

# Kingdom Report

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## Islam and the Coming Great Revival

There are increasing signs from the Islamic world of a thriving and growing underground church. There are reasons why Islamic civilization is struggling and people are searching for alternatives.

I sensed an international turning point in public discourse after Tom Holland published his groundbreaking book “Dominion” on the history and impact of Christianity. The central thesis was that Tom Holland after a number of historical books on Greek, Persian and Roman antiquity came to a startling conclusion. The modern world we live in was not created by or based on the supposed Golden Age of Greek Democracy. Our modern world and its cultural ethos is based on the theology of New Testament Christianity. The message of Jesus Christ and the apostle Paul.

The world of ancient Rome and Greece was vicious, brutal, violent, with none of what we would today call “human rights” or indeed civil rights for all the people.

The writers of the American Declaration of Independence in 1776 were not quoting Greek philosophers when they said ‘*We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal and are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights among them life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.*’

It was Paul that preached “*For there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus*” Gal. 3;28 And it was the international preaching of the Gospel to all the world that made it “self-evident” in July 1776 and in all the world today.

Holland famously realized that he lived in a civilization based on Christian principles. And while he could not claim to be a Christian he popularized the idea of being a “cultural Christian”. He and other secularists loved the culture that Christians enabled. He traced the historical development of the effect of the Christianizing of Europe to the beginning of concepts on rule of law, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment and freedom of thought and speech to the founding of the scientific age leading to the industrial age and modern day capitalism and prosperity.

What we forget is that not all old world civilizations can adapt to this new world order. Hinduism, Buddhism, can’t compete or work in this new world order. People can believe privately but nations act publicly on policies adapted to world Christian ethos.

From a Kingdom of God on earth aspect we can see from the parables of Jesus that this is exactly what He said and predicted. Over time, and more time than what the early church anticipated, the leaven of the Kingdom would spread to fill the whole lump, the tares and the wheat would grow side by side until the tares fall by the way to make room for the wheat harvest.

Jesus said...."*every plant which my Father has not planted will be rooted up*" (Matthew 15:13)

Which brings me to Islam and the billion souls in that faith system.

They are struggling in this new world order. There is enormous discontent and constant upheavals. They are losing the young people. They have non functioning economies many propped up by dwindling oil supplies.

I am not surprised to hear of the many instances we are hearing of people and even religious Imams seeing visions and having dreams of Jesus Christ and even direct visitations by the Lord.

These things happen when people are searching. God hears and answers prayers.

I have decided to do some more study and analysis of the Islamic civilization even acquiring a Koran to try to get a better idea of some of the key problems that are making Islam increasingly vulnerable to a world alien to their belief and very difficult for them to adapt their very rigid religion to.

I do this in anticipation that when increasing amount of unrest spreads people will seek and if they seek with all their hearts we can expect coming great revivals and conversions to the Lord Jesus Christ. And I suspect it will be the same reason why Rome and Romans became a Christian empire. Because of the poor, the marginalized, the forgotten women, the lost and despised of Roman society.....they longed to hear the wonderful news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Later it spread to the ruling classes and the rich...but it started with the masses of the poor...especially the women of the Roman empire.

Let me touch on just a couple of problematic areas....

### **Marriage and the Family**

Islamic societies are unstable since one man can afford four wives: this arrangement ensures males do not cooperate well in business. Upon reflection, it's more accurate to say that men deliberately hinder each other's wealth accumulation. A substantial gain in relative wealth for one man leaves another Muslim man deprived of a wife, since he will use his excess of wealth to have a second family. So polygamy is a legal right though few ever get to afford it.

It also leads to a shortage of women available for marriage as men are allowed up to 4 wives. And single men with no wife or family are a recipe for society upheavals.

Unfortunately, the Koran strongly urges the believer not to trust anyone, including family:

Koran [64,14] - ***‘O ye who believe! Truly, among your wives and your children are enemies to yourselves: so beware of them!’***

This also encourages inbreeding: if a man marries outside the tribe then the family loses a great deal of wealth. He must hand over property. His womenfolk don't trust the other tribe to reciprocate. Thus marriages may be arranged on an intra-clan or intra-tribal basis. There was a common theme that the poorer the family the closer the marriages became.

For many hundreds of years a full 25% of marriages have been to 1<sup>st</sup> cousins. This is genetically unhealthy.

Koran [3,118] – ***‘O you who believe! Do not take for intimate friends from among others than your own people, they do not fall short of inflicting loss upon you; they love what distresses you; vehement hatred has already appeared from out of their mouths, and what their breasts conceal is greater still.’***

This intrinsic mistrust of “others” is bad for the kind of trust relations that a healthy business climate needs to prosper. Moreover, trust is an essential ingredient for a capitalistic economy. Where social trust is absent ultra strong government is required to authenticate and enforce contracts.

### **Fatalism of Islam**

Other economic weaknesses result from believing that human life and reality in general is deterministic or fatalistic:

Koran [2, 6-7] – ***‘As to those who reject Faith, it is the same to them whether thou warn them or do not warn them; they will not believe. Allah hath set a seal on their hearts and on their hearing, and on their eyes is a veil; great is the penalty they (incur).’***

To what degree Islam is deterministic is the subject of academic argument in spite of the claim by Islamic scholars. According to the above quote, everything is determined by the will of God, even your inner life phenomena. The Koran never makes clear why those who reject faith are punished as they never had the agency to reject faith in the first place.

From an economic viewpoint such debate is irrelevant for the common response to queries concerning the future is ‘God willing’ or ‘if God wills’. If you ask a business person if a widget will be available next week he will reply ‘If God wills’. If present actions cannot influence the future then what's the point in going to work? Long term planning is stillborn and fruitless. Because of which, with respect to day-to-day living,

the Koran has produced a culture whereby it is socially acceptable to bear an attitude that it makes no difference what I do in the present, because the future is determined.

Life, for the Muslim, is full of meaning:

Koran [2, 155] – *'We shall certainly test you by afflicting you with fear, hunger, loss of properties and lives and fruits.'*

God is willing that the afflicted suffer. The person who is suffering has obviously wronged God, they assume automatically without thinking about it. Why interfere?

It is a trial:

Koran [47, 31] *'And We will surely test you until We make evident those who strive among you [for the cause of Allah] and the patient, and We will test you're affairs.'*

Therefore, the Muslim seeks the means of what we would call in Christian theology, "justification".. It is received wisdom that there are several means to "salvation" or "justification" good deeds, the conversion of a disbeliever or the waging of holy war.

Imagine how many young men with little economic hope and no possibility of finding or affording a wife are available for sacrificing their lives for holy war?

Islamic peoples have sympathy for dictatorship as Mohammed ruled by diktat. The transition from religious to secular government is hard to pull off because the people may lose faith. Essentially any group of people coalesces on the basis of faith. You take away the faith and the edifice crumbles. This faith is essentially the belief that there is a benefit to being in the group that outweighs the cost.

The young generation is losing faith. The religious leaders are worried that the appeal of the western world of freedom of thought and action, the freedom to choose a different lifestyle, even the freedom to have a drink of alcohol....all will erode the faith.

But the Islamic world view and faith system does not produce employment for the young or sustainable economies. Women have few or any rights. Time is running out for that system of civilization.

Which is why I believe the coming great move of God in the Muslim world. As the oil runs out a false prosperity evaporates. The shining cities of Dubai, Doha, Kuwait and others in the Gulf region are filled with the kind of opulent and decadent lifestyle that destroys the fundamental faith of very strict puritanical religion. It will not last.

The international information revolution will ensure that the Bible and the gospel will be available where missionaries and evangelists are not allowed.

And so the home church revolution will spread there as it is spreading in China and other parts of the world.

Welcome to the spreading Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.