



Farewell Israel
Bush, Iran, and the Revolt of Islam

Written and Directed by Joel Gilbert

Film Description

The confrontation between Islam and the Jews began in the Prophet Muhammad's time, and continues to this day. Israel's existence recalls Islam's age old Jewish Problem, first felt at Islam's inception in Medina in 624 A.D.: How can Islam thrive and find salvation if Jews are politically powerful? And it requires the same solution chosen by the Prophet Muhammad – elimination of political independence of Jews and the domination of Islam over them.

Farewell Israel: Bush, Iran and The Revolt of Islam is an historic journey, from the birth of Islam, through its 1,200 year reign over the civilized world, to the last 300 years of Islamic decline, overtaken and dominated by the West – then humiliated by a Jewish state. Islam's historic trials with Jews, and its relationship with conquered non-believers, help illustrate the Islamic world view – all through the eyes of Muslims.

In this groundbreaking film, the total rejection of Israel by Muslim states since its inception in 1948 comes to light as a religious duty for Believers. The Islamic roots of Anwar Sadat's 1977 Camp David Accords with Israel are exposed as "The Diplomatic Strategy Against Israel," by which Egypt sought to defeat Israel through diplomacy, rather than establish "Western Peace". Israel's misunderstanding of Islamic goals and values are highlighted by its enthusiasm for Yasser Arafat and the 1993 Oslo Accords.

Next, President George Bush's tragic misunderstanding of 9/11 as a "War Against Freedom," in which the United States played into the hands of Al-Qaeda and the Islamist cause by advocating democratic reform across the Middle East, is revealed. Finally, the Iranian strategic agenda for acquiring weapons of mass destruction to eliminate Israel comes clearly into focus.

Today, at the direction of Iran, Islamists are preparing for a fateful coming war for Islam - and Israel is the number one target and obstacle in the path of Islamic revival. For Muslims, Israel embodies "injustice", and is the ultimate symbol of Islam's decline – a Western, secular, society built on former Islamic lands, and imposed by the West into Islam's heartland. Only with the return of Jews to their historic status as "Dhimmi" or "Tributaries," tolerated and protected within Islamic society, can Islamic revival succeed – resulting in "Islamic Peace" in the Middle East.

Farewell Israel: Bush, Iran and The Revolt of Islam reaches the unavoidable conclusion that Western and Israeli misunderstanding of Islam is leading to a coming war – which will have devastating consequences for the West, and worst of all for Israel – Farewell Israel!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWER

Interview with Director Joel Gilbert

What are the main concepts you want to convey in your film?

First, an understanding of the Islamic world view, from the point of view of Muslims. In the West, there is a huge gap in understanding Islam on every level, from the man on the street, to Jewish and Christian religious leaders, to our elected officials. Only by gaining an understanding and appreciation of Islam's world view, through its historic trials and its theology, can the West begin to deal with the real issues and challenges.

Second, misunderstanding leads to war. Israel's lack of understanding of Islam, its values and goals, have lead it to a policy of surrender of territory, based on the belief that it will achieve "Peace" in Western terms. In reality, "Western Peace" between Israel and Islam is unattainable. Peace can only be achieved in Islamic terms – "Peace with Justice"– which requires the elimination of Israel as a Jewish state. Muslims have 1,400 years of experience and holy scriptures to refer to that deal with Jews. Because Judaism predates Islam, Jews have no such foundation in dealing with Muslims, hence the Israeli misunderstanding, and the Islamic advantage.

What do you mean by "The Revolt of Islam"?

There is no such thing as "Radical Islam." Islamism is not a war against the West, it is an internal struggle for the revival of Islamic society -- a "revolt" against their failed secular governments. The attacks of 9/11 are completely misunderstood by the West. In fact, 9/11 was only a provocation by Islamists, hoping to use the West's response to inspire the Muslim masses in Islam's internal struggle. The 9/11 attacks were successful only because George Bush played into the hands of the Al-Qaeda, first by invading Afghanistan and Iraq, then by adopting Al-Qaeda's agenda for government reform across the Middle East -- helping to pave the way for Islamist parties to come to power.

Why are Israel and the West lacking understanding of the Islamic world view?

Unfortunately, it is a natural tendency to dismiss ideas and values that are not understood or shared – thus one judges other societies through one's own world view. Because the West considers its own historic development of concepts of "nationalism," "freedom," and "secularism" as the natural advancement of humanity, it has a hard time accepting that its values don't apply to others. This is why Western media doesn't even know what questions to ask. For instance, "Why can't Islam accept Jewish statehood? Why don't Western concepts of secularism and nationalism fit into Islamic society? Why do Muslims consider America to be "The Great Satan"? You'll find the answers to these questions in my film. Contrary to popular media concepts, the Middle East is very understandable and predictable looking through the eyes of the Muslim world, rather than our own Western world view.

How are President Bush and Iranian President Ahmadinejad featured in the film?

Actually, each of them represents the world view of their society -- Bush expresses common Western misconceptions of Islamist values, such as "they are against freedom", "they want women to be prisoners in their homes," and so on. Ahmadinejad's statements, though considered "radical" in the West, are actually honest opinions that reflect long held Islamic views regarding Israel and the Jews.

Doesn't Egypt's Camp David Agreement with Israel and the 1993 Oslo Accords demonstrate there are moderates in the Muslim world?

No, those agreements were simply part of what I call "The Diplomatic Strategy Against Israel," with the same goal as a military Jihad, the transformation of Israel from a Jewish state into a Muslim State. There is complete consensus across all schools of thought in the Islamic world that Israel's existence is an injustice, and must be eliminated for successful Islamic revival.

What is Iran's agenda in the Middle East?

Iran has acquired strategic missiles and is developing WMD in order to shift the balance of power with Israel, which it believes will precipitate Israel's destruction and Islam's revival. Even without attacking Israel, the mere capability of Iranian missiles to lay waste to Tel-Aviv would create a "strategic umbrella," preventing Israel from using its superior strategic assets in a conventional war. With Israeli missiles neutralized, Muslim countries could overwhelm Israel with their superior numbers, conventional armor and short range missiles.

The title of your film is disturbing -- how can you say that Israel is doomed?

There is a coming war in the Middle East, and it will be here soon, a war for the revival of Islam. Islam must reacquire Palestine to redeem itself from Westernization and the humiliation of a Jewish state. Israel has weakened itself through diplomacy, and is no longer a strategic asset for the United States, but instead a security burden. George Bush or Shimon Peres will say that "Peace in the Middle East" is at hand between Israel and Islamic "moderates". But anyone who believes that just doesn't understand the reality, or is in denial. Islamism is on the march in the Middle East, not Western secularism.

Are there any new historic revelations in this film?

Yes, there are many. First of all, Islam's historic trials with Jews will be a revelation to most. Islam solved its Jewish problem at its inception, and has a natural social order whereby Jews are given a protected status under Islamic leadership. There are also fascinating new perspectives on the Armenian genocide, the Holocaust, Haj Amin Al-Husseini, Menachem Begin, Anwar Sadat, Shimon Peres, Yasser Arafat, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Dr. Ayman

Al-Zawahiri – its amazing how well one can understand current events once you understand the Islamic world view.

You have Bob Dylan band members playing on the film soundtrack?

Yes, I'm honored to have Dylan's musicians on my film's original music score - all of them have recorded and performed with my Bob Dylan tribute show, Highway 61 Revisited, in the past. Violinist Scarlet Rivera and Bassist Rob Stoner were featured on Dylan's *Desire* album, *Rolling Thunder Review* Tour and Dylan's film *Renaldo and Clara*. Bruce Langhorne, "Mr. Tambourine Man", was Dylan's second guitarist on early Bob Dylan albums like *Freewheelin' Bob Dylan* and *Bringin' It All Back Home* -- that's him playing tambourine on "Like A Rolling Stone." I play harmonica on the soundtrack. You can download 10 soundtrack songs as MP3s from the DVD. All together it sounds like a Bob Dylan Middle Eastern album, if you can imagine that!

Who is the film's narrator?

Lance Lewman is a renowned voiceover artist who has narrated documentaries for PBS's *NOVA* series, National Geographic's highly rated *Taboo* Series, and the Discovery Channel. He was the announcer for the 2003 Kennedy Center Honors, and has done political commercials for Clinton/Gore and Kerry/Edwards.

Its unique to see CGI in a documentary, why did you to use CGI?

The CGI environment is used to replicate the look of the Ishafan complex in Iran, because of its incredible beauty and powerful Islamic historic feeling. The presentation of the film travels through rooms in an Islamic museum of history, created with CGI, and then each scene comes to life full screen out of picture frames.