Saudi King Plans First Interfaith Conference To Include Jews

By Yoav Stern, Haaretz Correspondent, and The Associated Press

Note from Pastor Kevin Lea follows this article.



In a rare departure from government practice, Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah is planning to convene an interfaith conference for Muslims, Christians and Jews, according to the Saudi-owned *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* newspaper.

The call for religious dialog to include

Jews is the first by the monarch, whose country's regulations prohibit the importation of non-Muslim religious objects including crucifixes and stars of David.

The Saudi King said representatives of the three major monotheistic faiths need to work together "to defend humanity" from harm, speaking in an address he delivered in Riyadh on Monday.

Al-Sharq al-Awsat, which is published in London, quoted King Abdullah as saying he had discussed idea of a summit to promote religious dialog a number of months ago with the Pope. "I proposed to him to address God by means of the commandments he commanded the monotheistic faiths in the bible, the New Testament, and the Koran," the king said.

The monarch said he is disturbed by the breakdown of the family unit across the world, as well as the damaged to the principle of "loyalty to humanity." "I plan, god willing, to hold summits - not just one - so as to hear the opinion of my Muslim brothers all over the world. We will start to meet with our brothers in every faith I have mentioned - the bible and the New Testament," he said. King Abdullah said the kingdom's top clerics had given him the green light to pursue the idea.

In response to the Saudi initiative, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yona Metzger said, "our hands are extended to any peace initiative, or to any dialogue whose goal is to bring an end to terror and violence. I have said many times that the true way to reach the long-awaited peace is through interfaith dialogue."

Rabbi David Rosen, head of inter-religious relations at the American Jewish

Committee, said he was delighted by the Saudi announcement. "Religion is all too often the problem, so it has to also be the solution, or at least part of the solution, and I think that the tragedy of the political initiatives to bring peace has been the failure to include the religious dimension," he said.

Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: For those who have read the Koran and understand the history of Islam, this statement by Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah is nothing short of shockingly unbelievable.

Saudi Arabia is the birth place of Mohammed, and home of the Kaaba (holiest place of Islam – shrine with a black rock which must be visited by all true Muslims at least once during their lifetime) in Mecca.

Every Muslim is required to chant that there is no god but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet. The prophet Mohammed commanded his followers to not take the Jew or the Christian as their friends.

Sura 5:51 O you who believe! do not take the Jews and the Christians for friends; they are friends of each other; and whoever amongst you takes them for a friend, then surely he is one of them; surely Allah does not guide the unjust people.

So how can King Abdullah talk of working together with Jews and Christians, people which Mohammed forbid his followers from joining with? I believe the answer comes from an understanding of the prophetic scriptures pertaining to the last days. The Bible teaches that all false religions are inspired by Satan and come to man through false teachers and prophets listening to doctrines of demons (1 Tim 4). Therefore, Satan has inspired Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Catholicism (Catholicism is not Christian), etc.

Through all of history, these and all the other false religions have been at odds with each other and with the truth of the Judea-Christian faith. But according to the prophet Daniel and John the Apostle (Revelation), Satan's final attempt to destroy the inhabitants of this world will be through his plan to unify it politically and then possess the world ruler, the Antichrist. In doing so, Satan's man will be unrestrained by other nations, because there will be no other nations. The only reason Hitler did not succeed in his demonic desire to destroy the Jews was because there was Britain and America to oppose him.

In order to unify the world politically, the world's religions must put down their claims to absolute truth for the sake of global unity. Therefore, Satan has to morph his own lies, which are held by the adherents of these false religions, into a kinder/gentler form in order to allow his man (the Antichrist) to rule over and attempt to destroy all of mankind.

Thus, this news item should not be that surprising to those who believe we are in the last of the last days spoken of by the true Prophets and Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. As the false religions unify by laying down their differences, they will also be unifying in their hatred, contempt and murder of those who do believe in the true God (Yahweh, and the one He sent as Savior (Jesus)). It does appear that persecution of true Christians is coming soon. But be of good cheer, Jesus said:

Luke 21:28 "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

Also see: Younger Muslims Tune In to Upbeat Religious Message