

Pastor Terry Jones Threatens to Burn Korans

What is the Biblical/Christian Response?

By Pastor Kevin Lea – September 11, 2010

Several people have asked me for my thoughts about Pastor Terry Jones' plan to burn copies of the Koran on September 11, 2010 (which he then decided not to do). There have been many opinions being given in the various forms of media. I don't plan to repeat the things others have covered but hope to add what seems to be left out.

Many are wondering if Pastor Jones is a believer in the Biblical Jesus and therefore a born again brother in the faith. I don't know pastor Jones but I did watch a nearly twenty-three minute interview that NBC's Kerry Sanders had with Pastor Jones on Wednesday, September 8, 2010. NBC labeled the video link as a "full interview" so I assume it was not edited.

In the interview (which is currently posted at <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032619/#39063421>), Pastor Jones exhibited the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-24 – love, peace, longsuffering, kindness, gentleness, and self-control) toward Kerry Sanders and others who were being talked about. Pastor Jones also professed that he believed Jesus is the only way for man to be saved and it was this conviction that made him realize that Islam and the Koran are a false religion and Americans need to be warned about the deceptions of Islam before it is too late. Based on this interview, it appears that Pastor Jones is a sincere believer in the biblical Jesus and a lover of the truth, but it is possible additional information would put this evaluation in question.

Pastor Jones stated that he and the congregation were led by God to burn the Korans as a way to warn Americans that they need to wake up to the dangers of Islam and its Sharia law spreading in this country. I believe that Jesus could have led Pastor Jones to do so and the Scriptures would caution us about condemning him for what he is led to do. In Romans 14 the Apostle Paul was dealing with division in the church associated with a debate about what Christians were allowed to eat. Paul silenced this debate by saying:

Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. (NKJ)

Since I believe Pastor Jones is a sincere believer in Jesus, I don't want to question whether he is being led by Jesus to burn Korans unless there is a clear scriptural injunction *not* to do so. But is there?

To answer this question, the history of Acts Chapter 19 comes to mind. Paul had preached the gospel with great effectiveness in the city of Ephesus. Acts 19 records that many had turned away from magic and other forms of false religion and gathered their books in the center of town and burned them.

Acts 19:18-20 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver [thousands of dollars]. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. (NKJ)

This public act of burning their false religion books would have been extremely offensive to those still practicing magic and to those making money in the witchcraft trade. Notice that the Scriptures do not record Paul rebuking these Christian believers for publicly burning their books. Paul did not say they

should refrain from burning because it might incite or offend those who hold a contrary view. Paul rejoiced that the message of the gospel set people free from the lies of Satan and he did not restrain believers from burning books filled with the lies of the master deceiver.

However, in our current discussion, the Ephesian example would fit better if it were former Muslims who had been set free from the lies of Mohammad and were stacking up their Korans to be burned rather than Pastor Jones and his congregation. But I still believe the Ephesus example applies, especially when we consider what happened next in Ephesus.

Shortly after the Christians completed their public burning in Ephesus, a man stirred up the people from the city to condemn the Christians. One must read the entire text to appreciate the level of mass hysteria that occurred. This same kind of reaction was being anticipated by the leaders of the world if Pastor Jones had gone through with his plan to burn Korans.

*Acts 19:23-26 And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way [a term used for Christians in that day – probably because their message was that Jesus was “the **Way**, The Truth and the Life” and that no one could come to God except through Him (John 14:6 - 7)]. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana [a false idol god of the Ephesians, just as Allah is the false god of the Muslims], brought no small profit to the craftsmen. He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands."*

Muslims contend that Allah is not an idol god and that it was Muhammad who had rid the Arab world of idolatry when he became the prophet of Allah. However, those who have studied the history of Islam have proven that Allah is actually the moon god of Arab antiquity and the crescent moon of Islam is a testimony to its idolatrous roots. The Scriptures record how the Midianites (Arabs) during the time of the judges of Israel hung crescent moons around their camel's necks when they went into battle. The following verse comes from the historical account in the book of Judges where Gideon defeated the Midianites: *So Zebah and Zalmunna said, "Rise yourself, and kill us; for as a man is, so is his strength." So Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the **crescent ornaments that were on their camels' necks.*** (Judges 8:21 NKJ)

*Acts 19:27-28 "So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be **despised and her magnificence destroyed**, whom all Asia and the world worship." And when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"*

How can Diana's magnificence be destroyed if she were a true god? It amazes me how blind people are to this contradiction. If Diana were a true god, she could have killed Paul and all the other Christians in Ephesus herself. The same can be said for any so-called "god." If Allah is truly god, and he is offended at Pastor Jones' plans to burn the "holy" Koran, then why doesn't *he* do something about it? Could it be because he is a false god with no real power?

In the interview with NBC's Kerry Sanders, Pastor Jones stated that if a local mosque was planning to burn Bibles, there would be no outcry or death threats coming from the Christian community because Christianity is not a violent religion, Islam is.

Christians serve the God of the Bible. He is the God that created all things out of nothing. He made man out of the dust of the earth. He brought the ten plagues on Egypt to destroy them because they would not let the Jews out of slavery. He parted the Red Sea and the Jordan River, brought down the walls of Jericho and sent Jesus into the world from the womb of a virgin. Jesus then lived a perfect life, died on the cross on our behalf and three days later rose from the grave to prove He can give life to all who believe in Him by faith.

The true God of the Bible is a powerful, loving, compassionate, patient, all-knowing and all-present God and He doesn't need our help to "slay the infidels" because he is quite capable of doing it Himself, on His own timing (Acts 5:4-10, 12:23, Revelation 19-20).

True believers in the loving God of the Bible do not want to kill or assault "non believers," because the God of love has filled our own hearts with His Love toward others, even our enemies. We know that God was merciful to us during our time of ignorance and unbelief and we want to be loving, merciful and compassionate to others who have still not opened their hearts to the true God.

We know that death to the unbeliever sends them to hell for eternity, a place that we also deserve (apart from God's saving grace) to go and shudder at the thought of how close we came. But then we came to saving faith in Jesus and He forgave us of sin and promised us everlasting life. A true Christian cannot want to end the life of someone because they are currently rejecting Jesus as their savior, because doing so would eliminate any further chance for them to repent and join with us in life everlasting.

So why do Muslims not have the same attitude toward those who disbelieve in Allah? Is it because the god of the Koran is not a loving god? Those who have read the Koran can attest to the fact that dozens of Surahs (verses) portray Allah as a hateful and vengeful god who demands that his followers convert, enslave or kill all who do not believe. You can read the Koran from front to back and you will never find verses like the following which govern the life of true Christians:

John 3:16-18 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (NKJ)

Romans 5:6-8 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (NKJ)

2 Peter 3:8-9 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (NKJ)

Romans 12:17-21 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a

drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (NKJ)

Going back to Acts Chapter 19 history about the riot in Ephesus:

Acts 19:27-30 "So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship." And when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions. And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him.

The disciples would not allow Paul to enter the theater, probably because they knew the mob would have tried to kill Paul.

Acts 19:31-34 Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater. Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together. And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people. But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

Just as we see happening today when hundreds-of-thousands of Muslims take to the streets crying out "Allah Akbar (Allah is the greatest), death to Israel, death to America."

*Acts 19:35-37 And when the city clerk had quieted the crowd, he said: "Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Zeus? Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly. For you have brought these men here who are **neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess.**"*

This is very important as we evaluate what our response should be to Pastor Jones' plan to burn the Korans. The city clerk of Ephesus stated that Paul (and the Christians with him) had not robbed the temple of Diana (taken the money that people had thrown at the feet of the Diana idol as people do today at idols of Buddha, Mary, etc.), nor had he blasphemed Diana (meaning he didn't directly denigrate Diana in a mocking way).

As Christians, we are trying to reason with those who are being deceived, and do so in a way that will be effective in reaching their hearts with the truth. If Paul would have publicly walked into Ephesus and said to those gathered, "This massive image of Diana is nothing but a dead stone chiseled on by men's hands and it is powerless to save or destroy. I mock your false god and those who follow her." And then if Paul were to have spit on the image, it would have been very likely the rest of the history recorded in the book of Acts would not have been written, because Paul would have been killed immediately. However, every word would have been true, but it would not have been spoken in a way to win over those who disagreed, which is the mission of a true Christian.

So is Pastor Jones' plan to burn copies of Korans a needless offense, or is it an attempt by a courageous Pastor to wake up sleeping Christians and Americans to the fact we are allowing the

teachings of a violent religion to spread unfettered in our land? It is clear that he has offended millions, many of whom have heard Pastor Jones comments challenging them about why their religion is so violent. I pray some of them will take a moment to ponder whether they are serving the wrong god.

It is also clear that Pastor Jones has awakened some to find out what the Koran says and what Sharia law will do to our land if we continue to allow Muslims to flood into our country with their aspirations to establish Muslim neighborhoods, states, and ultimately the entire U.S., as has already happened to large areas of Europe and Africa.

Although I am not led to take the stand that Pastor Jones has, I know that his warning is just as real as Paul Revere's was. The Muslims are coming, and they will bring Sharia law if we don't wake up to the threat. I have been to south Sudan five times and have studied the history of how Islam came to Sudan resulting in the death, torture, displacement, and misery of *millions* of African citizens.

At first, Muslims came from Saudi Arabia and Egypt to trade with and live among the Sudanese. As their numbers increased, they would incite Sudanese tribes against each other causing them to go to battle and kill each other. Then the Muslims would come in and convert, enslave or kill the survivors. Over the decades, they ultimately took control of the capital, Khartoum. Once in control of the capital, the Arab Muslims then declared Sudan an Islamic state that would be governed under Sharia law. Those who wanted to live either converted or agreed to live as slaves. Those who refused were hunted down and killed. Those from South Sudan woke up and fought back just in time to keep from being annihilated.

Therefore I am convinced that Pastor Jones' warnings are the truth and they are real, and I rejoice if his courage to take a stand causes more people to educate themselves on these matters that affect their eternal soul.

I also pray that Islam and Sharia law never take over any portion of America. I have no hope that this or something worse won't happen unless Americans repent of our sins against the true God and turn back to Him and His law, which is loving and will restore the blessing we once received. Then the loving God will protect us from the violent religion that truly does come from Satan.

The following are links to articles which show the hypocrisy of Islam:

[Christians in Gaza Fear for Their Lives as Muslims Burn Bibles and Destroy Crosses](#)

[Australia : Muslim Students Urinate, Spit On Then Burn Bible](#)

[Muslims burn Bible in Pakistan](#)

[Muslims Burn Christian Center under Construction in Indonesia](#)

[Egypt Muslims burn Christian shops: police](#)

[Dark age in Pakistan: Muslims burn Christian man as policeman rapes his wife](#)

[6 killed in Pakistan as Muslims burn Christian homes](#)

[Nigeria: Muslims burn church, axe 8 Christians to death, burn Christian's homes](#)

[Egyptian Muslims Burn Christian Man Alive!!](#)

[Muslims Burn down Christian-Owned Churches, shops](#)

[Muslims burn a Christian alive in Pakistan](#)

[AFGHAN MUSLIMS BURN POPE IN EFFIGY](#)

[Punjabi Muslims burn alive Christian women, kid](#)

[West Bank Churches Burned in Light of Muslim Anger Over Papal Comments](#)

[Muslims Burn Synagogues](#)