



Journey: A Summit on Christian Manhood
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What About ISIS?

What About ISIS? Seminar Workshop Syllabus Supplement
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Research the Scriptures – Proclaim the Scriptures
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Let's define some terms:

(ISIS) -- Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

(ISIL) -- The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

A group seeking to establish and be recognized as a transnational Islamic Caliphate

Caliphate - a form of Islamic government led by a Caliph

Caliph – head of state;

Sunni believe that a Caliph should be elected by Muslims or their representatives

Shia believe that a Caliph should be an Imam chosen by God from Muhammad's direct descendants).

Imam - Islamic leader;

Sunni - Islamic worship service leader, sometimes serve as community leaders, and provide religious guidance

Shia - a central leader deemed an infallible, perfect example and literal “Man of God” that participates fully in the attributes and acts of God. He is a successor to the Islamic prophet Muhammad. Those chosen are free from committing any sin and these leaders must be followed since they are appointed by God.

Mahdi -- the prophesied redeemer of Islam who will rule for seven, nine, or nineteen years, before the Day of Judgment or the Day of Resurrection. During this time he will rid the world of evil. He will return with Jesus Christ who (they believe) comes to assist the Mahdi. Some believe the Mahdi to be twelfth Imam. If you count the successors from Mohammad, you discover the twelfth was Muhammad ibn al-Hasan, born 869 AD and the date of his death is unknown. It is said that he (rather than die) went into "Occultation". Interestingly, the Mahdi is not mentioned in the Qu'ran. The Sunni believe that Muhammad's successor is yet to come.

Occultation – Divided into two parts: Minor Occultation and Major Occultation.

Minor Occultation – A period when the Twelfth Imam maintained contact with his followers through agents that represented him.

Major Occultation – A longer period (continuing to this day) where no one sees or hears from him until his return.

A brief history of Islam

When did it begin? A Muslim will tell you with creation! A Christian and a Hebrew will tell you with Muhammad and often point out their mistaken identity of Ishmael. But it may go back to Midian with Moses's Father-in-Law Jethro.

Muhammed was born in 570 AD in Mecca. Considered by Islam to be the last law bearing prophet.

Recent History of ISIL

ISIL (or ISIS) was founded in 1999 by Jordanian radical Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and was called "The Organization of Monotheism and Jihad". They achieved notoriety with the 2003 invasion of Iraq. They pledged allegiance to Osama bin Laden. June 7, 2006 al-Zarqawi was killed in a US airstrike. On 12 October 2006, joined by other groups, it swore by Allah "...to rid Sunnis from the oppression of the rejectionists (Shi'ite Muslims) and the crusader occupiers, ... to restore rights even at the price of our own lives... to make Allah's word supreme in the world, and to restore the glory of Islam". It was then named the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI). After several setbacks, in 2012 it re-established its former holds in Iraq. It established its presence in the Syrian Civil War that began in 2011. It joined other groups to eventually form ISIL. In 2014, it proclaimed itself an Islamic State. It demands allegiance of Muslims worldwide as it attempts to become a Caliphate. It believes in a radical view of Jihad, using it to accomplish its means.

Historic Roots of ISIL

The Sykes-Picot Agreement (Asia Minor Agreement) negotiated in 1915 was a secret agreement between United Kingdom and France (with Russia consulting) where provinces of the Ottoman Empire would be divided in the event of victory. In 1917, the Russian Revolution quickly followed by the Bolshevik Revolution occurred. The Bolsheviks exposed the Sykes-Picot Agreement. This resulted in the British and French Mandate of 1918.

Ottoman Empire (Sunni Islamic state) – 1299 - 1922
Turk and Mongol Empires - 930 AD
Arab Islamic Caliphate – 633 - 930 AD
Byzantine and Sasanian Empires – 363 - 633 AD
Roman Empire – 68 BC - 363 AD
Grecian Empire – 332 - 63 BC
Persian Empire – 539 - 332 BC
Babylonian Empire – 606 - 539 BC
Assyrian Empire – 2600 BC - 612 BC
Pre-Assyrian (Babel and Nineveh and other cities [Genesis 10])

How must the Church respond?

Know that God is in control! Daniel 4:34-35
The Old Testament Biblical example (Jonah, Elijah, Elisha, Nahum and Paul in Damascus)
Have Faith (Habakkuk 1:5; 2:4 Isaiah 26:3)
Already foretold (Jesus, John, Revelation)
Be Faithful!