

FAMILY BULLETIN ALERT

Faith, Freedom & Citizenship Class

Kempsville Presbyterian Church

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The views expressed herein are the views of the Editor, Vernon Fix

“SECRETS OF THE KORAN”

by Don Richardson

THE WOLF IN THE FOLD

To understand the secrets of the Koran we must begin by learning something of the life of the man who, according to Islamic history, originated it. His name was Mohammed.

The most commonly accepted year for Mohammed's birth is A.D. 571. He was born in Mecca (sometimes spelled Makkah), a major center on a north-south caravan route roughly paralleling the Red Sea in western Arabia. Mecca also guarded the Ka'abaa shrine sheltering 360 idols representing the 360 gods that various pagan Arab tribes worshiped.

Orphaned in childhood and raised by an uncle, Mohammed never became literate. Still, he worked his way up to managerial status in a Meccan caravan company owned by a wealthy widow, Khadija. He and Khadija married. Khadija was several years Mohammed's senior, yet she bore him four daughters.

Early in the 600s, Mohammed began to follow the ways of Arab seers seeking spiritual enlightenment. He resorted to a cave on Mount Hira, near Mecca. Soon he claimed to be experiencing visitations from Gabriel, an archangel mentioned by Jews and Christians. Gabriel, he said, appeared to him on behalf of the same God that Jews and Christians worshiped. Mohammed called that God Allah.

This entity identified as Gabriel began explaining what Mohammed must do as a servant for Allah. He had to oppose the idolatrous worship of pagan idols wherever they were found—especially the idols in Mecca's Ka'aba. Much to the displeasure of wealthy keepers of the Ka'aba, Mohammed proclaimed himself a prophet and began preaching vehemently against pagan idolatry. Eventually, in A.D. 622, Meccan hostility to his ardent monotheism forced Mohammed to flee with a few followers to Medina, another caravan stop located some 200 miles north of Mecca.

The few Meccans who fled with Mohammed were those who readily accepted, at face value, his claim that the God of the Jews and Christians had appointed him as a prophet for Arabs. Some Arabs who disbelieved Mohammed's message did so because they quite frankly preferred to worship idols. Others simply demurred, saying in effect, "You claim to be a prophet like the prophets Jews and Christians believe in, but we Arabs have never had prophets like that, so we don't know how to determine who is or isn't [sent by God] to be that kind of a prophet. . . . But Jews know how to recognize that kind of a prophet. So if they confirm your claim, we will believe you. Otherwise, we retain our own beliefs."

DOMA's Under Attack

...The Defense of Marriage Acts, also known as DOMA laws, are various state laws that define marriage as being between a man and a woman. This past week, two homosexual men in Arizona launched a court challenge to that state's DOMA law. Family Research Council spokesperson Genevieve Wood says this action, along with impending court decisions in other states, will probably open the floodgates to many more DOMA law challenges. If the Supreme Court in Massachusetts rules in favor of legalizing homosexual marriage, and if New Jersey's courts do so, Wood says she has no doubt that couples will travel to those states, marry and then return to their home states to challenge DOMA laws there. To prevent this from happening, pro-family groups will be pushing the approval of the Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, an amendment that would define marriage as consisting only of a union between a man and a woman, and ensuring that no state or federal law be allowed to require that marital status or "the legal incidents thereof" be conferred on unmarried couples or groups. URL: www.AgapePress.org

Comment: Coming soon to Virginia.

Marriage Amendment

ISSUE: The Supreme Court's decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, finding a constitutional right to homosexual sodomy, presents a clear threat to traditional marriage and the family. However, there is a solution.

Currently pending before the United States House of Representatives is the Federal Marriage Amendment (H.J.Res. 56). This resolution would amend the Constitution to ban same-sex marriage. Events in Vermont and California, as well as pending lawsuits in Massachusetts, have proven that the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act is insufficient to defend traditional marriage. And the Court's ruling in *Lawrence* was so broad that it cannot be expected to uphold DOMA.

Last year, a poll of 1,500 homosexual rights activists found that the number one priority of their movement was not hate crimes legislation or special employment rights, but same-sex marriage -- redefining marriage and family in a manner contrary to thousands of years of Judeo-Christian values.

Thirty-seven (37) states currently have laws banning homosexual marriage. For a constitutional amendment to become law, 38 states must approve it. As you can see, we're very close to having the necessary support

THE PROBLEM OF FINDING SUPPORT FOR MOHAMMED'S CLAIMS

In Medina, Mohammed offered his services to the city as an arbiter of disputes. In that role, he constantly sought to ingratiate himself with fellow Arabs and, at first, with the city's sizable Jewish population.

Watching him arbitrate disputes, the Jews also observed Mohammed closely, looking for any signs that he had received prophetic gifting from God. The ability to work miracles would have been one proof, but Mohammed could not offer a single physical miracle as evidence of prophethood. In fact, passages in the Koran express his dismay over people who kept demanding miracles as support for his claims. Sans miracles, what else could Mohammed offer?

Demonstrating prowess in offering revelations confirming the Old Testament was very likely Mohammed's only other way of impressing Median Jews. However, the Koran itself shows that his knowledge of the Jewish sacred books was shockingly deficient. Even what he claimed to be divine inspiration could not compensate for Mohammed's personal lack of knowledge of Scripture.

A Glaring Omission

If the first 89 chapters of the Koran, compiled years later, offer any clues to the content of Mohammed's early revelations, he probably treated the Jews in Medina to a narration he surely felt would spellbind them: the Exodus story! The Koran would later feature Mohammed's renditions of Moses' confrontation with the pharaoh, a ruler of ancient Egypt, 27 times in his first 89 chapters. In other words, Mohammed repeated that same story once every 3.3 chapters! It surely must have been one of his favorite pulpit pieces.

Alas, not even *once* in 27 tellings of the Exodus saga did Mohammed include *the* most integral component of the story: *the Passover!* How could the Jews accept as a prophet a man who if he even knew about the Passover had no sense of its importance?

More Gaps in Mohammed's Knowledge

Omitting the Passover from the Exodus story was not Mohammed's only lapse. The Koran would later reveal that he thought Adam and Eve sinned, not in an earthly garden, but in paradise. Mohammed had the erring couple cast to Earth only *after* they sinned (see Koran 7:19-24 or 7:20-25).

Mohammed also confused King Saul-mentioned in the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel-with Gideon who, in Judges 7:1-7, chose 300 warriors out of 10,000 men by observing how they drank water (see Koran 2:249 or 250).

Mohammed tried sweetness and light for his first 10 years in Mecca, when that didn't work he used brutal raids, murder, rape and slaves during the final 10 years while in Medina. The legacy of Islam is the second 10 years. He went on 47 raids personally. Ed.

Next week we will discuss KORAN: A Book of Peace?

across the country. Now all that remains is to convince the Republican Congress to act. The American Family Association. URL: afa.net.

ACTION: Sign a petition that is being circulated, make your voice known. Call and write your elected persons. Ask them to support H.J. Res. 56, the Federal Marriage Amendment.

NYC with Homosexual High School

By Steve Jordahl, correspondent

New York City is \$3.5 billion in debt and the education budget is being cut by \$450 million, but somehow the city found the money to start the nation's first all-gay public high school -- the Harvey Milk High School. The doors are set to open in September.

"Here in New York City, they just raised taxes across the board," Long said. "Now we find out that they're spending \$3.2 million on reconstructing a school for 100 kids."

He added that building the school sends a mixed message: "Everyone talks about diversity, everyone talks about mainstreaming people, now we are building a wall around this special community." URL:

www.citizenlink.org

"Tithe if you love Jesus!

Anyone can honk!" A Church sign.

PRO-FAMILY GROUPS GRATEFUL FOR BUSH'S DEFENSE OF TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE

As expected, President Bush's endorsement of a move to outlaw homosexual marriage is getting mixed reviews. Evangelical and pro-family groups are praising his comments, but pro-homosexual advocates are suspicious of his use of terms like "sinners" and "the sanctity of marriage."

More details:

<http://headlines.agapepress.org/archive/7/312003a.asp>

SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY?

...A citizens group is trying to head off plans by the U.S. Corps of Engineers to build a taxpayer-funded Muslim summer camp on federally-owned land in Southeastern Iowa. The camp will host individuals from terrorist-sponsoring countries. The plan, which has already been scaled back, would provide for about 60 campers and staff for 10 weeks during the summer and would be available for recreational and educational use by up to 1,500 people the rest of the year. Greg Evans is with Concerned Citizens of Johnson County, which opposes the project. Evans says the stated purpose of the camp, which is to be supported and maintained directly by taxpayer dollars, is to promote Islam. Agapepress.

ACTION: Protest to your Congressman/woman. This is so ridiculous. Ed.