

What is I AM?

In 966 B.C., King Solomon of Israel built a temple to God most Holy on Mount Moriah. That's the hill where the city of Jerusalem now sits. The temple contained an Ark of the Covenant, upon which the High Priest sprinkled the blood of a spotless lamb once a year. That sin offering was a symbol of the crucifixion of Messiah who was to die for all mankind. A New Testament prophet, John the Baptist, described the coming crucifixion of Jesus in this matter:

John 1:29 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.'"

But back to the temple. The children of Israel fell into idolatry so in 586 B.C. God allowed the temple to be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon. Nevertheless, sacrifices continued at the site for three more years, until Nebuzaradan, captain of Nebuchadnezzar's guard, took all the priests captive to Babylon. The date when sacrifices were abolished is recorded in the Bible.

Jeremiah 52:30 "In the three and twentieth year of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive of the Jews seven hundred forty and five persons."

It was the final captivity of the Jews and the 23rd year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign was 583 B.C. Daniel now tells us what will happen to the temple mount after the priests could no longer sacrifice there:

Daniel 12:11 "And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days."

In **Ezekiel 4:5-6**, God also tells us that prophetic days should actually be understood as years. The Jews used a 360 day calendar while our history is written in solar years of 365.24 days, so we need to convert Old Testament prophecy times to fit our records.

1290 prophetic days -- 1290 Hebrew years -- are 1271.5 years in our calendar.

Califah Abd el Malik ibn Marwan began construction of the Islamic Dome of the Rock in 688 A.D. Sacrifices were abolished in 583 B.C 1271.5 years after 583 B.C. is 688.5 A.D., the exact year construction began on the Dome of the Rock!

And what did the prophet Daniel call that memorial to Muhammad? "The Abomination that Maketh Desolate!"

So indeed, the Bible predicted the coming of Islam to Jerusalem 1200 years before Muhammad was born! But that's not the worst of it. That structure is a memorial to a prophet who said, "God forbid that he should have a son." Can that be true when John the Baptist (a Bible prophet) said when speaking of Jesus:

John 3:36 "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son

shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

So who is this Son? Islam accepts Jesus (Isa) as a prophet, but who did Jesus say He was?

John 8:58 "Jesus said unto them, 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I AM.'"

From the time of Moses, all Israel knew I AM to be the true name of God. Here's the proof:

Exodus 3:13 "And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you."

So when Jesus said He is I AM, he declared Himself to be the God of Heaven and everyone who heard Him knew it. Now God did not have a Son in the biological sense. God sent part of Himself to Earth, as His Son, to save us all from our sins. Jesus reveals more about Himself in His talk with the apostle Philip:

John 14:8-9 "Philip saith unto him, 'Lord, shew us (God) the Father, and it sufficeth us.' Jesus saith unto him, 'Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen (God) the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?'"

So unless all the Bible prophets are lying, Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth to save us from our sins. As He Himself said . . .

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

If you are a Moslem, I know you pray earnestly to God every day. So with an open-heart, ask the God of Heaven if He has a Son. If you ask Him honestly, He will reveal Himself to you. It may not happen today, tomorrow, or even next week, but it will happen.

I truly wish you well,
Ellis Skolfield