**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

**Sermon**

***Ekklesia Series***

 ***Witness to Islam III***

 **March 24th, In the Year of Our Lord 2019**

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**(Unless otherwise noted, NAU text is quoted)**

**(Alert – this is not a politically correct sermon!)**

**The P.C. authorities call the Truth hate speech.**

**I know this got Jesus in a lot of trouble.**

**Jesus Identified the pseudo religious for what they were, fakes.**

**Read Matthew 23:12ff as an example.**

**In Addition: Review Genesis 17:18-21; John 8:39,40,44; Hebrews 11:8-12, 17-18; John 8:24,27**

Last week, we reviewed two foundational events in human history. One concerned God the incarnate Christ, and the other focused on a man the world knows as Muhammad who lived about six hundred years after Jesus. Much is made of these two men. Jesus is believed to be God in the flesh (John 1:14), the incarnate God who lived with people and was challenged by all the tests and subjected to the same fallen environment of which we are subjected. The other man, Muhammad, did not claim to be God incarnate but The Messenger of the same God and the last in a long line of prophets, which included Jesus. However, Muhammad claimed that he was the last in God’s prophetic line and superseded all who came before him and was God’s final word. We noted that the Bible we accept as God’s Word ends with a warning not to add to or take away. In other words, the final Word from God. We can see that Muhammad has attempted to usurp God’s warning and ending by claiming he is the end of God’s instruction to us. This should have raised a red flag to anyone who knows the Bible.

 What did Muhammad add? As we examine this question, we need to keep in mind that many Christians and others view that The God of the Bible and the god Muhammad references are the same God. We will show today that this is not true. In fact, we point to the reality that Satan was the orchestrator of Muhammad’s visions and visits by a spiritual being. This is simply accomplished by highlighting the fact that Satan is the author of lies (John 8:44 below) and pursues death and destruction.

 One of the lies is that Islam believes in the same God as Christians focusing on Abraham. Islam claims to be descendants of Abraham and, therefore, entitled to the benefits of the covenant with God. It is clear that the covenant connected to the land is through Isaac (Genesis 17). Islam claims that Ishmael, the son of Abraham and Hagar, being first born, and also being the one Abraham was to have sacrificed, is the covenant child. It is clear that Isaac, the son Abraham, is the one God instructed to be sacrificed (Genesis 22), but God substituted a ram at the last minute.

18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before You!"

 19 But God said, "No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant (Hebrew: *berith*) with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

 20 "As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless (Hebrew: *barak*) him, and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

 21 "But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year." (Genesis 17:18-21)

 So, it is nonsensical to accept the Genesis account, a Jewish account, as truth concerning Abraham’s covenant with God, but to altar the account 2,600 years later and say that the covenant is through Ishmael. Ishmael receives a blessing and Isaac a covenant. Islam picks and chooses which part of the Bible they want to use to justify their covenant with God. This is a fabrication of the Bible. This is just one lie. Let us examine another.

 Islam accepts Jesus as a prophet of God. However, here again, they pick and choose which teachings of Jesus to accept.

Jesus rebukes the Jewish religious leaders who claim a covenant with God through Abraham. However, Jesus challenges them because they do not do the deeds of Abraham which would show the condition of their heart-faith. Jesus points to the fact they have murder in their hearts and want to kill Him. Jesus points to Abraham and told them that Abraham did not do what they wanted to do, that is kill him. Abraham did not have a murderous heart. Based upon this account, it is obvious today that terrorists who are Muslim have a murderous heart. They have a murderous heart because they are told if they murder another person who is not a Muslim, they will go to heaven. This is insane and is the exact opposite of what the God of the Bible taught. Human sacrifice is not part of any salvation plan God put forth in the Bible.

John 8:39-40,44

 39 They answered and said to Him,

"Abraham is our father."

Jesus said to them,

"If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham.

 40 "But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God;

this Abraham did not do.

. . . 44 **"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him.** Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, **for he is a liar and the father of lies.**

 What the Qur’an Teaches Us:

https://centerforinquiry.org/blog/a-call-to-the-muslims-of-the-world/

We have used the most widely available English text of the Qur’an and readers are welcome to verify our quotes from the holy book. Please have an open mind and read through these verses again and again. The following quotes are taken from the most trusted Yusufali’s translation of the Qur’an.

The Qur’an tells us: “not to make friendship with Jews and Christians” (5:51), “kill the disbelievers wherever we find them” (2:191), “murder them and treat them harshly” (9:123), “fight and slay the Pagans, seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem”

(9:5). The Qur’an demands that we fight the unbelievers, and promises “If there are twenty amongst you, you will vanquish two hundred: if a hundred, you will vanquish a thousand of them” (8:65).

Allah and his messenger want us to fight the Christians and the Jews “until they pay the Jizya [a penalty tax for the non-Muslims living under Islamic rules] with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued” (9:29).

Allah and his messenger announce that it is acceptable to go back on our promises (treaties) and obligations with Pagans and make war on them whenever we find ourselves strong enough to do so (9:3). Our God tells us to “fight the unbelievers” and “He will punish them by our hands, cover them with shame and help us (to victory) over them” (9:14).

The Qur’an takes away the freedom of belief from all humanity and relegates those who disbelieve in Islam to hell (5:10), calls them najis (filthy, untouchable, impure) (9:28), and orders its followers to fight the unbelievers until no other religion except Islam is left (2:193).

It says that the “non-believers will go to hell and will drink boiling water” (14:17). It asks the Muslims to “slay or crucify or cut the hands and feet of the unbelievers, that they be expelled from the land with disgrace and that they shall have a great punishment in world hereafter” (5:34).

And tells us that “for them (the unbelievers) garments of fire shall be cut and there shall be poured over their heads boiling water whereby whatever is in their bowels and skin shall be dissolved and they will be punished with hooked iron rods” (22:19-22) and that they not only will have “disgrace in this life, but on the Day of Judgment He shall make them taste the Penalty of burning (Fire)” (22:9).

 There are these harsh passages from the Quran and at the same time there is 2:62 that sheds light on a more permissible tolerance toward Jews and Christians. What is prevalent is the harsh treatment against those who oppose Islam. It is evident that you could be a silent Jew or Christian that does not speak against Islam and be tolerated. However, we have Islamic states like Saudi Arabia that does not allow the Bible to be brought into their country. In fact, many Muslim countries around the world do not allow the Bible in their country and Christianity is forbidden. See web sites like Open Door. https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/

 2.**62.**Verily! Those who believe and those who are Jews and Christians, and Sabians,whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day and do righteous good deeds shall have their reward with their Lord, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.

 Jesus is very clear. Abraham is the pivotal person to which He points as foundational (founding relationship) in the Jews relationship to God. Muhammad and Islam also point to Abraham and claim that they are his descendants and thus heirs of a covenant with God. Like the Jews, they claim a covenant with God but through Ishmael the son of Abraham and Hagar. We are very familiar with this account in Genesis chapters 16 and 21.

 However, like the Jews in Jesus’ day, they misunderstand God’s covenant pertaining to making a person righteous, justified, approved, and acceptable to God; to be in His heaven, thus saved. Abraham is listed in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11 as being justified by faith.

Hebrews. 11:8-12

 8 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

 9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;

 10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

 11 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.

 12 Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, *as many descendants* AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE. . . .

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*;

 18 *it was he* to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED." (Hebrews 11:17-18)

**Galatians 3:6** just like Abraham who believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness?

**Genesis 15:6** Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

**James 2:23** and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend.

**Romans 4:9** Is this blessing only for the circumcised, then? Or is it also for the uncircumcised? For we say, Faith was credited to Abraham for righteousness.

**Romans 4:22** Therefore, it was credited to him for righteousness.

 It is worthy to note that Abraham was made righteous by his faith before Genesis 17 describes circumcision to be a sign of the covenant with God. So, no work or act of circumcision was required to achieve a righteous standing before God.

 There is one simple way to highlight that The God of the Bible and the spiritual force that drove Muhammad focused on two opposite goals. One the goal of faith the other works. Examine the mission and outcome of each.

 **The God of the Bible:**

1. ...is The God of love and forgiveness. (Muhammad’s god tells people to kill others and physically torture and take their possessions. There is a reward of the looters. The Islamic leaders divided up the loot.)
2. ...came to die on The Cross (Jesus) for our sins so we would not have to merit our salvation. (Muhammad never wrote about his god paying the price for our sins. In fact, a person has to merit their own salvation.)
3. ...does not direct people to take the life of another human being in order to secure their place in His heaven. (Muhammad’s God does.)
4. The mission of Jesus was to restate and highlight God’s redemptive plan given in the Law, the Writings and the Prophets.
5. Jesus stated he came to fulfill the Law and the prophet
6. Jesus said: 23 And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. (Jn. 8:23). Muhammad was from this world. Jesus and Muhammad came from two different places.
7. God as Jesus holds people accountable for knowing who He is (John 8:24 below). This applyies to people that Jesus was/is revelaed to. Muhammad lived 600 years after Jesus. We know the Gospels were known to Muhammad and his culture. The Quran names Jesus several times.

[In the Qur'an, Jesus is referred to in over ninety verses in fifteen surahs. https://www.namb.net/apologetics-blog/a-comprehensive-listing-of-references-to-jesus-isa-in-the-qur-an/]

Jesus talks to the religious leaders in the Temple. They refused to surrender to God. They rejected the person and mission of Jesus. It is one thing to accept the fact that Jesus lived but it is another to surrender to the Lord. The Muslims reject the mission, the Cross, the Resurrection, thec Acension of a Resurrected Jesus. They do have a teaching that Jesus only appaered to have died on the Cross. But that God took Jesus to heaven. So, knowing this Islam rejection of Jesus, how can anyone say they worship the same God? Muslims teach a works-salvation. The mission of God’s incarnation was to go to the Cross to pay the price for mankind’s ssins so we would not have to earn our salvatin. How can the Muslims worship the same God if allah’s savlation plan is the exact opposite.

**Let us examine the two spiritual encounters Jesus and Muhammad experienced.**

 John 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."

 25 So they were saying to Him, "Who are You?" Jesus said to them, "What have I been saying to you *from* the beginning?

 26 "I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world."

 27 They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father.

**Muhammad -**The first revelation 610 A.D.

The entrance to the Hira cave.

According to Sunni tradition, during one such occasion while he was in contemplation, the angel Gabriel appeared before him in the year 610 AD and said, "Read", upon which he replied, "I am unable to read". Thereupon the angel caught hold of him and embraced him heavily. This happened two more times after which the angel commanded Muhammad to recite the following verses:

"Proclaim! (or read!) in the name of your Lord who created:

Created man from a clinging substance:

Recite, and your Lord is the most Generous,–

Who taught by the pen–

Taught man that which he knew not."[Quran 96:1–5]

After the revelation

Perplexed by this new experience, Muhammad made his way to home where he was consoled by his wife Khadijah, who also took him to her Ebionite cousin Waraqah ibn Nawfal. Waraqah was familiar with Jewish and Christian scriptures.

[If this man, reported to be the “go-to” guy concerning Christian and Jewish Scripture for Muhammad’s wife, then why did he not recognize the warning at the end of the Bible in Revelation 22:18,19. This passage definitely gives warning not to add to God’s Word. Man can write books, but Muhammad stated he was directed to write additional instruction from God. Remember, Muhammad reported his angelic visit beginning in 610 A.D. The New Testament text was available or why would this man, Nawfal, be known as having knowledge of them.]

In addition, the reported Nawfal should have also been familiar with 1 John 4. The chapter is about God’s love and there is no fear in the love of God. When you pick up the sword, fear is struck in the hearts of people. Muhammad, along with his advisor (Nawfal) should have also been weary of evil spirits as the reported tradition states that Muhammad was perplexed by the initial visit of the spiritual being, he encountered.

Through the years, in many sermons, I have encouraged others to read 1 John 4 in order to contemplate on the great love of God. We do know “For God so loved the world. . .

This is the great chasm between Christianity and Islam - Love.

**1 John 4:1-8 1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. 4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore, they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Islamic tradition holds that Waraqah, upon hearing the description, testified to Muhammad's prophethood, and convinced Muhammad that the revelation was from God. Waraqah said: "O my nephew! What did you see?" When Muhammad told him what had happened to him, Waraqah replied: "This is Namus (meaning Gabriel) that Allah sent to Moses. [There is no record in the Bible of this claim] I wish I were younger. I wish I could live up to the time when your people would turn you out." Muhammad asked: "Will they drive me out?" Waraqah answered in the affirmative and said: "Anyone who came with something similar to what you have brought was treated with hostility; and if I should be alive until that day, then I would support you strongly." A few days later Waraqah died.

The initial revelation was followed by a pause and a second encounter with Gabriel when Muhammad heard a voice from the sky and saw the same angel "sitting between the sky and the earth" and the revelations resumed with the first verses of chapter 74.

At-Tabari and Ibn Hisham reported that Muhammad left the cave of Hira after being surprised by the revelation, but later on, returned to the cave and continued his solitude, though subsequently he returned to Mecca. Tabari and Ibn Ishaq write that Muhammad told Zubayr:

"when I was midway on the mountain, I heard a voice from heaven saying "O Muhammad! you are the apostle of Allah and I am Gabriel." I raised my head towards heaven to see who was speaking, and Gabriel in the form of a man with feet astride the horizon, saying, "O Muhammad! you are the apostle of Allah and I am Gabriel." I stood gazing at him moving neither forward nor backward, then I began to turn my face away from him, but towards whatever region of the sky I looked, I saw him as before."

There is doubt about the period of time between Muhammad's first and second experiences of revelation. Ibn Ishaq writes that three years elapsed from the time that Muhammad received the first revelation until he started to preach publicly. Bukhari takes chapter 74 as the second revelation however chapter 68 has strong claims to be the second revelation. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad%27s\_first\_revelation

These five verses were the earliest revelation, and they came to Muhammad on the “Night of Power” or the “Blessed Night” in the month of Ramadan (the ninth month of the Islamic calendar) of the 40th year of the Elephant. They are at the beginning of the 96th chapter of Al-Qur’an al-Majid. The name of the chapter is Iqraa (Read) or ‘Alaq (the Clot of Congealed Blood).

The Night of Power or the Blessed Night occurs, according to tradition, during the last ten days of the month of Ramadan, and could be the 21st or 23rd or 25th or 27th of the month.

In their respective accounts of the reception by Muhammad of the First Revelation, the **Sunni and the Shia Muslims are not in agreement**.

 According to the **Sunni tradition**, the appearance of Gabriel surprised Muhammad, and when the former ordered him to read, he said, “I cannot read.” This happened thrice, and each time when Muhammad declared his inability to read, the angel pressed him hard to his bosom. Eventually, he was able to repeat the five verses whereupon the angel released him and disappeared

When Archangel Gabriel disappeared, Muhammad, who was now “ordained” the Messenger of Allah, descended from the cliffs of Hira, and repaired to his home in a state of great trepidation. He was shivering with cold, and when he entered his house, he asked his wife, Khadija, to cover him with a blanket which she did. When he had sufficiently recovered from the shock, he recounted to her the story of his strange encounter with Archangel Gabriel in the cave of Hira.

The traditional Sunni account of this incident is given in an article written by Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Hammad, Ph.D., captioned Be Hopeful, published in the monthly magazine, Islamic Horizons, of the Islamic Society of North America, Plainfield, Indiana, May-June 1987, as follows:

“The Prophet (pbuh) in the early stages in Makkah, feared that the revelation experience was an evil touch preying upon him, playing with him mentally, upsetting his tranquility and peace of mind. He was afraid that one of the jinn had touched him. He expressed this to Khadija. His fear increased to the point that – and please don't be surprised by an authentic report in Bukhari – the Prophet (pbuh) preferred to take his own life rather than to be touched by evil, to be tampered with, corrupted, or polluted.”

But according to the accounts of the **Shia Muslims,** Muhammad Mustafa, far from being surprised or frightened by the appearance of Gabriel, welcomed him as if he had been expecting him. Gabriel brought the tidings that Allah had chosen him to be His Last Messenger to Mankind, and congratulated him on being selected to become the recipient of the greatest of all honors for a mortal in this world.

Muhammad had no hesitation in accepting the mission of prophethood nor did he have any difficulty in repeating the verses of the First Revelation. He read them or repeated them effortlessly, spontaneously. Gabriel, in fact, was no stranger to him, and he also knew that his own raison d’être was to carry out the mission imposed upon him by God as His Messenger. He was “mission-oriented” even before Gabriel’s visit. Gabriel only gave him the signal to begin.

The Shia Muslims also say that one thing that Gabriel didn't have to do was to apply physical pressure on Muhammad to read. If he did, it would truly be a bizarre mode of imparting to Muhammad the ability to read – by squeezing him or choking him. They further maintain that Muhammad Mustafa did not contemplate suicide at any time in his life, not even in its most desolate moments; and that it never occurred to him that he could ever be touched by “evil” or that he could be “corrupted” or “polluted.”

Nevertheless, Muhammad felt alarm at the magnitude of the task ahead of him. He realized that in the execution of his duty, he would be confronted by the massive, formidable and determined opposition of the pagans of the whole world. The state of his anxiety was almost palpable. He was, therefore, in a somber frame of mind as he left the cave to return home. And he did ask Khadija to drape him in a blanket as he sat down to recapitulate the events in Hira to her.

When Khadija heard the story that Muhammad told her, she comforted him and reassured him by saying: “O son of my uncle, be of good cheer. Allah has chosen you to be His messenger. You are always kind to your neighbors, helpful to your kinsfolk, generous to the orphans, the widows and the poor, and friendly to the strangers. Allah will never forsake you.”

It is possible that Muhammad was momentarily overweighed by the thought of his accountability to Allah in carrying the enormous burden of his new responsibilities, but when he heard Khadija's soothing words, he immediately felt the tensions within him decompressing. She reassured him and convinced him that with God's Hand on his shoulder, he would rise equal to his duties and would overcome all obstacles.

After a brief interval, Gabriel appeared once again before Muhammad when the latter was in the cave of Hira, and presented to him the second Revelation which reads as follows: <https://www.al-islam.org/restatement-history-islam-and-muslims-sayyid-ali-ashgar-razwy/birth-islam-and-proclamation-muhammad>

**Jesus and His Test**

Now, let us examine Jesus’ encounter with Satan in Matthew 4. The N.T. text is clear that Jesus was being led by the Spirit. Muhammad never made this claim. He was his own making. The reason I have chosen to compare Muhammad’s spiritual encounter to Jesus’ tests is to compare the outcome. Jesus did not accept Satan’s role to be the controller of the world’s resources or the miracle leader of the world or the political leader of the world. However, after Muhammad’s visions, he and his followers did all three of these. History provides the facts to this day. Jesus declined the ruling offers of Satan. Muhammad’s advisors led him and the world astray. It was not Gabriel, but Satan who visited Muhammad. Evidence of this is the outcome.

Muhammad does not release captives, he makes them.

Muhammad, with his army behind him, went after all the **material goods** he could conquer.

Muhammad falsely claimed **miraculous encounters** with the angel Gabriel from the beginning.

Muhammad and his followers have pursued being the leading **political leaders** of the world from the start of Islam.

 **Matthew 4:1** **-11**

1Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit

(In Muhammad’s encounter he was not led by the Spirit)

into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him,

MATERIAL Controller of World Resources

"If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread. "

 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

Miracle Leader of the World

5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written,

'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'"

 7 Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, ' YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'"

Political Leader of the World

 8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;

 9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."

 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"

 11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him. (Mat 4:1-11 NAU)

 Many men in history have claimed to have had epiphanies with God or an angel of God. This is what Moses had with God at the “burning bush” calling him to be the leader that led the Hebrews from Egypt. God as Jesus demonstrates to us how to repeal Satan’s tests. Jesus did not come from the wilderness and start a new religion claiming that God had made him the possessor of all material possessions, guru of miracles and the head political leader of the world. No. Jesus called for the world to repent and that the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matthew 4:17). Jesus came to set the captives free. Luke 4:16-21 NAU

 16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. 17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book (Old Testament) and found the place where it was written,

 18 "THE **SPIRIT** OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,

BECAUSE HE **ANOINTED** ME TO

**PREACH** THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.

HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM **RELEASE** TO THE **CAPTIVES**,

AND **RECOVERY OF SIGHT** TO THE BLIND,

TO SET **FREE** THOSE WHO ARE **OPPRESSED**,

19 TO **PROCLAIM** THE **FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."**

 20 And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

 A short time later, Jesus called his disciples teaching them all the things to fulfill God’s plan for mankind. Jesus eventually went to the Cross to pay the price for our sins. Jesus does not ask us to pay with our blood or the blood of our neighbor to be in right-standing with God. Jesus demonstrates to all of us to stay on God’s course and not fall for a deceptive ruse that would imprison the world in tyranny.

**In contrast to Jesus, Muhammad claimed** to have epiphanies with God’s archangel Gabriel and then forced his vision upon the whole world at the point of a sword. This brought death and destruction guiding people to sacrifice themselves and their neighbor to please their moon god, Allah. This is the exact opposite of the Message of the Cross.

In the teachings of God, as Jesus Christ, love, joy, peace and the rest of the fruits of the Spirit are premium life values and are to be treasured by all. These values are pleasant, not just for the Christian, but, for the entire world, even to those who do not believe. However, the full powerful benefit of these life-giving attributes cannot be demonstrated unless a person has God/Christ living inside of their heart as the Holy Spirit. It is Pollyanna to assume everyone will adopt the teachings of God/Jesus Christ and use His teachings to make the world a safe and harmonious place to live. A place does await the faithful followers of God, a place called Heaven.