would go to hell, but as the people of God, they would be **the first to taste and see that He is good**, and then share Him with the world.

"Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples." (Psalm 96:2–3)

"All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, And all the families of the nations will worship before You." (Psalm 22:27)

*"In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians will come into Egypt and the Egyptians into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. In that day Israel will be the **third party** with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance." (Isaiah 19:23–25).*

The extreme irony is that those places, Egypt and Assyria are the places where the sons of Ishmael and Esau settled. God will save them too, and Israel will be merely a vessel.

“He says, [to Israel] I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” (Isaiah 49:6)

“Many nations will come and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths.” For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” (Micah 4:2).

Ultimately, Israel was meant to be the chosen instrument to bear the good news of salvation to the world, and the very people who will bring forth the Messiah Himself.

Israel was meant to be a light to the world! But they went dark.

But that was rarely the attitude — **Remember Jonah!!!!????**
A strong sense of national pride and self-righteousness kept them from being a light and they themselves walked in darkness.

At this point in Israel’s history, the spiritual decline reached a level sin and idolatry where God raised up another nation against His own people — **Babylon**, who judged Israel and drove them out of their land: This is what the prophets, especially the Minor Prophets, warned would happen — **UNDER JUDGMENT THEY WOULD BE EXPELLED FROM THE LAND.**

The promise to Abraham doesn’t mean Israel cannot suffer periods of deep agony and serious consequence for sin.

“When you become the father of children and children’s children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an idol in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of the Lord your God so as to provoke Him to anger, I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will surely perish quickly from the **land** where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall **not live long on it**, but will be utterly destroyed. “The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord drives you.” (Deuteronomy 4:25–27)

In 586 B.C. God took Israel out of her land in the Babylonian captivity. For 70 years of chastening, Israel was dispossessed. **But God brought them back**, because of the promise He made to Abraham.

Just before their captivity and even in their captivity, even then, God reminded the people of His promise (He is so faithful) — another covenant — one that would replace the Mosaic Covenant.

NEW

Turn to Ezekiel 36:22-38; Jeremiah 31:31-37). This is an amplification of the “**blessing**” promised to Abraham, in which it will be fully and finally fulfilled with Israel when she is permanently fixed in her land, inheriting the original promises made to Abraham.

Even if they sin to the uttermost: they will be a people, and God will fulfill His promises to them.

PPT— God will make a New Covenant with Israel that provides a new heart with God’s Word on it, His Spirit indwelling, internal cleansing from sin, and restoration to the land promised to Abraham.

Argument for the truthfulness of the Bible? Israel.

OBJECTION: Wait a minute — those promises to Israel are made to Israel, but they are the very things the NT said God has given to us as a church.

Paul said we are ministers of a New Covenant (**2 Corinthians 3**). Jesus said the cup was the New Covenant in His blood (**1 Corinthians 11**)—
is the New Covenant fulfilled in the church?

Yes, and no. Yes, in the sense that Jesus's death brought about the New Covenant and its benefits have been applied to us; **yes** in the sense that we have the Spirit indwelling, we have the new heart, we are forgiven, we have the washing from sin and idols.

But **no** in another sense because this promise was made to **Israel**; and **no** because the verses we just read included promises about the LAND that have not been fulfilled.

If God made the promise to Israel, He will keep the promise to Israel. If He said they will be in the land, they will be in the land. When He says Jesus will reign from David's throne from Jerusalem, forever, then it will be forever.

Much remains to be fulfilled.

Theologians have a category for this called, **"Already, not yet!"**

Some of the blessings of those promises have been given **already**, but they are **not yet** fulfilled in total.

God is **already** forgiving sin, changing hearts, imparting His Spirit, but the nation of Israel has **not yet** believed — they are in darkness.

Jesus is **already** reigning from heaven, but He is **not yet** doing it on David's throne from Jerusalem.

Israel is **already** in her land, but does **not yet** have peace on all sides and rest from her enemies.

WHY? Because the Jewish people, by in large and as a whole, have rejected their Savior. They are still under judgment.

The tragedy of the Jewish people is what John said in "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him." (John 1:10–11)

They missed their Messiah. They rejected and crucified the One that Abraham longed to see. The seed of the woman that was passed on from **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob**, down through **David** — they God their hands on God the Son, their Creator and only hope of Redemption, labeled Him a fraud and killed Him.

That was Peter's message in **Acts 2**, at Pentecost — *you killed your only hope of salvation. But God used your wickedness in killing Christ to be the very thing that would undo your wickedness.*

To this point Martin Luther adds something dreadfully helpful when he wrote, "...deeply believe and never doubt the least, that you are the one who thus martyred Christ. For your sins most surely did it." Later he said, "We carry his nails around with us in our pockets."

Less than a week before He died, Jesus said, "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it." (Matthew 21:43).

Jesus turned away from the Jewish people and TURNED THEM OVER TO JUDGMENT.

And if you remember, under Titus Vaspacian, **Rome** came into Jerusalem in 70AD and sacked the city, killed and scattered the Jewish people, and they have not been in the land as a nation since the days of Jesus, until May 14, 1948, when they were established as a nation.

They have not received the promise of the New Covenant, **and they won't, until they turn from their sins and embrace their Messiah.**

Did Jesus **forsake** them **utterly**? **NO!** God is not done with the Jewish people, but God DID TURN AWAY FROM THE JEWS TO THE GENTILES, that is, the church.

In this **era** of redemptive **history**, Israel remains under judgment, and God is working in the world through the **church**.

IRONY: the people the Jews were supposed to reach, but didn't, are now reaching them — same message: you must **embrace your Messiah or die in your sins.**

God is saving many Jewish people and when He does, they become part of the **church**. In the church, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

NOTE: the church has not replaced Israel. God still has a future for Israel, as I am about to show you, but they are experiencing a form of judgment from God.

To use Paul's words in **2 Corinthians 3**, they are "hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away." (2 Corinthians 3:13–16).

Turn to Romans 9

Paul has presented the gospel compellingly for 8 chapters to both Jew and Gentile and has argued that both need salvation because both are under sin. Christ died to save sinners, religious and irreligious. **Same Savior, same salvation.**

But Paul wants to be clear, **there are not 2 peoples of God** with a different way to God, one for the Jews and one for everyone else. Jesus is the only way and the church is God's vessel. So Paul anticipates the question:

Then what about Israel? Is God done with them? And if He is, which it might feel like He is, then what about all His promises in the OT? What is their future? Is it over?

Paul's answer is emphatically, **NO!**

- Affirmation in **v. 1-5 — read** (they need salvation; they are lost)
- Critical clarity in **v. 6**, just being a Jew doesn't mean you're in — of faith, **read v. 7-13**, Abraham, through Isaac, and Jacob.
- **Read 10:1-4** — they are not saved, which means that they will perish in their unbelief.
- **Read 11:1-5** — Not every individual Jew will experience the blessings of the promise to Israel; those blessings will only come to those who believe in Jesus. But God has always had a remnant of those who believe.

What is God doing?

- **Read 11:11-14**
- **Read 11:25-27**

Do you see what is happening? Israel will eventually, fully, and finally experience the blessings promised long ago as a great many of them will be saved by receiving Jesus as the Savior.

How should we look at them now? KEY!!!

- **Read 11:28**

You can read about this in **Revelation:**
(DON'T LEAVE ROMANS 11)

- God will turn again to Israel once the fullness of the Gentiles is in.
- Their temple will be rebuilt and Satan's man, the Antichrist will broker peace, something never before realized by Israel, but will be a false and treacherous agreement, brokered then broken only to ignite the most horrific holocaust that the world has ever known on the Jewish people, and those who turn from their sins to trust in Christ (**the showdown with Hamas is nothing compared to what it will be as the entire world unites against Israel, or at least does nothing to stop the aggressors**).
- At the preaching of the gospel, 144,000 Jews are saved and they become the missionary task force that proclaims Christ to the nations under the greatest cataclysmic judgment to ever break upon the world. And they are what God called them to be.
- God allows multitudes of Jews to be faithful unto death and other multitudes to be spared.

- And then when Christ comes, the Jews will look upon Him whom they pierced, and many who had not, will embrace Him as Savior and Lord.
- Jesus sets up His Kingdom, He rules and reigns from Jerusalem on David's throne, and Israel experiences all the fullness of the promises of the OT, just as God promised.
- Satan will be bound for 1000 years, and Israel will enjoy the flourishing of an Eden like world, where we will join them, because their Messiah is our Messiah too.
- Evil and sin will be put down. Jesus will rule with a rod of iron, and at the end of the Kingdom, Satan will be released and try once more to overthrow Christ and Israel, to no avail.

The end will come and all will be fulfilled.

How should we look at them now? PPT!!!

- **Read 11:28**

Catch that? They are enemies of the gospel. Enemies of the cross.

So let me pull all this together:

Israel is not going away, ultimately. Can they be pushed out of their land? Totally. Just like all the other times they were.

Will they be exterminated? No! They will come back again and again.

Throughout history, various leaders and regimes have targeted the Jewish people for persecution, discrimination, or extermination.

- **Pharaoh** - In Exodus, he enslaved the Israelites and, at one point, ordered the death of all firstborn Israelite males.
- **Haman** - in the Book of Esther, he plotted to annihilate all the Jews in the empire.
- **The Roman Empire** - destroyed the Second Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD and suppressed multiple Jewish revolts, leading to significant Jewish casualties.
- **The Crusaders** - During the Middle Ages, various Crusader forces massacred Jewish communities in Europe and the Middle East as they made their way to the Holy Land.
- **The Spanish Inquisition** - Initiated by Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile, this religious court persecuted, expelled, and sometimes executed Jews who had converted to Christianity.
- **Bogdan Chmielnicki** - Led the Cossack uprising in the mid-17th century against Polish rule, during which numerous Jewish communities in Ukraine were massacred.
- **The Nazis under Adolf Hitler** - Responsible for the Holocaust, which resulted in the death of approximately six million Jews during World War II.
- **Joseph Stalin** - While not attempting to exterminate the Jewish population, he grew increasingly suspicious of Jews, leading to purges, arrests, and the planning of a potential mass deportation of Jews to Siberia.

Israel just keeps coming back. If they get pushed out in this war and scattered, they will come back, again and again.

That could happen — there is no special promise in Scripture that says they cannot be expelled from their land and scattered again.

The OT promises they will be gathered from the places where they have been scattered, for the great Tribulation and the Millennial Kingdom.

They will have a temple and they will be the greatest missionary force for Christ the world has ever seen.

They need Christ. And those who die without Christ, in this conflict will perish.

God is not done with Israel. But at this very moment, Israel is under judgment.

They are our mission field.

Is it good for us to be their political ally? I think so! Not just from a humanitarian standpoint, but because God blesses those who bless Israel and curses those who curse it.

But none of what is happening is a specific fulfillment of any Biblical promise. There is nothing in the headlines that is triggering the return of Christ.

The next thing on God's eschatological timetable is the rapture of the church — God taking us out to focus on Israel.

Certainly everything you are seeing in the headlines fits with where the Bible says history is headed.

All the indicators are there, that what you see described in the book of Revelation **COULD IN FACT HAPPEN IN OUR LIFETIME** — which we will explore in greater detail in our study of **Revelation**.

Be careful who we support. They are our national ally. But many of the organizations we could donate to, actually work extremely hard to keep Jews from ever hearing the name of Jesus.

From the perspective of God's sovereign plan and promise, they are chosen. But from the standpoint of the gospel, they are enemies of the cross.

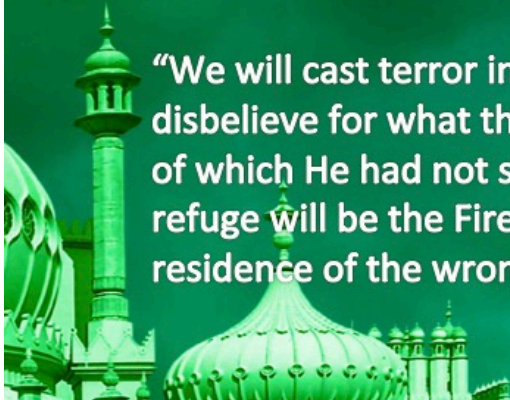
And they are in a heated battle with a Satanically inspired false religion, started by the children of Ishmael and weaponized to spread by a series of lies that are almost impossible to stop.

- Muslims have no assurance of salvation, unless they die in jihad, the act of fighting to kill Jew for Christians.
- Muhammed, who first admitted that he was under the control of Satan himself, laid out a path for Muslims.

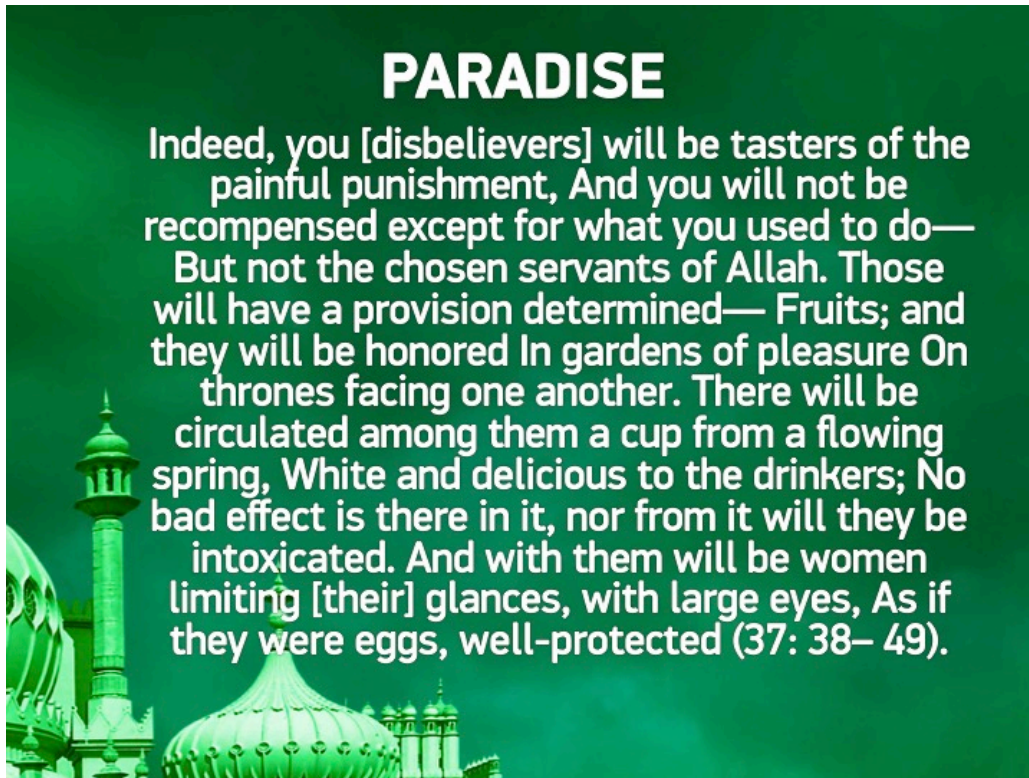
“Fight them until there is no more rebellion and religion is all for Allah.” —Qur’an 8: 39

“Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into the enemies of Allah and your enemies” —Qur’an 8: 60

“We will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve for what they have associated with Allah of which He had not sent down authority. And their refuge will be the Fire, and wretched is the residence of the wrongdoers.” —Qur’an 3: 151



- Win this war and enter paradise.



- Putting together what the Quran teaches and their other holy writings, they promise anyone who dies in jihad, that is spreading Islam, eternal sex with 72 black-eyed virgins, on green carpets, endless food, and wine that never intoxicates. If you take young, hungry, impoverished men, filled with lust and rage, and tell them that in the power of God they can travel to foreign lands, unleash their pent up desires, and remove for sure any potential of eternal hell in the life to come, you have the makings of a terrorist.

**How can you fight a people
who look down the barrel of
a gun and see paradise?**

Their goal is to 1) infiltrate every level and layer of society; 2) establish Islamic Law throughout the world; 3) conquer a list of cities, primarily Rome (Muhammad's dying goal); and 4) Usher in the Mahdi — their Savior.

They believe:

Northern Israel, where their Messiah will arrive. Muslims believe that their Messiah, called the Mahdi is the 12th and final Imam, a Muslim leader who disappeared as a child and has remained invisible since 873AD, but who will reappear to establish global Islamic conquest at the last hour, in the great battle of Armageddon.

With great power the Madhi will lead Muslims into victory, but that's when they say that the Antichrist, the Christian Jesus will appear and fight against the Muslims, and not even the Twelfth Imam will be able to defeat him.

The Christian Jesus will be blind in one eye, traveling at great speeds on a donkey, exercising great power with which he intends to deceive Muslims, but he has a name on his forehead that only faithful Muslims can recognize (Arabic word for Infidel); he will enter every town in the world to deceive its inhabitants, and he will realize that the Muslim Messiah will be trapped inside Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport— that's when the real Jesus, the Prophet of Islam will return to the earth to help the Mahdi, by defeating the Christian Jesus, and all the enemies of Allah.

He will destroy crosses, punish Christians for worshipping Him, and point everyone to the Mahdi. This fits the exact description of what the Bible says the Antichrist and false prophet will be.

PPT — What do you do with this?

Isaiah 40 — nations are a drop from the bucket.

Psalms 2 — God is fearless.

God loves to save terrorists — Paul in Acts 9