



## LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

During the Olympics in Brazil, the Egyptian Judo contestant refused to shake the hand of his victorious Israeli opponent, a breach of Olympic etiquette.

Why is there so much animosity by Muslims shown toward Israel and the Western nations? Some people try to blame it on the Crusades, but it goes far deeper than the battles between the Franks and the Muslims for control of the Holy Land in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Some say it is because of different religious beliefs. The Jews and Christians worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Muslims worship Allah.



Temple Mount in Jerusalem (Holy Land)<sup>1</sup>

Neither of these is a cause for the deep animosity held by the Muslims for the Jews and Christian West. The crusades and religious animosity are symptoms of the problem and not the cause. The cause happened during the time of Abraham and is recorded in the Bible for all to see.

God's servant Abraham was called out of the Babylonian city of Ur. God made a contract with him. If Abraham would worship only the true God and be faithful to Him, then God would give the land of Canaan and many other blessings to Abraham. But not only to Abraham. The contract or covenant God made with Abraham would be passed down to Abraham's children forever. This covenant was the most precious possession Abraham would ever have.

Abraham married his half-sister Sarah. This kind of marriage was accepted in Abraham's day. Sarah was very, very beautiful. Her beauty caused problems. Abraham, his wife, his nephew Lot, and their herdsmen were forced to go to Egypt because of famine in Canaan (Genesis 12:10). Because of Sarah's beauty, Abraham told her to say she was his sister and not his wife. The reports of her beauty spread throughout Egypt and she was taken into Pharaoh's harem. God plagued Pharaoh because he had taken Sarah. The Pharaoh learned through his soothsayers that

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<sup>1</sup> [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Israel-2013\(2\)-Aerial-Jerusalem-Temple\\_Mount-Temple\\_Mount\\_\(south\\_exposure\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Israel-2013(2)-Aerial-Jerusalem-Temple_Mount-Temple_Mount_(south_exposure).jpg)

the cause of the plague on his house was that he had taken Abraham's wife Sarah into his harem. Pharaoh rebuked Abraham for lying to him by saying she was his sister and not his wife. He enriched Abraham and Sarah as an incentive for Abraham to plead with his God to lift the plagues and for Abraham to leave Egypt. One of the gifts the Pharaoh gave to Sarah was a handmaid. She was no ordinary slave girl, but according to both Muslim and Jewish tradition, she was Pharaoh's own daughter.

Abraham left Egypt very rich and returned to Canaan. One of the things that bothered Abraham most was that he had no heir. Sarah was barren and could produce no children. At first, Abraham thought he would end up having to make his chief servant his heir, which was the custom of the day if a man had no male heir.

Genesis 15:2-3 says: "And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir." But God told him otherwise in Genesis 15:4. "And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir."

God promised Abraham an heir out of his own body. Yet Sarah was barren. Now this may have left Abraham wondering how this all would work out, but he had faith that God would fulfill His promise.

Sarah was also concerned about an heir for Abraham. It was customary in those days that a woman who could not have children could gain a child through a surrogate. In this case, Sarah offered Abraham her slave Hagar the Egyptian Princess (Genesis 16:2-3).

Hagar conceived a child by Abraham. Because she was carrying Abraham's child, the Bible says Hagar despised her mistress Sarah. Eventually a son was born and Abraham called him Ishmael. Now Abraham thought he had his heir.

But God said no. God said Sarah would bear him the Son of the Covenant. But Abraham found this hard to believe, since Sarah was barren and both were already elderly.

"And God said unto Abraham, 'As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.' Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, 'Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?' " (Genesis 17:15-17).

Abraham made a plea for God to establish His covenant with his firstborn, Ishmael. God said NO.

In Genesis 17:18 it says: "And Abraham said unto God, 'O that Ishmael might live before thee!' "

God replied in Genesis 17:21: "But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year."

This rejection of Ishmael by God is what has caused the animosity all these centuries. Hagar and Ishmael thought Ishmael should have gotten the birthright covenant of Abraham. After all, Ishmael was the firstborn.

God said no—that Isaac would inherit the covenant promises, including the land of Canaan. Now God blessed Ishmael greatly (Genesis 17:20) and he had 12 sons that became great chiefs or sheiks of their own tribal families. In fact, the prophet Muhammad is a direct descendant of Ishmael.

The promises of the Covenant, however, were passed down to Isaac, and then Jacob, and finally the 12 sons of Jacob (whose name was changed by God to Israel).

Today Canaan (now known as the land of Israel) is primarily in the possession of the Israelite tribe of Judah, exactly as God promised Abraham. The Jews are the first to return to the Holy Land.<sup>2</sup> The other tribes will return after the second coming of Jesus, when He gathers Israel from out of the nations. I call this the *Second Exodus*.

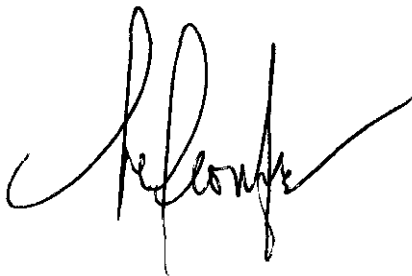
It is in the bloodstream. The Muslims believe they should have ownership of Israel and are determined to dispossess the Jews. This is in defiance to the will of the Almighty God. War between the children of Ishmael and the children of Isaac will not end until the King of Kings (a Jew by the way) returns to set it right.

No amount of talk about peace is going to change this. No amount of appeasement will stop the Muslim nations from pursuing their goal of removing the Jews, and taking Israel as their own, and making Jerusalem the capital of their world ruling Caliphate<sup>3</sup> (see YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLtHGrSVqmk>).

Be very wary of those who preach peace and yet pursue a road to that goal that is in opposition to the will of God.

Until next letter, may God bless and protect you.

In Our Lord King Jesus' name,



T. Leon Sexton

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### **VOLUNTEER TEACHERS**

We are looking for Sabbath-keeping young people who are interested in serving a year (1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 – February 30, 2017) teaching at Legacy School in Chiang Mai, Thailand. If interested and wish more details, please contact Legacy Institute at [mail@legacyinstitute.org](mailto:mail@legacyinstitute.org)

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<sup>2</sup> Judges 20:18

<sup>3</sup> The Islamic Caliphate is a counterfeit of the real Kingdom of God ruled by Jesus from Jerusalem.