

WWJD or WWMD?

As the world stood transfixed in front of their televisions, taking in horrific images of the latest carnage released by Islamic Jihadists in Paris, I was reminded of something I hadn't thought of for some time. Remember those WWJD bracelets that became so popular a few years ago? I was wondering why I had never seen a WWMD version on the wrist of any of the Muhammeden youths I work with. Perhaps we need to get millions of bracelets similar to the ones worn by sincere Christians here in America, only in the name of the Prophet of Islam, They could read, "What Would Mohammed Do?" In order to know that, we must first ask, "What *did* Muhammad do?" The answer was sobering to say the least.

In these days of seemingly endless religious and political tail chasing (and covering), we must find a religious, philosophical, and historical nail upon which to hang or collective caps. When western powers seek to take a strong, clear stand against the blood-thirsty terrorism of "Islamic Extremists" (so called), 90% of the discussion is wasted on making sure that "moderates" are not offended by the implication (real or perceived) that they are being lumped in with those "radical fundamentalists". Just recently I heard the apologetic mantra once again that Islam has been "highjacked" by factions that do not represent the true nature and essence of the glorious religion of Muhammad. I also became engaged in a recent conversation with a Muslim apologist who was attempting to put light years of distance between Islam's prophet and the horrors of 9-11, taped messages from Osama Bin Laden, and Palestinian (Iranian backed Hamas and Hezbollah) Jihad bombers.

During the exchange I appealed to the rule of origins. "If a modern Christian is abusing another human being through financial extortion or physical abuse, one needs only appeal to the Biblical Gospels to gain an accurate example of how Jesus conducted Himself, as well as what He taught His followers to do (this answers the "problem" of Papal Inquisitions and other non Christ-like behavior of religious deviants done in His name)." Therefore, any contemporary objection can be quickly answered by appealing to the originator of the Christian faith. I then asked the person who had engaged me to define modern "Moderate Islam" in comparison to the example set by Muhammad, the founder and prophet of Islam (once known as Muhammadism). Once this request was made, our discourse became strained to say the least. My partner in reason quickly diverted from the well-lit highway of historical and textual literalism onto the goat path of historic revisionism and Orwellian double-speak. The point is simply this: If an honest Islamic historian could show that for the first two hundred years of his religion (let's say from 650 to 850 A.D.) it was completely spiritual and philosophical, characterized by the creation of music, medicine, and art; but was then "highjacked" by the arrival of a singular factious villain, then let them produce the records. Unfortunately, there are none.

To find the needed insights, we must go back to the historical testimony of Islam's founder contained within the Quran, Hadiths, and contemporary historians who were closest to the prophet. Muhammad began his prophetic career in the city of Mecca until he fled from opposition and relocated his base of operations to Medina. It is from the early days of Muhammad's "prophetic" career in Mecca that we received the peaceful Suras of tolerance and mutual respect (the ones so often quoted on American television). However, after gaining a political and physical majority in Medina (renamed after conquest), he authored the latter Suras (which automatically replace the earlier ones according the doctrine of **abrogation**~ Suras 2:106, 13:39, 16:101). One of the earliest and most striking examples of this deliberate deception and slaughter is found in his dealings with the Jewish Banu-Quraza Tribe. Upon breaking the temporary peace treaty he had authored with them (known as a **Hudnah** in Islam) he laid siege to the village.

Then they surrendered, and the Apostle confined them in Medina... Then the Apostle went out to the market of Medina and dug trenches in it. Then he sent for them and struck off their heads in those trenches as they were brought out to him in batches. There were 600 or 700 in all, though some put the figure as high as 800 or 900. (The Life of Muhammad/Sirat Rasul Allah, by Muhammad bin Ishaq (d.773 A.D.); Edited by Abdul Malik bin Hisham (d.840 A.D.), translated by Professor Alfred Guillaume (1955), p.464).

According to the Hadiths (the companion volumes of "Sayings" to the Koran, and considered authoritative) in Volume 8, Book 82, Hadith 795 we find another account involving the "peaceful prophet":

“The Prophet cut off the hands and feet of the men belonging to the tribe of Urania and did not cauterize (their bleeding limbs) till they died.”

This would strike the observer of Islamic history as indeed strange, were it not for the “inspired” (so called) mandate contained in the Koran, Sura 9:29.

“Fight against those who believe not in Allah, nor in the Last Day, nor forbid that which has been forbidden by Allah and his Messenger and those who acknowledge not the religion of truth (Islam) among the People of the Scripture (Jews and Christians), until they pay the Jizyah (tax) with willing submission and feel themselves subdued.”

Certainly there must be some misunderstanding! Why haven't I ever seen this reported on NBC, CBS, CNN, FOX or PBS? The answer must be the same politically correct cowardice and compromise that plagues western political leaders. Allow me to share a few dates from world history that testify to Muhammad's campaigns, which further demonstrate the fact that his disciples are merely living out the principles put forth in the Koran, the Hadiths, and Islamic Sharia which persist to this very day.

From his first campaign against Mecca, Islam went on to take Basra in 634, to Damascus in 635, and then taking Jerusalem in 637. From there Muslim Jihadists proceeded to conquer Alexandria, Egypt in 641, Sicily in 666, Kabul in 670, and Carthage in 698. Within a few short years the attention of the “radical” Jihadists turned to Southern Spain in 711, to Narbonne, France in 720, until they were finally halted in 732 at the Battle of Poitiers under Charles Martel (ironically, a Frenchman). As I read these accounts, I was struck by the fact that if all of these dates had represented defensive campaigns by “moderate, peace loving Muslims”, the battles would have been restricted to the Arabian Peninsula, fighting off the unwanted advances of imperialistic outsiders. But it is evidenced by the ever-widening rings of expansion, that these campaigns were merely logical expressions of Allah's commands and Muhammad's example.

The second wave of Jihad resumed (after Islamic forces regained their strength) in the 11th century and continued until finally being stopped at the gates of Vienna (that's in Austria) by King Sobieski of Poland on **September 11, 1683**. Did you take note of that date? Could it be that Osama bin Laden decided to launch his personal chapter of Jihad on **September 11, 2001**? You decide.

As my thoughts turned from the extensive history of Islam to the implications of the WWJD/WWMD bracelets, I was amazed at the contrast between the words of the prophet Muhammad and those of Jesus Christ. The primary question which one must address first involves the very nature of their respective revelations. Referring once again to the Islamic doctrine of abrogation, please allow me to reiterate what is recorded in Sura 2:100,

“And for whatever verse We (Allah) abrogate (eliminate and/or change) or cast into oblivion, We bring a better or the like of it; knowest thou not that God is powerful over everything?”

This is why one finds peaceful verses in the Koran that seem to contradict the more violent ones, and are the most often quoted by television “experts” and politicians who argue that Islam is intrinsically peaceful. But what the “experts” fail to state is that each successive Sura which was given has the right (according to Sura 2:100) to replace the previous ones. Muhammad wrote most of his Suras of peace during his early years in Mecca before he was strong enough to launch his Jihad. Allah's right of abrogation stands in stark contrast to that of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob recorded in the Holy Bible through the Prophet Malachi 3:6,

“For I am the LORD, I change not...”

And in the New Testament Book of Hebrews 13:8 we find,

*“Jesus Christ **the same** yesterday, today, and forever.”*

And finally we read in the Gospel of Matthew 24:35,

*“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but **my words shall not pass away.**”*

What our Lord said in the Old Testament is the same as what He said in the New Testament! It should be very comforting to followers of Christ to rest assured that He will not “abrogate” Himself if the situation suits Him, and that He gave the world a permanent and reliable witness of His eternal Word and Will. In the famous “Sura of the Sword” (one of the last given by the Prophet which abrogated the earlier Suras of peace) Muhammad told his followers to pursue the infidels (non Muslims) and to...

“Kill them wherever you find them” (Sura 9:5), while Jesus said to his disciples to, *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel (the Good News of salvation) to every creature.”* (Mark 16:15). Amazing isn't it? In another portion of the Koran Muhammad commanded his followers:

“When you meet the unbelievers, smite their necks, then, when you have made wide slaughter of them, tie fast their bonds; then set them free, either by grace or ransom, till the war lays down

its loads. So it shall be; and if God (Allah) had willed, He would have avenged Himself upon them” (Sura 47:5 ff).

Jesus however, told His spiritual children:

*“This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:12-13), and... “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate then enemy. But I say unto you, **Love your enemies, bless them that curses you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;** That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:43-45).*

What a stark contrast! This only compels me to renew my original question: When was Islam (the religion of peace and enlightenment) “hijacked” by militant terrorists (so called), and who were they? And how did this handful of “rogues” gain control of every nation on Earth which flies the flag of the crescent moon, and why is the overwhelming silent majority of “moderates” (constantly referred to by television commentators and producers of popular print media) so unwilling to take a stand and stop this wave of Islamic misrepresentation as they call it? Perhaps... just perhaps, we are witnessing the continuation of a campaign which had its origins with Muhammad himself, and these gentle, peace-loving “cultural Muslims” are merely a compromised version of the original. One thing is certain however, we who profess Biblical faith in the Lord Jesus Christ need to take His Words to heart and pray for every dear Muslim soul around the world, as well as the millions within the United States, who are trapped within the fearful and self-destructive kingdom known as Islam.

(For further information, see the DVD “Islam: What the West Needs to Know” produced by Quixotic Media LLC, and directed by Gregory M. Davis and Bryan Daly. Copyright 2007.)