INSIDE THE REVOLUTION
STUDY GUIDE

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WHEN YOU HEAR the word *Muslim*, what images come to your mind?

Angry young men shouting epithets about America and Israel? Silent women shrouded in heavy black fabric—and quite possibly strapped with explosives? Cold-hearted terrorists slamming jets into office buildings? Hypersensitive fanatics in an uproar over some Danish cartoons?

Or people beloved by God, created in His image and for whom He weeps?

The Bible says that God loves every man, woman, and child in the world, Jew and Gentile. The Bible makes it clear that God offers His free gift of salvation to everyone who will believe in Jesus Christ. What’s more, as you will see in the pages ahead, the Bible commands us to love our neighbors and our enemies, regardless of their ethnic and religious background.

Yet, when we read about new Radical Muslim threats to our country, and learn of U.S. and allied forces being wounded and killed in Muslim countries, and see rockets and missiles from Muslim terrorist groups raining down on Israel, and hear Iranian Muslim leaders vowing to annihilate the United States and Israel, is it any wonder that many people around the world—including followers of Jesus Christ—can often become worried, frustrated, suspicious, even angry?

Now, more than ever, we must understand the enormous war of ideas under way in the Muslim world and the unprecedented soul-searching under way in Muslim hearts. Something is happening throughout Islamic society that has never happened before in all of human history, and so little of it is being reported by the mainstream...
media or being taken seriously by the Church. My prayer, therefore, is that Inside the Revolution and this companion study guide will help you develop a greater understanding of—and compassion for—this complex and multifaceted people and God’s plan and purpose for their lives, and for yours.

**WHY USE THIS STUDY GUIDE?**

After years of crisscrossing throughout North Africa and the Middle East, I wrote this study guide for five reasons:

1. To help readers of Inside the Revolution—as well as my earlier nonfiction book, Epicenter—get the most out of these two books and develop a clearer and deeper understanding of the trend lines in the Islamic world at a moment when the clash between Islam, Judaism, and Christianity is reaching its most dangerous stage.

2. To create a resource that will stimulate small group studies and discussions about why the Islamic Revolution occurred in Iran in 1979, how Washington missed it, how the Revolution was exported throughout the Middle East and around the world, and why there are now three revolutions under way—those led by the Radicals, the Reformers, and the Revivalists—not just one.

3. To help readers examine events in the Muslim world not just through the lenses of geopolitics and economics but also through the “third lens” of Scripture.

4. To inspire true followers of Jesus Christ to develop a heart of compassion for Muslims at home and abroad, help them to see how many millions of Muslims are turning to faith in Jesus Christ, and challenge them to ask God what role they are supposed to play in the remarkable spiritual revolution and harvest of souls now under way.

5. To mobilize a global movement of millions of followers of Jesus Christ to pray daily, knowledgeably, and faithfully for the peace of Jerusalem, for the salvation of Muslims, and for the spread of the Church throughout the epicenter.
HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR STUDY OF INSIDE THE REVOLUTION

Before you begin the study, take stock of the situation in your own mind and heart. Spend some time thinking through your current thoughts and feelings about Muslims. Consider the images you’ve seen on television or in newspapers and magazines. Mull over things you may have heard your family, friends, and coworkers say about Muslims. Then ask God for eyes to see and ears to hear what He wants you to learn.

When you’re ready to begin, I recommend that you set aside at least thirty minutes a day, five days a week, to read a chapter of Inside the Revolution, work on the questions in this guide, look up the relevant Scripture passages, and pray about what you’ve read. This daily discipline will help you get the most out of the material and help you establish the wise habit of a daily appointment with the living God, if you don’t have such an appointment already.

You can certainly do this study on your own. But for maximum impact, I would recommend that you meet with a friend or small group once a week to compare notes, discuss the issues, and pray together. You may not always agree with the views and perspectives others have on this material, but you will more than likely think more deeply and more carefully if you don’t study in isolation. Plus, you’ll have more fun and hopefully develop stronger friendships along the way.

As you work through the study, some of the information you’ll learn may be disturbing or unsettling to you. So bear in mind as you proceed that God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life (John 3:16, John 10:10, and Jeremiah 29:11-14). God is in control of all things, and His will cannot be thwarted (Job 42:2). You can rejoice in everything and pray about everything, knowing that God stands ready to give you peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:4-7). Jesus will always be with you, no matter what, if you have truly given your life to Him (Matthew 28:18-20). And best of all, Jesus is coming back for you, perhaps sooner than you can possibly imagine (John 14:1-3).

Indeed, it is quite possible that He has led you to read Inside
the Revolution and to complete this study “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14).

May God bless you on your journey and draw you closer to His heart than ever before.

Joel C. Rosenberg
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 2009
“We are rapidly approaching the most dangerous moment in the history of the Iranian Revolution.”

Inside the Revolution, page xi

1. Why are you doing this study of Inside the Revolution? What are you most hoping to get out of your study?

2. Why do you think it is important for Westerners in general, and Christians in particular, to learn about the political, military, economic, and spiritual forces within Islam?
3. Read Luke 12:54-56. Why does Jesus so strongly rebuke His followers for not analyzing “this present time”? How might this command of Jesus relate to staying informed about what’s going on around the world, especially in the Middle East?

4. Write down three facts you know about Islam. Where did you learn these facts?

5. Now write down three questions about Islam that you have been curious about.

6. On page xi, I suggest that Iran is approaching its most dangerous moment since 1979. Do you think that’s true?
Why or why not? If it is true, what are the implications for those of us who live in the West?

7. On page xii, I suggest that “the leaders of Iran believe that Allah is on their side, the wind is at their back, and the end of Judeo-Christian civilization as we know it is near. I believe just the opposite.” What do you believe, and why?

8. On page xiv, I argue that “what [the Radicals] need most—what they pray for most of all—is Western ignorance, apathy, and lack of moral clarity.” List some examples of this condition. What factors do you think have contributed to this problem in the United States and Europe? How can it be rectified?
9. What are the three groups of people in the Muslim world who are waging their own revolutions? List and briefly describe each of these groups.


10. What three groups of people in the epicenter are non-revolutionary in nature? List and briefly describe each of these groups.


11. From what you’ve learned so far, which group is the largest? Which group(s) pose the most serious threat to Judeo-Christian civilization?
12. Which hold out the greatest hope for a secure and peaceful future?


13. Were any of the groups surprising to you? If so, why?


14. Take some time now to pray for the leaders of our country as they seek to understand the dynamics in the modern Middle East and protect us and our allies.


the
RADICALS
PART ONE
“The bottom line: time is running out.”
*Inside the Revolution*, page 16

1. Discuss how the failure to rescue the American Embassy hostages in Tehran, the Russian retreat from Afghanistan, and the Black Hawk Down incident constituted “propaganda windfalls” for Radical Muslim terrorists.

2. What’s going on in the minds of the Radicals? What are their motivations for robbing, killing, and destroying?
3. The vast majority of the world’s Muslims have no desire to wage jihad (holy war) against the West or Israel or to annihilate Judeo-Christian civilization. That said, how serious is the threat against the West from Radical Muslims? How seriously do Western governments appear to be taking that threat? Why?

4. What are General Boykin’s top five worst-case scenarios?

5. Which scenario seems the most dangerous to you? Which appears to be the most imminent? Explain your responses.
6. Do you think that war is an effective means of deterring Radical terrorists? Do you think that diplomatic efforts would be more effective? Why or why not?

7. How can you be praying for our military leaders and for our armed forces during this global war against Radical Islamic terrorism?

8. Take some time now to pray for our military.

9. As you read this section on the Radicals, you may find your spirit sapped from time to time. I know that as I pored over hate-filled speeches and reviewed dismal and tragic histories, I found myself getting discouraged. That is why it is so important to spend time each day in the Scriptures, getting to know the God of the Bible, who loves us and has a wonderful plan and purpose for our lives. Our hope as followers of Jesus
Christ comes from knowing God personally, knowing that He is in charge, knowing that His character and plans are both loving and trustworthy. Read Romans 5:1-8. What do you learn about God’s love for you? What do you learn about the hope that He offers you?

10. What is the connection between trials and hope? Spend some time thanking the Lord for the trials you are facing and the assurance that in Him we have unshakable hope.

11. Read Hebrews 6:9-20. What does God promise in this passage? What is your part in taking hold of this promise?

12. Spend some time now praying for those who are caught in the cross fire, living in places of oppression and darkness. Fight on your knees for those who need hope.
TOM DOYLE is a dear friend of mine, in part because he has a great love for all the people of the Middle East. He’s traveled throughout the epicenter, sharing the gospel with Muslims and training pastors and laypeople to do the same. He also travels the United States and Canada and appears on radio and TV shows, teaching people how to love Muslims and lead them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. While traveling into Afghanistan together, I asked Tom if he would write a piece for this study guide on lessons he has learned from the front lines, and he graciously agreed. May the Lord bless you as you consider his perspective and put these principles into action.

Joel C. Rosenberg
TODAY, THE MUSLIM WORLD is in the midst of the most profound period of spiritual and philosophical turmoil in its fourteen-century history. *Inside the Revolution* took you behind the scenes to meet Radicals, Reformers, and Revivalists. For many of you, the question now is, how can I join the Revolution on the side of the Revivalists?

What you have to understand first and foremost is that the Revivalists are engaged in a spiritual battle of biblical proportions. The good news is that more Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus Christ than at any other time in human history. The challenge is that the Revivalists have landed squarely on the Radicals’ hit list. Persecution of the Christ-followers in the Islamic world is real and it is intense. Whether they are Palestinians, Jordanians, Iraqis, or Iranians, true believers in Jesus often find themselves in a variety of frightening situations. Yet because of their faith in God, these amazing saints risk everything daily to bring the love of Jesus to their people. They have given their lives to share Christ’s love within the world of Islam. It is their only hope to change anything.

International news continually highlights the latest geopolitical wars within the Muslim world, but the spiritual battle within the religion is the ultimate battle. One Arab Islamic leader thinks he has the answer to the conflict. “The leader of Libya, Muammar Qaddafi, considers himself to be a great thinker, and he announced one day that he had a solution to the problem,” noted author Mark Gabriel in his book *Islam and Terrorism*. “His solution was for the Christians to convert to Islam and then they would be brothers and sisters with
the Muslims and the fighting would stop. Qaddafi said: ‘I hope there is a new generation of Lebanese Christians who will wake up one day and realize Arabs cannot be Christians and Christians cannot be Arabs, so then they will convert to Islam and be true Arabs.’”

Actually, many Arabs were Christians long before Islam even began, and today Arab Muslims are converting to Christianity and becoming true followers of Jesus Christ in numbers never even imagined by Church leaders over the centuries. In fact, more Muslims have come to Christ in the last ten years than in the last fourteen centuries. God has miraculously opened Muslim hearts all over the world.

You don’t have to travel to the Middle East to share Jesus with a Muslim. There are several million Muslims currently living in America. There are also some 1,200 mosques in the United States. The largest mosque is the Islamic Center of America located in Dearborn, Michigan. Because of high birth rates among Muslims and a steady stream of immigration, the Islamic community is growing throughout the U.S. God has brought them to our own backyards and given us an opportunity to reach them with Jesus’ love and offer of forgiveness. Muslims respect Jesus since Muhammad did, so the door is wide open to explain who Jesus is and what He taught in the Bible.

Are you willing to be used by the Lord to love Muslims to Christ? If so, here are a few principles I would highly recommend you follow:

**CONFESS YOUR PREJUDICE**

One problem we Westerners have with Muslims is that we often stereotype them. I know this from experience. I did it. After I had been to Israel for the first time, I was so Jewish-focused that I wouldn't give Muslims the time of day. Now as you prepare for outreach, remember most Muslims are very nice, warm people. The chances are slim that they have a bomb under their jacket. They probably don’t work for Hamas. They do need Jesus, however. They will listen to you. If they are traditional and dress like seventh-century Arabs, don’t let that throw you. Ask God to give you a supernatural love for Muslims. He can give you a passion to reach them. He will tenderize your heart for them. They are about 21 percent of the world’s population. Your effort and participation in this world outreach program are vital.
At this point, I must confess the prejudice I had toward not only Muslims but Arabs at one time. Again, my love for Israel seemed to overshadow the needs of the Arab people. I was not drawn to them especially. I felt in some way that if I reached out to Arabs or Muslims, I was forsaking Israel. But you know what? God’s love is for all people, including both Jews and Arabs. He wants Ishmael’s descendants saved too. I have learned that you can love Israel—you can honor Jews and support them—and still love Arabs too. That’s okay with God. Just because I believe Israel has a biblical and historical right to their land doesn’t mean I can’t also have a desire to reach Arabs with the gospel of Jesus.

I was in a Denver restaurant years ago, and two Arab men walked in. They both had black leather coats on and spoke with heavy Arab accents. All of this Middle East stuff was new to me, and I immediately began to judge them in my mind. *I bet they’re terrorists. Maybe they’ve been planted in America as spies.* (Lots of other real edifying thoughts like those.) Well, wouldn’t you know that the two men came and sat right next to me at another table. I began to kind of eavesdrop like Maxwell Smart or Inspector Clouseau. I felt I surely would uncover a sinister plot already under way.

I did learn a lot about them by listening to their conversation. To my shock, I soon realized that these two men were believers in Jesus! I began to hear them talk about what the Lord was doing here and what the Lord was doing there. Did I ever feel like two cents! *What a jerk you are, Tom. You judged them just because of their race.* Those thoughts ran through my mind. Then it got worse. I said hello and said, “Are you guys believers?” They said, “Yes, we’re believers from Syria. Are you one too?” At that point I felt so bad that I doubted I was a believer myself. I reluctantly said, “Yes, I am.” Immediately these brothers told me all about their ministry trips into Syria and how dangerous it was for them to share the gospel at home. They also worked in orphanages there. They invited me to go with them next time. Man, I was feeling worse by the minute. I had judged them. They sure didn’t judge me, though. Before I knew it, one of the brothers insisted that I follow him home for coffee and to meet his wife and kids. I went and had a wonderful time. There is nothing like Arabic hospitality. These dear people were like long-lost relatives,
recommended reading

**ISLAM**

Bernard Lewis. *What Went Wrong? The Clash Between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East*

Bernard Lewis. *The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror*

John L. Esposito and Dalia Mogahed. *Who Speaks for Islam?: What a Billion Muslims Really Think*

Sayyid Qutb. *Milestones*

Vali Nasr. *The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam Will Shape the Future*

V. S. Naipaul. *Among the Believers: An Islamic Journey*

Melanie Phillips. *Londonistan*

Ambassador Marwan Muasher. *The Arab Center: The Promise of Moderation*

Queen Noor of Jordan. *Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life*

Benazir Bhutto. *Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West*

Ayaan Hirsi Ali. *Infidel*

Jim Murk. *Islam Rising*

Brigitte Gabriel. *Because They Hate: A Survivor of Islamic Terror Warns America*

Nonie Darwish. *Now They Call Me Infidel: Why I Renounced Jihad for America, Israel, and the War on Terror*

Karen Armstrong. *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*

Maulana Muhammad Ali. *Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement*

**TERRORISM AND AL QAEDA**


Lawrence Wright. *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*

Peter Bergen. *The Osama bin Laden I Know: An Oral History of al Qaeda’s Leader*

Yossef Bodansky. *Bin Laden: The Man Who Declared War on America*

Randall B. Hamud. *Osama Bin Laden: America’s Enemy in His Own Words*

Richard A. Clarke. *Against All Enemies: Inside America’s War on Terror*

Richard Miniter. *Losing Bin Laden*

Laura Mansfield, editor. *His Own Words: A Translation of the Writings of Dr. Ayman al Zawahiri*


Dore Gold. *Hatred’s Kingdom: How Saudi Arabia Supports the New Global Terrorism*

Michael A. Sheehan. *Crush the Cell: How to Defeat Terrorism Without Terrorizing Ourselves*

Nicholas Noe, editor. *Voice of Hezbollah: The Statements of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah*

Naim Qassem. *Hizbullah: The Story from Within*

**UNITED STATES POLITICS**

President Dwight Eisenhower. *Mandate for Change: The White House Years, 1953-1956*
President Jimmy Carter. *Keeping Faith: Memoirs of a President*

Admiral Stansfield Turner. *Burn Before Reading: Presidents, CIA Directors, and Secret Intelligence*


Henry Kissinger. *The White House Years*

Robert Gates. *From the Shadows: The Ultimate Insider’s Story of Five Presidents and How They Won the Cold War*

Tim Weiner. *Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA*

Christopher Andrew. *For the President’s Eyes Only: Secret Intelligence and the American Presidency from Washington to Bush*

George Tenet. *At the Center of the Storm: My Years at the CIA*

Bob Woodward. *State of Denial: Bush at War, Part III*


**ISLAM AND THE UNITED STATES**

Mark Bowden. *Guests of the Ayatollah: The First Battle in America’s War with Militant Islam*

His Majesty King Abdullah II. Address to the National Prayer Luncheon, February 2, 2006

Daniel Pipes. *Militant Islam Reaches America*

Stephen Kinzer. *All the Shah’s Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror*

**INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

Jerrold Post. *Leaders and Their Followers in a Dangerous World: The Psychology of Political Behavior*

**ISRAEL**

Tom Doyle. *Two Nations under God: Why You Should Care about Israel*

**IRAQ**

Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III. *My Year in Iraq: The Struggle to Build a Future of Hope*

CENTRAL ASIA—AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN
Nick B. Mills. Karzai: The Failing American Intervention and the Struggle for Afghanistan
John Weaver. Inside Afghanistan: The American Who Stayed Behind after 9/11 and His Mission of Mercy to a War-Torn People
Pervez Musharraf. In the Line of Fire: A Memoir

IRAN AND THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION
Baqer Moin. Khomeini: Life of the Ayatollah
Dr. Hamid Algar, translator. Islam and Revolution 1: Writings and Declarations of Imam Khomeini (1941-1980)
Nikki R. Keddie. Modern Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution
Said Amir Arjomand. The Turban for the Crown: The Islamic Revolution in Iran
Michael Ledeen. The Iranian Time Bomb: The Mullah Zealots’ Quest for Destruction
William J. Daugherty. In the Shadow of the Ayatollah: A CIA Hostage in Iran
Ali M. Ansari. Confronting Iran: The Failure of American Foreign Policy and the Next Great Conflict in the Middle East
Karim Sadjadpour. Reading Khamenei: The World View of Iran’s Most Powerful Leader
Alireza Jafarzadeh. The Iran Threat: President Ahmadinejad and the Coming Nuclear Crisis
Yossi Melman and Meir Javedanfar. The Nuclear Sphinx of Tehran: Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the State of Iran
Kasra Naji. Ahmadinejad: The Secret History of Iran’s Radical Leader
Kenneth M. Pollack. *The Persian Puzzle: The Conflict between Iran and America*

Reza Pahlavi. *Winds of Change: The Future of Democracy in Iran*

Nasrin Alavi. *We Are Iran: The Persian Blogs*


Tom White, et al (Voice of the Martyrs). *Iran, Desperate for God: An Oppressive Islamic State Drives Its People into the Arms of Christ*

**FORMER MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIAN EVANGELISM**

Ibn Warraq, editor. *Leaving Islam: Apostates Speak Out*

Susan Crimp and Joel Richardson, editors. *Why We Left Islam: Former Muslims Speak Out*

Brother Andrew and Al Janssen. *Light Force: A Stirring Account of the Church Caught in the Middle East Crossfire*

Brother Andrew and Al Janssen. *Secret Believers: What Happens When Muslims Believe in Christ*

Brother Yun, Peter Xu Yongze, and Enoch Wang (with Paul Hattaway). *Back To Jerusalem: Three Chinese House Church Leaders Share Their Vision to Complete the Great Commission*

Walid Shoebat. *Why I Left Jihad: The Root of Terrorism and the Return of Radical Islam*

Tass Saada. *Once an Arafat Man: The True Story of How a PLO Sniper Found a New Life*

William McElwee Miller. *Ten Muslims Meet Christ*

Carrie McDonnall. *Facing Terror: The True Story of How an American Couple Paid the Ultimate Price for Their Love of the Muslim People*