

# FROM PASTOR KEN'S DESK

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## *The Four Winds*

### **Part 3: The Abomination of Desolation**

In 680 AD, Jerusalem was taken by Muslim armies and renamed *Haram-esh Sharif* (Noble Sanctuary). A golden dome was built on the sacred site of the Holiest of Holies on the Temple Mount. From this spot, it is believed by the Muslims that Mohammed ascended to heaven. (I have stood in the golden dome and observed the three sacred hairs that he is supposed to have left behind.)

Note: Two of the most Holy Places in Islamic religion are:

- a. **Kaaba** in Mecca
- b. **Khadim al Haramain ash Sharifaim-** The golden dome in Jerusalem

The King of Saudi Arabia is called "Servant of the two exalted sanctuaries." It is here that all Muslims expectantly await the return of Mohammed, and Jesus Christ, who will descend from heaven until his feet touch the Holy Mountain.

For the last 1400 years, Muslims have controlled Jerusalem and Israel, and then in the 1967 war, Israel regained control of Jerusalem and subsequently all of Israel. In 1973 they defended the land from Egypt to the South and Syria from the north. Egypt lost all land they had gained including the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israelites and Christians alike believe that this is a fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies. God had returned his chosen people to their homeland, yet the Temple Mount remains today in control of Muslims.

Israelites believe that the Messiah cannot come until they rebuild the Temple including the Holiest of Holies. When they stand praying at the Wailing Wall, they have in their minds the "abomination of desolation set up in the Holy Place". They picture their most sacred spot in history; that sacred spot where Solomon prayed his prayer of dedication, now desecrated by Muslims.

On the other side of the coin, the glue that holds the Arab world together is their common enemy, Israel. "Intifada" means "to throw off". Muslims believe they have a divine right to all of Israel, especially the sacred Golden Dome. Islam also teaches that Jesus (not Mohammed, although many say with Mohammed) will return at the end-of-days and gather the faithful to Allah.

Most Christians believe that this is the place where Jesus, the Messiah, will return to earth to set up His earthly millennial reign. They believe that the Christians will be secreted away during the rapture, then will return to earth, where Jesus will land at the Holy Mount. Jews will again be God's chosen people and after they are converted to Jesus, as God's chosen nation again. Many Christians believe that the Jews will then go forth and convert the rest of the world. (This is called the *Second Chance Theory*) Therefore, Christianity has a vested interest in Israel and the Temple Mount.

So you have three major religions: Muslims, Jews and Christians all waiting for the "Messiah" to return to the Holy Mountain.

Next Week: The Last Great Deception

*Blessings,*      *Ken Crawford*