

AIR WAR COLLEGE

AIR UNIVERSITY

UNDERSTANDING THE ROOTS OF ANTI-WESTERN  
ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVES

by

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## **Chapter 1**

### **Introduction**

Middle East issues are complex and very critical for the security of the United States and the World while seemingly constant conflict and failed peace initiatives are the modern day norm. Temporary cease-fires and peace accords only hold until the next outbreak of violence and conflict. Presidential efforts, United Nations road maps for peace, State Department and multinational initiatives have continued in restoring hope to a troubled area, with little relief to long lasting peace.

Is long lasting peace possible and is the United States the correct broker and mentor for achieving this long lasting meaningful peace in the Middle East?

These answers cannot begin formulation without a look back many years into the root cause of the anger and hatred between Jews and Arabs.

The Arab communities anti-Western perspectives and anger to the Jews is a summary of hurts from a broken family, a stolen blessing, years of racial discrimination, stolen lands and US interference.

# The ring of death



Figure 1. Ring of Death.

## Chapter 2 The Broken Family

Anger is often the first and most intense reaction in response to human hurt and suffering. Anger can be one of the longest lasting emotions, when revisited over time it can inspire nearly the same level of intensity as the initial feelings. Arab descendants, along with the birth of Islam have had a long line of wrongs and hurts that started many centuries ago, with a broken family.

### Historical Relevancy

Some of the earliest human records include the religious source documents for three major world religions. Specifically the Jewish Torah, the Islamic Qur'an and the Christian Bible. All have faith statements, claims and assertions along the origin of God and our relationship to Him. They also have a record of historical actions, people,

locations and events. The debate for spiritual truth will not be attempted in this paper, nor will the accuracy, time line and translations of historical information. Biblical Old Testament translations are assumed to be the same as the Jewish Torah, as the Dead Sea scrolls confirm. The issue here is not the accuracy, or credibility of these documents. The issue is the belief from the respective leaders that their religious source documents are accurate, credible, and the impact these documents have on today's society and interactions.

### **Old Testament History**

According to the Torah, and the Christian Bible, Abraham is the ancestor, and father of the Jewish faith, and the lineage of the Christian Faith. According to the Qur'an, Abraham is also the ancestor and father of the Islamic faith. The Torah and the Qur'an agree on some common historical backgrounds. There was a Garden of Eden, the fall of humankind to the temptation of the serpent, the first murder of Able at the hands of Cain and the great flood and Noah. There however, is a large divergence between the Torah and the Qur'an immediately after the events of Abraham's family. The accounts of Abraham's family are taken from the book of Genesis and will later be confirmed by the Qur'an.

#### **Abraham Had a Wife Sarah, and They Were Barren (XXX)**

Gen 11:29-30: The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milcah and Iscah. Now Sarai was barren; she had no children

#### **Abraham Receives a Blessing From God**

Gen 12:2-3: I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I

will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

### **Abraham Receives a Land Blessing From God**

Genesis 13:14-15: The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.

### **Abraham Receives a Blessing of Many Children From God**

Genesis 13:16-17: I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.

### **Abraham Land Promise is Defined by God**

Genesis 15:18-21: On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."

### **Abraham Takes Hagar the Maid Servant as a Wife and She Becomes Pregnant**

Genesis 16: 1-4: Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

### **Hagar Begins to Despise Sarah, Sarah Feels Anguish Toward Hagar**

Genesis 16:4-5: He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me."

### **Ishmael Was Born to Hagar and Abraham**

Genesis 16:15-16: So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael

### **Abraham Receives More Land from God**

Genesis 17:8: The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

### **Abraham Receives A Promise to be the Father of Many Nations**

Genesis 17:6-7: I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

### **Sarah is Promised a Son Isaac, and a Blessings to Him**

Genesis 17:15-16: God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

Genesis 17:19 Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac

### **Previous Blessings Conveyed to Unborn Isaac, Not the Living Ishmael**

Genesis 17:18-19: And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!" Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

Genesis 17: 21 But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year."

### **Sarah Gives Birth to Isaac**

Genesis 21: 2-3: Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.

### **Sarah Gets Very Angry at Hagar and Ishmael**

Genesis 21: 8-10: The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

### **Abraham Throws Hagar and Ishmael in the Desert to Die**

Genesis 21:14-16: Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there nearby, she began to sob.

### **Abraham Gives Everything to Isaac, and Gifts to Others**

Genesis 25 5-7: Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac. But while he was still living, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the east.

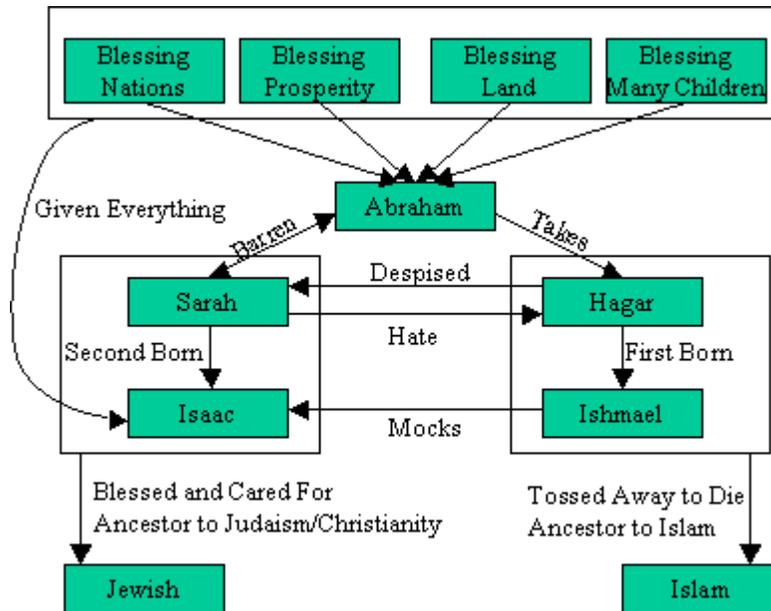
### **Abraham Dies and Isaac and Ishmael Bury Him**

Genesis 25: 8-10: Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people. His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, the field Abraham had bought from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried with his wife Sarah.

## **Old Testament Summary**

The Abraham family tragedy happened thousands of years ago, but rivals current day soap opera plots with all the elements of the worst in humanity: Anguish, jealousy, hatred, the "other woman", children from different women, sibling rivalry, parental favoritism, money, power, land and attempted murder all at Ishmael's tender age of thirteen. The finale' of wrong to Ishmael was at the death of his father, when on his

deathbed, Abraham with his last breath, disowns Ishmael, and blesses Isaac. The Arab world, Mohammad and Islam are from the descendants of Ishmael. The Jewish world, Christ, Judaism and Christianity are from the descendants of Isaac.



**Figure 2. The Tragedy of Abraham’s Family: The Roots of Hate**

### Qur’an Confirmation

The Abraham family tragedy was reported above in Genesis was the writing of Moses for the Jewish people, and carried forward in the Old Testament for the Christian Bible. As with most family tragedies and conflicts however, there is usually more than one view of the events, and many versions of what happened. The Qur’an also has an account of Abraham (Ibrahim), Ishmael (Ismail), and Isaac (Ishaq). The Muslim outcome unfortunately remains the same between Jewish and Arab descendants from Abraham, but the accounting of the events leaves the question of the blessing, and who is the heir of God’s favor.

### **Abraham and His Wife Were Barren with a Promise for Children (XXX)**

"11.69": And certainly Our messengers came to Ibrahim with good news. They said: Peace. Peace, said he, and he made no delay in bringing a roasted calf.

"11.71": And his wife was standing (by), so she laughed, then We gave her the good news of Ishaq and after Ishaq of (a son's son) Yaqoub.

### **Abraham is Given Two Sons in Old Age, First Ishmael and Then Isaac**

"14.39": Praise be to Allah, Who has given me in old age Ismail and Ishaq; most surely my Lord is the Hearer of prayer

### **Abraham was a Muslim, and the Father of Muslim Faith**

"2.130": And who forsakes the religion of Ibrahim but he who makes himself a fool, and most certainly We chose him in this world, and in the hereafter he is most surely among the righteous.

"2.131": When his Lord said to him, Be a Muslim, he said: I submit myself to the Lord of the worlds.

"2.135": And they say: Be Jews or Christians, you will be on the right course. Say: Nay! (we follow) the religion of Ibrahim, the Hanif, and he was not one of the polytheists.

"3.67": Ibrahim was not a Jew nor a Christian but he was (an) upright (man), a Muslim, and he was not one of the polytheists.

### **God's Covenant and Blessing Follow the Muslim faith, others Faiths are not Blessed**

"3.81": And when Allah made a covenant through the prophets: Certainly what I have given you of Book and wisdom -- then an apostle comes to you verifying that which is with you, you must believe in him, and you must aid him. He said: Do you affirm and accept My compact in this (matter)? They said: We do affirm. He said: Then bear witness, and I (too) am of the bearers of witness with you.

"3.82": Whoever therefore turns back after this, these it is that are the transgressors.

"3.85": And whoever desires a religion other than Islam, it shall not be accepted from him, and in the hereafter he shall be one of the losers.

### **Abraham Tried to Teach his Sons to be Muslims**

"2.132": And the same did Ibrahim enjoin on his sons and (so did) Yaqoub. O my sons! surely Allah has chosen for you (this) faith, therefore die not unless you are Muslims.

"2.133": Nay! were you witnesses when death visited Yaqoub, when he said to his sons: What will you serve after me? They said: We will serve your God and the God of your fathers, Ibrahim and Ismail and Ishaq, one God only, and to Him do we submit.

### **Abraham Treats both Sons the Same, and asks for Blessings for Them Both**

"14.39": Praise be to Allah, Who has given me in old age Ismail and Ishaq; most surely my Lord is the Hearer of prayer:

"14.40": My Lord! make me keep up prayer and from my offspring (too), O our Lord, and accept my prayer:

### **Isaac Chastises Abraham's Faith, and They Have a Falling Out**

"19.45": O my father! surely I fear that a punishment from the Beneficent God should afflict you so that you should be a friend of the Shaitan.

"19.46": He said: Do you dislike my gods, O Ibrahim? If you do not desist I will certainly revile you, and leave me for a time.

"19.47": He said: Peace be on you, I will pray to my Lord to forgive you; surely He is ever Affectionate to me:

"19.48": And I will withdraw from you and what you call on besides Allah, and I will call upon my Lord; may be I shall not remain unblessed in calling upon my Lord.

"19.49": So when he withdrew from them and what they worshiped besides Allah, We gave to him Ishaq and Yaqoub, and each one of them We made a prophet.

### **God made Ishmael Exceed**

"6.86": And Ismail and Al-Yasha and Yunus and Lut; and every one We made to excel (in) the worlds:

### **God Covenant is With Abraham and Ishmael, not Isaac**

"2.124": And when his Lord tried Ibrahim with certain words, he fulfilled them. He said: Surely I will make you an Imam of men. Ibrahim said: And of my offspring? My covenant does not include the unjust, said He.

"2.125": And when We made the House a pilgrimage for men and a (place of) security, and: Appoint for yourselves a place of prayer on the standing-place of Ibrahim. And We enjoined Ibrahim and Ismail saying: Purify My House for those who visit (it) and those who abide (in it) for devotion and those who bow down (and) those who prostrate themselves.

"2.127": And when Ibrahim and Ismail raised the foundations of the House: Our Lord! accept from us; surely Thou art the Hearing, the Knowing:

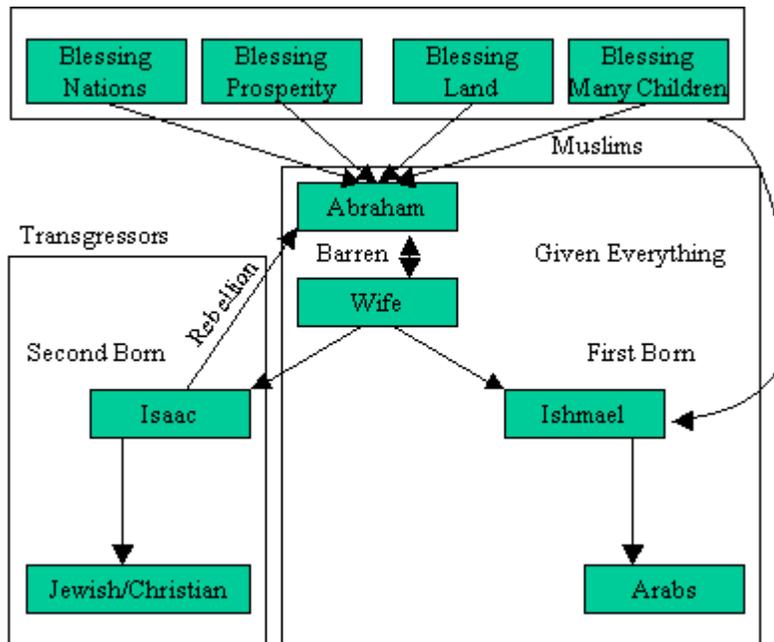


Figure 3. The Tragedy of Abraham's Family: Qur'an Version

### Qur'an Summary

From the perspective of the Islamic faith and the Qur'an, the Abraham family tragedy was at the hands of the rebellious Isaac. He rejected the true religion and faith of Allah, and became a transgressor in starting the Jewish faith, and later providing the roots of Christianity. Allah was in first a perfect relationship with Abraham, and the first religion and covenant with God was Islam. Abraham had no hand in the misconduct of Isaac, but was rather very supportive and loving to his son, even when his son rebelled. It was Allah's judgment to not bless Isaac, but bless the true faith, and the foundation of Islam that is confirmed in Abraham and Ishmael together.

### Chapter 3 Consequences

The two separate accounts of the Abraham family tragedy could not be much farther apart in the cause and effect of the break up. What however is common between them is the historical accounts of the barren wife, the birth of the children in order, and that the sons are eventually separated, one to start Judaism and the foundations of Christianity, and the other to start Islam. What is at stake between the two, and common in both, are who gets the blessing? Who gets what was promised to Abraham from God? The land, the blessed offspring, the father of many nations and the promise of prosperity and God's favor, rest in who can claim Abraham as the their ancestor and religious leader. With that lineage and faith linkage established, the Middle East either belongs to the children of Ishmael, or the children of Isaac.

### **Jewish Historical Perspective**

The history of Abraham and his broken family have are very relevant in today's Middle East, and the conflict between Jews and Arabs. It is not only a relevant part of who has claim to the land, the Kingdoms on Earth and the blessings on the children, it has the documented underlying source of prejudice between the two groups that exists today. The historical records of the Torah are a prerequisite for the Jewish faith, and Israel is a religious state government and influenced by the Torah. Jewish history, and the events of Abraham are taught as early as grade school, and reinforced for years to those of Jewish lineage. Captain Joshua Reims from the Israeli Air Force in an interview about the origins of the conflict between Arabs and Jews had this confirming comment about the Arabs, "The land was ours, given to us for centuries and taken forcibly from us. Why should the descendants of the illegitimate and rebellious be listened to, when all they want is to steal God's promise"

His perspective was one that was taught from early youth, cemented into the truth with the writing of Moses in the Torah, and played out daily in the dealings with the Arabs he sees. After all, according to him, Abraham and the blessing are his. The land is rightfully theirs, and all the blessed nations are from the seed of Abraham, not to the Arabs and the descendants of Ishmael.

The descendants of Ishmael lost their right to the claims of blessing when God decreed it, and then Hagar and Ishmael turned against the younger brother Isaac. Being thrown out from the family, and disowned is the natural course of God's judgment. The ingrained cultures of righteousness of Jewish warriors are ingrained not only at the organizational national patriotic level, but at a deep rooted faith level coupled with a personal family experience. It is a natural and historical consequence that those who fight against the chosen Jewish people are subject to the wrath of God. The Torah is full of the historical Armies of Israel rising against the enemies of the Jewish God, and clearing those who sin against God with the sword. The Philistines, Amorites and Hittites have all had the sting of the armies of Israel with the same national patriotic, faith driven personal family experience that fighting Israel will bring. Israel and Judaism is under attack from those who are the defendants of Ishmael, and the nation is justified in war.

### **Arab Historical Perspective**

The Arabs Nations for the most part are also religious nations, governed, influenced and regulated by the writing of the Qur'an. Early Muslim children are also taught at an

early age the history of their faith, and the actions of their patriarch Abraham. Lieutenant Ahrab Moharbed the Royal Saudi Air Force in an interview about the origins of the conflict between Arabs and Jews had an equally historical perspective of the Jewish enemy he perceives that he must face. "The land is ours, given to us for centuries and taken forcibly from us. Why shouldn't we fight the descendants of the rebellious, the unfaithful transgressors who throw their wives and children away to die."

Lieutenant Ahrab's perspective is as motivated and inspired as the Israeli fighter pilot. He sees that the land, the blessing, the Kingdoms are from Abraham, and that the first religious was Islam, the same religion of Abraham and Isaac, and that Isaac rebelled against his father, and left his loving family to become the enemy of Abraham and Ishmael.

God has chosen the descendants of Ishmael as the blessed ones, and they have the hand of God in the battle against the unfaithful.

The Qur'an has many provisions, as does the Torah for the righteous use of force to destroy the enemies of God. The main enemy on the view scope of the Arab world and the largest threat to the continued blessings of faith comes from those who represent the "transgressors."

The first "transgressor" was Isaac with his rebellion against Abraham, and the subsequent establishment of Judaism. The descendants of Isaac bring about the lineage of David, and the eventual Christian Faith. Both Judaism, and Christianly and those who follow each are transgressors and have little to contribute in the Muslim faith.

The Muslim perspective is that most nations have their governments, rules, regulation and laws established by a religious faith and that societies are governed by

their religious source documents. Muslims understand that Muslim nations states are regulated and governed by the Qur'an. Likewise their perceptive of Israel is another different religious state regulated and governed by the Torah.

Odd to some Americans is that the majority of the Muslim world also applies their world perspective view of the religious state to the United States. We, in their eyes, are the Christian world, and our laws, regulations, and social structure are from the teaching of Jesus and the Christian bible.

American history and the founding fathers were indeed Christians, our laws are from English Common Law and Blacks Law. Both of these have their roots and foundations in Christianity.

Regardless of the American current application of the "separation of church and state", it is a common understanding that America is a country government by the Christian Bible.

We are also the largest supporter of Israel, with arms, money, loans, exports and other assistance. From the Arab world, the first transgressors are the Jews, and they have forced their way on to the land of Abraham with the help of the American Christian transgressors. The conspiracy of the faithless is complete.

## Chapter 4 Land Ownership

The issue of International Law, and land ownership is very complex, especially in the question of Israel. The question of who has the legitimate claim to the land of Israel cannot be covered in this paper as many books about the occupancy, land improvement, United Nations mandates and the Jewish national homeland after WWII have been written. With the current Middle East process, there is a continual discussion and resolution with little outcome as the issue of ownership. Both the Arab and Jewish states have points in international land ownership.

### Land Promised



Figure 4. Land Promised to Abraham

### Arab Ownership

Prior to the United Nations establishment of the Jewish national homeland, the majority of the current land of Israel was under Arab control. The largest argument outside of religious land claims from Abraham was the fact that the Arabs were there for hundreds of years prior to the Jewish national homeland.

Various governments and religious organization for centuries have routinely conquered the land of Israel, this is of little relevance. The Arab community has had the largest duration of occupancy for the longest time frame. Use of the land, and ability to have a government organization to draw and defend borders, establish a national defense and interact within the international community is again of little discussion from the Arab perspective. According to *The HOJ*, the nomadic culture of historical Arab lifestyle has placed little importance to these Western traditional definitions of ownership until recent events in history. Outside of the religious claims from Abraham, it is the largest claim the Arab community has to the land had been historical occupancy.

Jewish and Western arguments outside of the religious land claims are based on just the opposite reasoning. There is a different perspective of the land and importance from the on more tradition Western view of land use, government borders, efficient use of the land and the ability to draw borders and defend them.

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