

**“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”
(Revelation 19:10)
Spirit Of Prophecy**

This past week Pope Benedict XVI addressed a crowd at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. In his address the Pope stated; “Jesus does not describe the end of the world, and when he uses apocalyptic images, he is not acting the prophet.”

Let's look at Matthew 24, and compare it with the Pope's proclamation.

Verse 3...“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”

The very first warning Jesus gives in verse 4 and 5 is:

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”

Jesus then goes on to give a detailed account of the signs that would proceed His second coming, culminating in verse 31, with the rapture and resurrection.

“He shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

Verses 11 and 24 also give the same warning given in verses 4 and 5:

“Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many,”and, “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

From Fallable Blogma:

“There are currently an estimated 6.7 billion people on the planet Earth.

Approximately 33% of those, or 2.2 billion, consider themselves Christian. That makes Christians the largest religion in the world by far. However, Islam is currently growing at a higher rate than Christianity.

Just over half of those Christians, or about 1.1 billion, are Roman Catholic (with some additional 240 million Eastern Orthodox). That makes Roman Catholics, by an overwhelming margin, the largest “denomination” of any religion on the planet. No other Christian “denomination” comes anywhere close to comparing.”

So, what do you think?

This is why the Bible tells us to:

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”
2 Timothy 4:2-4

And finally:

“As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” Galatians 1:9

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According to Islamic tradition, (which describes this graphically), Jesus' descent will be in the midst of wars fought by the Mahdi (lit. "the rightly guided one") against the Antichrist (al-Masīh ad-Dajjāl, "False messiah") and his followers. The Mahdi is known in Islamic eschatology as the 'redeemer' of Islam. Jesus will descend at the point of a white arcade, east of Damascus, dressed in yellow robes – his head anointed. He will then join the Mahdi in his war against the Antichrist. Jesus, considered as a Muslim, will abide by the Islamic teachings. Eventually, Jesus will slay the Antichrist, and then

everyone from the 'People of the Book' (ahl al-kitāb, referring to Jews and Christians), will believe in him. Thus, there will be one community, that of Islam.

Sahih al-Bukhari, Volume 3, Book 43: Kitab-ul-'Ilm (Book of Knowledge), Hâdith Number 656: Narrated Abu Hurairah: Allah's Apostle said:

"The Hour will not be established until the son of Mary (i.e. Jesus) descends amongst you as a just ruler, he will break the cross, kill the pigs, and abolish the Jizya tax. Money will be in abundance so that nobody will accept it." (as charitable gifts)

—Collected by Muhammad al-Bukhari, Sahih al-Bukhari

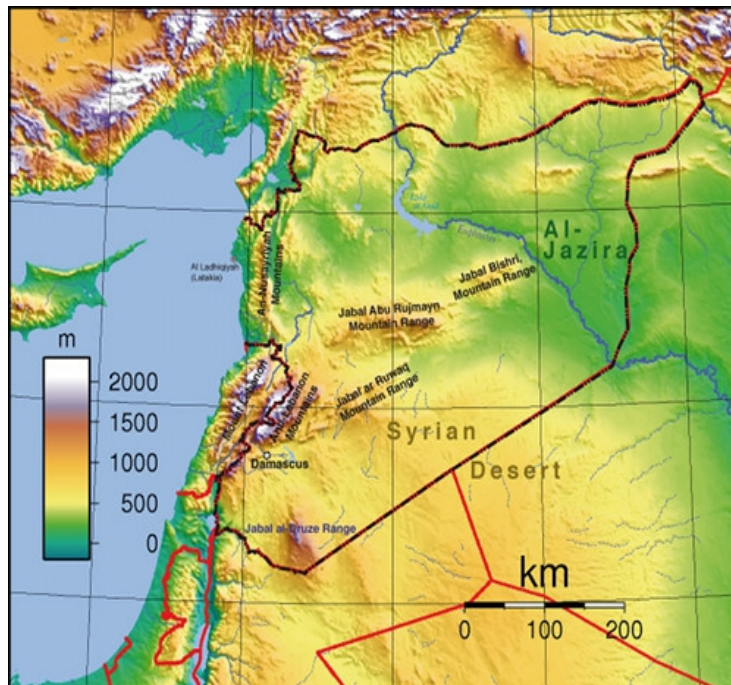
After the death of the Mahdi, Jesus will assume leadership. This is a time associated in Islamic narrative with universal peace and justice. Islamic texts also allude to the appearance of Ya'juj and Ma'juj, (known also as Gog and Magog), ancient tribes which will disperse and cause disturbance on earth. God, in response to Jesus' prayers, will kill them by sending a type of worm in the napes of their necks. Jesus' rule is said to be around forty years, after which he will die. Muslims, will then perform the funeral prayer for him and then bury him in the city of Medina, in a grave left vacant beside Muhammad, Abu Bakr, and Umar (companions of Muhammad and the first and second Sunni caliphs {Rashidun} respectively).

Some Muslims also hold to the apocryphal prophecies regarding the coming of the Paraclete (Praiseworthy One), such as that in the Epistle of the Apostles, as referring to Muhammad.

Wikipedia

You will notice the opening paragraph states: “ Jesus will descend at the point of a white arcade, east of Damascus, dressed in yellow robes.

From the map below you can see that “east of Damascus” is the Syrian Desert.



Islam is the only other monotheistic religion that looks forward to the return of Jesus Christ. Although they do not consider him to be the Son of God, they do regard Him as an extremely important prophet, second only to Muhammad.

In Jesus' famous talk in Matthew 24, verse 26, He is very specific in saying:

“Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth.”

Could this part of the verse actually have been referring to the Muslim belief that He will return to

earth “east of Damascus”? 2012.11.23