

Penetrating the Muslim Curtain

Last month it was Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. Now it's Libya. From a political standpoint it seems democracy is breaking out in the Middle East. The despotic rule of Mubarak is over and the tyrannical reign of Gadaffi is coming to a halt. What's next? In the 1970s, during the reign of the Shah of Iran, I taught school there. Wanting to be a Good American and not an Ugly one, I tried with all my worth to understand Iranians and the Middle East. The first six months I didn't understand their culture or their mind set at all. The second six months I thought I did at least to some degree. After the first year, it became evident what Rudyard Kipling had written over a century before was still in effect, "East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet."

Looking from the outside in, the West hopes for a democratic overlay of the Middle East when in actuality what it faces is an Islam that has erected a Muslim Curtain. Up until 9/11 America was not interested in penetrating this Curtain. Since then it has found out how difficult it is. Iraq and Afghanistan and American military efforts there have, for all intents and purposes failed, along with political and diplomatic efforts amongst the economics of oil. Is there anything that is meeting with success? Answering this question requires a shift from politics to religion.

If one digs deep enough in the sands of time in the Middle East there is a common cord. It has to do with the Messiah who is to come be he the Ma'adi of Islam or the Christ. Do you know that while Saadam Hussein was in power he supposedly had a white horse (the sign of the Ma'adi to come) ready to ride? And do you know that Amadjinadad expects the same Ma'adi to kill all those, including Christians, who do not convert to Islam upon his arrival? Spiritually the battle is on at least as it concerns Christianity and militant Islam.

There is a modern day spiritual Star Wars that is penetrating the Muslim Curtain. Satellite Christian Television is having great success throughout the Middle East. In Iran alone, Nejah Christian TV is bringing spiritual revolution of great impact. Each show is viewed by over 5,000,000 Iranians, 70% under 30 years of age, resulting in 50,000 converts to Christianity. Another, the Healing Channel, received permission from Amadjinadad to televise, via satellite miracle crusades from Benny Hinn a noted Christian healing evangelist. While most Islamic countries prohibit evangelizing, some even under penalty of death and prohibit the distribution of Bibles, it is impossible to stop satellite TV and Internet from penetrating the Muslim Curtain.

But that's not fair some might say—God doesn't choose sides—after all, who is to say Islam isn't as good as Christianity? When I was in Iran, I decided to give my life to Christ. That in itself was a powerful statement concerning Islam and Christianity. While there I heard of an Iranian Muslim who came to the priest of the church I attended asking about Jesus. Upon inquiry the priest found out this man kept having dreams in which Jesus appeared to him. In consequence, the man received Christ and went back to his village a missionary.

Coming out of Iran right now are scores and scores of testimonies from Iranians who have experienced the same thing that man did either in a dream, a vision or on occasion a visitation from Christ. For such to be testified to by Iranians who are putting their lives on the line to do so, speaks an incredibly strong message. The Muslim Curtain is closed yet Christ is showing up to bear witness to them concerning just who He is. Have any of you had a dream, vision or visitation from the Ma'adi lately?

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