

# Hidden Cross

June 2008

## **One Year Anniversary**

The first issue of this publication was delivered in August 2007. It was delivered to 8 people. Of the original 8, 4 decided to continue to receive it. Now circulation is at roughly a dozen people as we here at Hidden Cross Ministries head toward our 1 year anniversary.

But it's better to share good news. That's why we invite you to join us for a few hours. Arrangements still have to be worked out. More information will be announced as is available.

If you have enjoyed our publication, please consider answering these questions so we can make next year's even better. You can e-mail me the responses at Vertisai [at symbol] hotmail.com.

Which of the following types of articles did you prefer?

- Unique (1-time)      -Serial
- Recurring      -Other articles

What kind of writing would you like to see in the future?

- Poetry-Educational    -News
- Biblical fundamentals/principles
- Biblical perspectives
- Speculations/New Theories

Which articles did you particularly like? Which ones did you particularly dislike?

Are there any ideas or topics you would like to see articles on?

Did you enjoy the Christian Quiz? Would you rather just have more writing?

What would you definitely like to see changed in the future? What would you definitely like to stay the same?

Page 1—Fourth of July Gospel Tracts

Page 1—Koran vs. New Testament Part 1

Page 6—Timelines: Islam

Page 7—Christian Quiz

## **Fourth of July Gospel Tracts**

Getting poor results for evangelism on the Fourth? Then try these special patriotic and American-themed gospel tracts from Living Waters Ministry.

The gospel tracts 'America, America', 'Remember When?', and 'God Bless America' were specifically designed with America in mind.

The first tract has the flag print on the front, and boldly states ‘America, America.’ Inside, it talks about the top 10 problems with our country, and on the back it talks about the answer being Jesus Christ.

The second asks people to remember a few of the greatest events in American history, from the Kennedy assassination to Mohammad Ali, and talks about our modern gods. It also, like all good tracts, gives the path for salvation as Jesus Christ alone.

The third is a cut-out of Uncle Sam, and his arm extends holding open his coat to say “God Bless America”. On the back, it talks about the sins of America, the sins of the reader, and the answer as Jesus Christ.

In addition, a special Fourth of July edition of the Million Dollar Bill has been created. Please keep these in mind during the celebration of our nations birthday.

## **Koran vs. New Testament**

### **Part 1**

Ever since September 11, 2001, Islam became a word known around the world. Though not necessarily hidden before, the events of that day brought it squarely into the light of day, and people all over have said this or that is in the Koran (also spelled Qu’ran), they believe this, they do that. Do they? Do they really? The best way to compare them is with Christianity, the most widespread and widely known of the Abrahamic traditions. First, though, we must find the categories that we can compare them in. The categories I have chosen to use are **mercy, love, peace, neighborliness, persecution, marks of a believer, fighting, and authority of a believer.**

#### MERCY

The first category we will look at is mercy. Verses from the Koran are:

5:38 “As for the thief, both male and female, cut off their hands.”

8:12-13 “I will indeed strike terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. So smite on your enemy’s necks and above these on their heads and strike off all their fingertips. This punishment is given them because they opposed Allah and his Messenger, and whosoever opposes Allah, for him, Allah is severe in punishment.”

4:89 “If they turn back, then capture them and kill them wherever you find them, and do not take anyone of them as a friend or as a helper.”

And from the New Testament:

Matthew 5:7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

What do these tell us? The verses from the Koran, summed up, state that (1) there is no mercy for thieves, (2) there is no mercy for disbelievers, and finally, (3) there is no mercy for those who run away from war. The verse from the New Testament, on the other hand, says we must be merciful. Remember the story of the adulterous woman brought before Jesus. Rather than order her stones, he said, “Whoever has not sinned, cast the first stone.” And once everyone had left, he told the woman “Where are they that accuse you? If they don’t accuse you, then neither do I. Go, and sin no more.” This shows mercy in the New Testament that the Koran does not show.

#### LOVE

3:32: “Allah does not love the disbelievers.”

Matthew 5:43-45 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

The Koran says God does not love the disbelievers. The New Testament says God is love. This leads only to one conclusion: These two holy books can’t have the same God. There is no denying it this time.

### NEIGHBORLINESS

9:123 O ye who believe! fight those of the disbelievers who are near to you, and let them find harshness in you, and know that Allah is with those who keep their duty (unto Him).

1 Thessalonians 5:15 See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.

The Koran says to fight the disbelievers (any non-muslims) ‘near you’. The New Testament says to be kind to all. Just one more way that they are literally diametrically opposed.

### PERSECUTION

2:190-191 “Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight and persecute you, ... and slay them when and where you get the better of them”

2:193 “Fight them until persecution is no more and religion is for Allah.”

Matthew 10:23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel, before the Son of man comes.

Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

1 Corinthians 4:12 and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure;

The Koran says that we should fight each other, where the New Testament says to simply leave and go another place when you are persecuted, to bless them and endure. The Koran is so entrenched with bloodshed and violence that there is no way that you can say that the bible and the Koran align on this issue, or practically any other. Koran 2;193 makes it clear that they will not stop until there is only the religion of Islam.

### MARKS OF A BELIEVER

2:216 “Fighting has been ordained for you.”

3:151-152 “We shall certainly strike terror into the hearts of those who have disbelieved. .. and certainly Allah had made good his promise to you when you were slaying them to pieces by his permission.”

8:74 Those who believe, and adopt exile, and fight for the Faith, in the cause of Allah as well as those who give (them) asylum and aid,- these are (all) in very truth the Believers: for them is the forgiveness of sins and a provision most generous.

9:5 slay the idolaters wherever ye find them, and take them (captive), and besiege them, and prepare for them each ambush

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law.

Muslims are fighters, slayers of men, who will only be forgiven if they fight. Idolater was one of the many ways to refer to Christians because all churches have crosses in them, and they see that as idol worship. Christians are to be as stated in Galatians, and what do you know, it is exactly the opposite of the Muslims description.

#### FIGHTING

2:190-191 "Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight and persecute you, ... and slay them when and where you get the better of them"

2:244 "Fight in the cause of Allah."

4:74 "Let those who would prefer the hereafter to the present life, fight in the cause of Allah."

4:76 "Fight against the friends of satan."

4:77 "Fighting has been made binding"

4:84 "Urge on the faithful to fight."

9:29 Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth

9:73 O Prophet! strive hard against the unbelievers and the hypocrites and be unyielding to them; and their abode is hell, and evil is the destination.

9:86 When a chapter is revealed, enjoining them to believe in Allah and to strive and fight along with His Messenger, those with wealth and influence among them ask thee for exemption, and say: "Leave us (behind): we would be with those who sit (at home)." ...

88 But the messenger and those who believe with him strive with their wealth and their lives.

Matthew 26:51-52 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world."

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith, lay hold on the life eternal, whereunto thou wast called, and didst confess the good confession in the sight of many witnesses.

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

The Koran says multiple times to fight. It says to fight until religion is for Allah. Look at Matthew 26:51-52, where Jesus rebukes the one who drew his sword, and says that "all who live by the sword shall die by the sword". John 18:36 explains much about Allah's power, when it says that those who have a kingdom here will have followers that fight, but Christians will not. This makes it clear that Yahweh's kingdom is Heaven, and Allah's kingdom is Earth. Therefore, they can't be the same.

## AUTHORITY

4:91 “it is these [unbelievers] against whom we have given absolute authority.”

Lu 9:1-2 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

The Koran says that it's believers have authority to kill other humans, where Christians are given power over demons and diseases.

This is the end of part one. Look for part two next month.

## Timelines

This will be a series of articles dealing with events in history and their importance or relevance. The first such example will be Islam. These examples are all taken from a paper I wrote for my Religions of the World class at college.

### Islam

Mohammed, as a traveler, learned how Christianity united the peoples of the Roman and Byzantine empires and, seeing how his own people fought amongst one another, essentially ripped off the Bible and used pieces that he thought people would accept to base his speeches on. As a tradesman, he would have had more than enough time to think of verse and rhyme. However, if these messages were not ripped off, then the obvious and intelligent answer is that he was possessed by a demon in that cave. Compare that story with Mark 5:2-13, and you see how similar they are. In short, Mohammed thought it was a demon to start with; no angel has ever spoken through another person's mouth to themselves in that manner; Mohammed, like the possessed man, showed self-destructive tendencies in that the man cut himself, and Mohammed was about to commit suicide; the things go on and on. I think it very fitting that before Islam Allah was the god of the moon, because just as the moon does not create any light of its own, but merely reflects that of the sun, so Allah and Islam reflect the power and glory of the Father and the Son. Besides, any scholar who is not biased will tell you that the fundamentalists are the one correctly interpreting scripture, not the others.

## “Dinosaur” Filming Update

So far, about 40 minutes have been filmed. Please keep me and my crew in your prayers, as our only video camera has a habit of freezing up on most shots over 27 seconds long, and as you might well imagine, filming 5 hours of video is a long process, but a whole lot longer when you have to do it in 27 second intervals. Occasionally it will work right, and I thank God for every time it works right. But those times are rare. Please keep us in your prayers. Thank you all.

## Christian Quiz

You've seen or heard these verses before—now fill in the missing part.

1. “In the beginning God created the \_\_\_\_\_” Genesis 1:1
2. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever \_\_\_\_\_ him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

3. "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that \_\_\_\_\_ is wise." Proverbs 12:15
4. "He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness \_\_\_\_\_" Psalms 23:3
5. "Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I \_\_\_\_\_." Psalms 119:104

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?  
E-mail me at Vertisai [at symbol] hotmail.com

If you have a story you think should be included, or would like to volunteer as a writer,  
your willingness to help would be appreciated.

The answers are:  
heavens and the earth  
believeth in  
hearkeneth unto counsel  
for his name's sake  
hate every false way