

*According to the  
eternal purpose which he  
purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord*

Kentucky Christadelphian  
Bible School

Day 4

June 28 – July 4, 2014

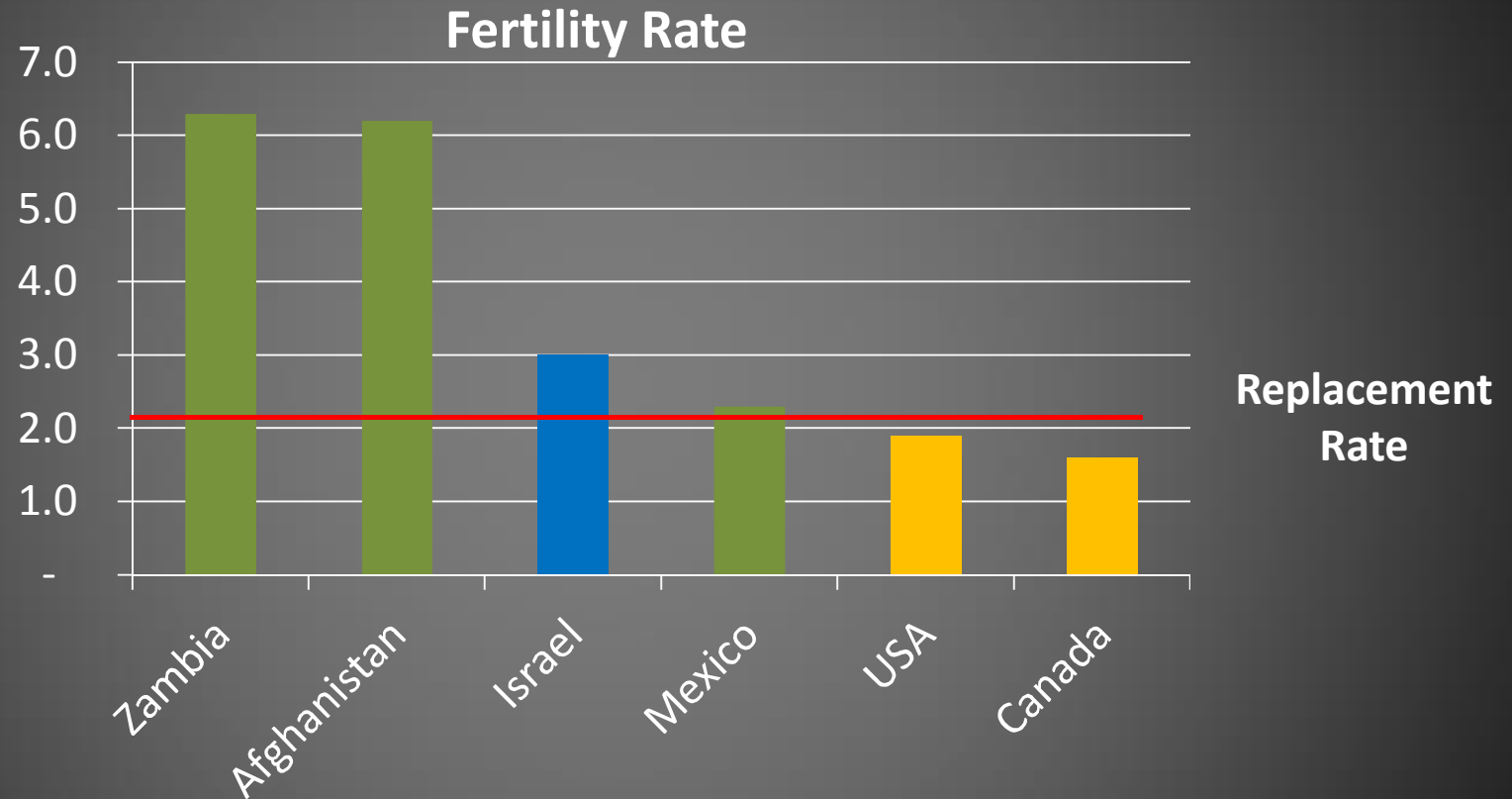
*But thou, Israel, art my servant,  
Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.  
Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called  
thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my  
servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.  
Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed;  
for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee;  
yea, I will help thee;  
yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*

ISAIAH 41:8-10

Day 4

God's Purpose with Israel

# How nations are changing



Total fertility rate represents the number of children that would be born to a woman if she were to live to the end of her childbearing years and bear children in accordance with current age-specific fertility rates. Source: World Bank

# God's purpose is to save Israel as an act of mercy

Now if thou shalt kill all this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying, Because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land which he swore unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness.

Numbers 14:15-16

# The vindication of God's holiness

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob **and have mercy on the whole house of Israel**, and I will be jealous for my holy name. They shall forget their shame and all the treachery they have practiced against me, when they dwell securely in their land with none to make them afraid, when I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them from their enemies' lands, **and through them have vindicated my holiness in the sight of many nations**. Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, because I sent them into exile among the nations and then assembled them into their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations anymore. And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 39:25-29

# A very old conflict

Approximately 2,000 B.C.	Characters	Issues
<p>And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. <sup>7</sup> And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle...</p> <p><b>Genesis 13:6,7</b></p>	<p><b>Abraham's herdmen;</b> his nephew, <b>Lot's herdmen</b></p>	<p>Land and water</p>
<p>And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian [<b>Ishmael</b>], which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with <b>Isaac</b>.</p> <p><b>Genesis 21:9-10</b></p>	<p><b>Abraham's wife, Sarah,</b> and his concubine, <b>Hagar</b></p>	<p>The entitlement of the sons to be the heir</p>
<p>And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob. <b>Genesis 27:41</b></p>	<p><b>Esau and Jacob</b></p>	<p>Inheriting the blessing and birthright</p>

# Why does the inheritance matter?

- “ For the promise, that he should be **the heir of the world**, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith (Romans 4:16).
- “ Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having **no hope**, and **without God in the world**...(Ephesians 2:11-12)

# Replacement theology

Abraham

What is being 'replaced' in the sense that is being replaced by 'theology'?

Ishmael

Isaac

Perpetual hatred

Jacob/Israel

Esau/Edom

Christ

Mohammad





# What do these systems of worship have in common?

Roman  
Catholicism

Latter Day  
Saints

Based on the  
*Book of  
Mormon*

Jehovah's  
Witnesses

Watchtower  
Tract and  
Publishing  
Society

Islam

Based on  
*The Koran*

Sunni

Shia

The ultimate founding of the Jewish State was problematic for the Catholic Church because it invalidated the church's replacement theology and its doctrine about the Jewish people so that all Jews for generations to come were to be cursed and punished for deicide.

Review of *The Vatican Against Israel: J'Accuse*

## Diverse systems with common threads

1. They all have an extra-Biblical human authority structure to maintain and control their doctrine
2. Their doctrine is that they are the alternative to the seed of Abraham in the line of Isaac and Jacob as the permanent and final choice favoured by God. The natural seed is viewed as cast out and disowned forever.

### CONSEQUENCES

- É The restoration of the Jews to Palestine and Israel's emergence as a nation-state are viewed as a threat to their theology
- É To the extent they have influence on geopolitics, it is generally stridently against Israel and Jerusalem being in the hands of the Jews. A practical example is church support for the BDS campaign.

# Sunni versus Shi'a Islam: a dispute over Mohammad's succession

The argument dates back to the death in 632 of Islam's founder, the Prophet Muhammad. Tribal Arabs who followed him were split over who should inherit what was both a political and a religious office. The majority, who would go on to become known as the Sunnis, and today make up 80% of Muslims, backed Abu Bakr, a friend of the Prophet and father of his wife Aisha. **Others thought Muhammad's kin the rightful successors.** They claimed the Prophet had anointed Ali, his cousin and son-in-law—they became known as the Shia, a contraction of "shiaat Ali", the partisans of Ali. Abu Bakr's backers won out, though Ali did briefly rule as the fourth caliph, the title given to Muhammad's successors.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2013/05/economist-explains-19#sthash.o0blJhq5.dpuf>


# Sunni versus Shi'a Islam: the irony of the dispute

Islam's split was cemented when Ali's son Hussein was killed in 680 in Karbala (modern Iraq) by the ruling Sunni caliph's troops. Sunni rulers continued to monopolise political power, while the Shia lived in the shadow of the state, looking instead to their imams, the first twelve of whom were descended directly from Ali, for guidance.. But while Sunnis rely heavily on the practice of the Prophet and his teachings (the "sunna"), the Shia **see their ayatollahs as reflections of God on earth.**


<http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2013/05/economist-explains-19#sthash.o0blJhq5.dpuf>

# Comparison of Sunni and Shia Islam

Comparison	Sunni	Shia
Current adherents	940 million	120 million
Primary locations	Most Muslim countries	Iran, Iraq, Yemen
True successor of the prophet	Abu Bakhr, father of the Prophet's favoured wife, 'A'ishah (elcted by the people of Medina)	Ali ibn Abi Talib, husband of the Prophet's daughter Fatimah (designated by the Prophet)
Qualifications for ruler of Islam	Tribe of the prophet (Quraysh); later any qualified ruler	Family of the Prophet
Current leaders	Imams	Mujtahids
Identity of imams	Human leaders	Infallible manifestations of God and perfect interpreters of the Qur'an
Al Mahdi	Will come in the future	Already on earth as the 'hidden imam'



*The Bible  
identifies  
Isaac as  
Abraham's  
heir*



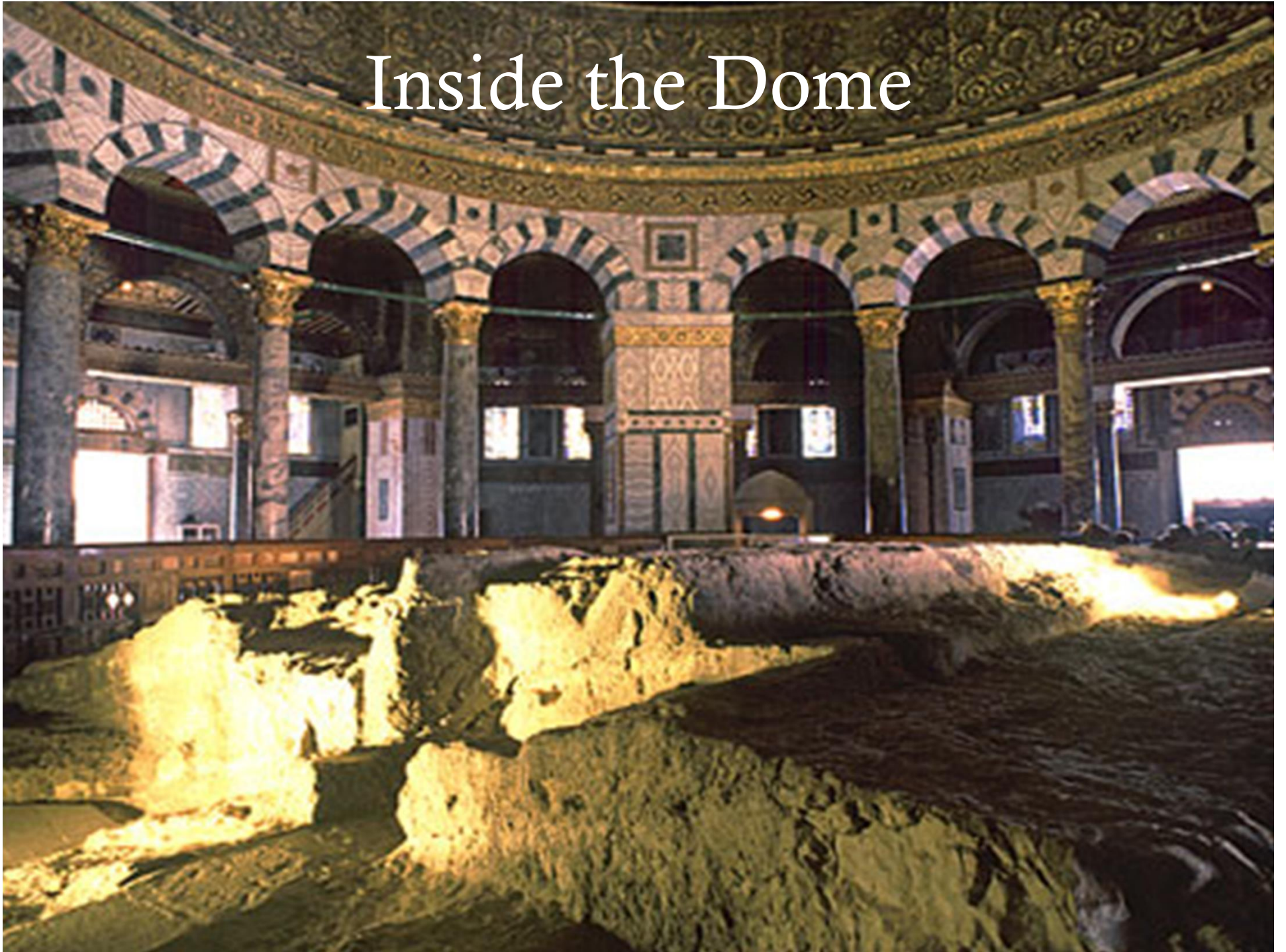
*The Koran  
implies  
Ishmael is  
Abraham's  
heir*

**3,000 years of denial**



The eastern Gate  
has been sealed up for centuries

# Inside the Dome





# Inscriptions inside the Dome denying that God has a Son

- “ Far be it removed from His transcendent majesty that He should have a son
- “ It befitteth not (the Majesty of) God that He should take unto Himself a son.
- “ He begetteth not nor was begotten
- “ God, Who hath not taken unto Himself a son, and Who hath no partner in the Sovereignty, nor hath He any protecting friend through dependence.

# The Flag of Saudi Arabia

لا إله إلا الله  
محمد رسول الله



The Arabic writing on the **Saudi Arabian flag** is the Islamic declaration of faith and it reads, "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his Prophet". The sword symbolizes the victories and justice of Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud. Green is the official color of Islam.

# Ishmael and Esau's manner

- “ And by **thy sword** shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck (Genesis 27:40).
- “ And he will be a **wild man**; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren (Genesis 16:12)

# Perpetual hatred

Because thou hast had a **perpetual hatred**, and hast shed the blood of the children of Israel by the force of the sword in the time of their calamity, in the time *that their iniquity had an end* (Ezekiel 35:5)

# Different agents and different outcomes

<b>Worldview #A Judeo-Christian</b>		<b>Worldview # B Islamic</b>
<p>The One <b>Anointed</b> by God [Hebrew – Moshiach, Messiah [Greek – Christ] will come to deliver Israel and save the world.</p> <p>There is a widely held view in Christian eschatology that a false Messiah, Antichrist, will arise in Jerusalem and make a covenant of peace with the Jews in the land.</p>		<p>In Islamic eschatology, the <b>Mahdi</b> (English: Guided One) is the prophesied redeemer of Islam.</p> <p>Isa (Jesus Christ) will return to aid <i>Mahdi</i> against <i>Masih ad-Dajjal</i>, the false messiah, and his followers. In some accounts, the Jews must be first slain as enemies of Islam.</p>

Eschatology defined - a branch of theology concerned with the final events in the history of the world or of humankind



# The position of the Jews

Sharansky agreed with the assessment. Despite the assistance the Jewish Agency is prepared to render, “nothing will help so long as Europe's political and intellectual leadership refrains from declaring all-out war against the demonization of the Jewish state,” Sharansky said. “While Jews as individuals are no longer demonized in Europe as they were in previous centuries, the demonization of Israel—the collective Jew—continues to rise to new heights, creating a toxic atmosphere in which Jews live in fear and those who target them flourish.

“When Israel is singled out for condemnation and scorn, even as crimes against humanity and genuine humanitarian catastrophes rage throughout the Middle East and around the world, the message to those seeking a pretext to harm Jews is clear. Until Europe declares war on the demonization of Israel, no security measure will help,” Sharansky added.

Israel National News

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/181021#.U4KcbZtOUUA>

# The Syrian civil war refugee crisis

As for Syria itself, about three million of its pre-war population of 22 million have fled the country, most of them Sunnis.<sup>4</sup> Five million have abandoned their homes for other places within Syria,<sup>5</sup> meaning that more than one-third of the citizens of Syria have left their homes. Even though the Alawite-Shiite elements are still minorities, they are increasingly powerful ones and have been depleted less by the refugee crisis.

The war has not only precipitated the large-scale flight of refugees. After the Syrian army returned to the outskirts of Damascus and took over rebel areas, it announced a “rehabilitation program.” This was, in fact, aimed at destroying densely populated Sunni neighborhoods that supported the rebels and fracturing these neighborhoods’ social composition, all under the guise of “rehabilitation.”<sup>6</sup>

The Assad regime has no intention to allow the refugees to return, evident in its plan to issue new identity cards to Syrian citizens and thereby invalidate the refugees’ citizenship.<sup>7</sup>

# Syria versus the Palestinians

The Syrian ethnic-cleansing policy also includes the Palestinians in Syria. Al-Quds al-Arabi, a pan-Arab daily, reported from Syria that the Assad regime told the PLO that the Palestinian refugees who fled the Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus will not be allowed to return, and that the regime is systematically destroying the refugee camps in Syria as one way to “cause (Sunni) emigration.” One of the reasons the Assad regime decided to demolish the camps was that 400,000 Syrian Sunni refugees had taken shelter in the Yarmouk camp.<sup>13</sup> - See more at:

<http://jcpa.org/article/syrian-war-is-reshaping-the-region/#sthash.0BX8TN0m.dpuf>

Source: Demographic Upheaval: How the Syrian War is Reshaping the Region, Pinhas Inbari, June 17, 2014, Institute for Contemporary Affairs