

ISLAMIC 'LUNAR FASCINATION'

On 31st January 2018 **BBC 1 TV** broadcast an hour-long programme called '**Wonders of The Moon**' and this was how the Daily Mail TV guide previewed it –

'People have been moongazing for centuries, but the unusual number of supermoons – when a full moon gets closer to the earthy than usual – lighting up the sky recently has seen more of us than ever bewitched by lunar activity. This illuminating programme explores the magic of the moon, revealing the secrets of the total solar eclipse and the moon's monthly life cycle as it waxes and wanes, causing the ebb and flow of the tides and shaping life on Earth, from wales to Wyoming. You will never look at the moon in the same way again.'

One short section of the programme showed members of the mosque in Croydon in England gathering to try and catch a glimpse of the new moon as it appeared in the sky and this link will take you to see that particular portion of the programme –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZ4bZcuxK4s>

For me, it was of special interest to hear some of the comments that the Muslim spokesman made concerning the significance of what they were hoping to see – he said words like these –

'Symbolically... the moon represents light amidst darkness... it represents something that can guide you when you can't see... that represents life, represents hope... we directly address the moon, we say "Oh moon, your god and my god is Allah" ...'

As a Christian, I normally associate such '**attributes**' and '**qualities**' with God, His Son Jesus Christ and His Word (The Bible). We read in 1st John 1:5 "**God is light**"; In John 8:12 the Lord Jesus said of Himself "**I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness**"; The Apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 1:27 "**Christ in you, the hope of glory**"; The psalmist wrote in Psalm 119:105 "**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path**".

In stark contrast we have a Muslim spokesman ascribing divine-like qualities of '**light**' and '**hope**' to an inanimate heavenly body (THE MOON) that is innately dark and dead. Should that really come as a major surprise? In truth, I don't think so.

In his book '**Terrorism. Jihad and the Bible**' that was written in the wake of the events in New York known as '**9/11**' Pastor John MacArthur wrote –

'The Middle East was the heart and the focus of the biblical account from the time of Creation. When God created Adam and Eve, he placed them in Eden. Scripture places that garden in the vicinity of the Euphrates valley, in the Mesopotamian region – the heart of the Middle East (Genesis 2:14). Of course, the Flood dramatically altered the earth's geography, but the Euphrates valley remained the centre of the biblical focus.'

It was the very place of Eden. It was there that the Tower of Babel was built. It was there where Nimrod built his kingdom (Genesis 10:9-10); and Nimrod is thought to be the father of the world's early religions. It was there that the city of Babylon was later built. It was there that Noah lived and preached before the Flood. It is a land rich in biblical and religious history. And today it lies in the centre of the Arabic-Muslim world.

But four thousand years ago, God made a covenant with Abraham. He gave a massive portion of that territory to Abraham and his Jewish descendants... Abraham's father, Terah, was a worshipper of pagan gods (Joshua 24:2).

History records that worship of the moon god was the most popular form of idolatry in the day of Abraham. Terah's name may even be derived from the name of the moon god. There were two great centres for worshipping the moon god. One was Ur, which was located in the Persian Gulf region in what is now Kuwait. The other was Haran, which was in the area of modern-day Iraq. Abraham was born in Ur and later lived in Haran. (pp 21-23)

Religion in and around Mecca at the time of Mohammed's birth was idolatrous in the extreme. The religious centre at Mecca housed more than three hundred and sixty idols... One of the idols was a prominent black stone – the *Kaaba*. The Koran claims that the *Kaaba* was originally given to Abraham by the angel Gabriel, and that Abraham himself built the original shrine at Mecca... That main idol at Mecca, the *Kaaba*, was a token of Allah or *Al-ilah*.

Dr Robert Morey's research into the historical roots of Islam has led him to conclude that *Al-ilah* was the name of the moon god. If true, it suggests that belief in Allah is rooted in the worship of the moon god – the very same god Abraham's immediate ancestors would have worshipped in Ur of the Chaldeans. Indeed, Islamic holidays are coordinated with the phases of the moon, and Islamic symbols prominently feature a crescent moon'. (pp 41-42).

John MacArthur made reference to research carried out by Dr Robert Morey and in his little booklet entitled 'The Moon-god Allah in the Archaeology of the Middle East' Dr Morey wrote –

'Al-Kindi, one of the early Christian apologists against Islam, pointed out that Islam and its god Allah did not come from the Bible but from the paganism of the Sabeans. They did not worship the God of the Bible but the Moon-god and his daughters al-Uzza, al-Lat and Manat... Is it any wonder then that the symbol of Islam is the crescent moon? That a crescent moon sits on top of their mosques and minarets? That a crescent moon is found on the flags of Islamic nations. That the Muslims fast during the month which begins and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon in the sky?... The Muslim's claim that Allah is the God of the Bible and that Islam rose from the religion of the prophets and apostles is refuted by solid, overwhelming archaeological evidence. Islam is nothing more than a revival of the ancient Moon-god cult'. (pp13-15).

It would appear likely that the Muslims in Croydon are merely carrying on with 'Moon-like' worship that traces its roots back to (and even prior to) the idolatrous environment that Mohammed found himself born into and then 'adapted and adopted' to comply with the religious sensitivities of many of those he hoped to win over to Islam.

Returning briefly to the Daily Mail TV guide preview it also mentioned 'solar eclipses' and 'ebb and flow of the tides' and those were to a degree addressed in an article I wrote back in 2010 and then updated in 2017. It can be accessed on this link –

http://www.takeheed.info/Assorted_Articles/Creation/solar-eclipse.pdf

