- Syria was center of Islam for its first 100 years
- At this time Syria was influenced by Judaism, Christianity and Zoroastrianism
- Muslim Apocalyptic material is most often presented in a *hadith* to communicate information about the period of time right before the end of the world.
- Muslim Apocalyptic traditions developed from:
  - Converts to Islam during those early years brought with them the eschatology of Judaism and Christianity
  - Polemic discussions (or, arguments within Islam) between different groups of local Muslims and their local apocalyptic traditions developed Islamic Eschatology
  - o Exegesis of applicable verses from the Qur'an
  - Explanations of contemporary historical events or the need to develop political security for the ruling class led to the creation/development of apocalyptic traditions.
- (p.3) Christian, Jewish and Islamic apocalypses shared vocabulary, themes, imagery that were common among the layman and spread by oral reporting.
  - Example in Matthew 20:1-16 the parable about the three groups of workers who showed up at different times of the day. All were paid the same. Muslims refer to these three groups as: Jews, Christians and Muslims.
  - This must be an early interpretation since all three groups are treated equally even in

## Modern Muslim apocalyptic events:

- 1. most scenarios begin with and Arab-Israel conflict
- 2. The demonic Dajal (Muslim Antichrist) appears and gains control over the world, except for a few Muslim countries. The Dajal is a Jew who controls the world through a conspiracy as presented in "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

(From Wikipedia: *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* or *The Protocols of the Meetings* of the Learned Elders of Zion is an antisemitic hoax purporting to describe a Jewish plan for global domination. It was first published in Russia in 1903, translated into multiple languages, and disseminated internationally in the early part of the 20th century. Henry Ford funded printing of 500,000 copies that were distributed throughout the US in the 1920s. Adolf Hitler was a major proponent. It was studied, as if factual, in German classrooms after the Nazis came to power in 1933, despite having been exposed as fraudulent by The Times of London in 1921. The Protocols purports to document the minutes of a late 19th-century meeting of Jewish leaders discussing their goal of global Jewish hegemony by subverting the morals of Gentiles, and by controlling the press and the world's economies. It is still widely available today in numerous languages, in print and on the Internet, and continues to be presented by some proponents as a genuine document.)

- 3. The Dajal will lead the Western world and Israel against the Muslims.
  - Muslims consider "the west" and "Christian" to be synonymous. So, a Muslim attack of the West is a religious attack. It is a conflict destined over 1,400 years of history.
  - Islam MUST confront the West and cannot accept the West without accepting the superiority of Christianity.
  - The US is the Great Babylon (as in Rev. 17:3-4) or the Anti-Christ. American presidents are agents of the Antichrist. America's economy and culture reflect the demonic forces of antichrist. Allah will punish America with earthquakes, nuclear attacks, etc.
  - After Islam attacks and conquers Israel then Islam with move onto attack the West and America.
  - Not all Islam agrees on the details since various Muslim countries have differing views and differing political allignments. For example:

- Some see the US as having forced Iraq to invade Kuwait...so, are pro-Iraq.
- Some, for example Egypt, see Iraqi as evil and under the control of Israel.
- Some see the US and Russia as under the influence of Israel.
- In classic Muslim apocalyptic writings the Jews are rarely mentioned other than this quote: "The Hour [of Judgment] will not arrive until the Muslims fight the Jews, and the Muslims will kill them until the Jew will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rock and the tree will say: '0 Muslim, 0 servant of God, there is a Jew behind me-come and kill him!'"
  - Yet, in modern Muslim apocalyptic writing Israel receives the strongest threats and is prominently attacked.
  - Modern Muslim apocalyptic writings places Israel under the control of Dajal who deceives the world to support Israel...This modern scenario helps explain Muslim's inability to rid the world of Israel, a country that is small, scorned, developing...yet, cannot be stopped by Allah!?!?!?!



Muslim verse Arabs (or, Muslims who have compromised and accepted the Western ways):
 This goes back to the origin of Islam when they were a small group of "believers" facing the world. The true Muslim (fundamentalists) will invade other Muslim countries and kill the infidel Arabs (who may also be Muslim, but connected with the "cool kids" or the "in crowd" in the local government and the local economy.