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A 'United Nations of Religions'

At a two-day conference of major religions held recently in Kazakhstan, key leaders of 18 faiths agreed to meet regularly under the banner "Congress of World and Traditional Religions." One delegate hoped the group would translate into a "United Nations of Religions." Speeches touched on how to address differences between religions, the need for more dialogue, and the issue of terrorism. The secretary-general of the Muslim World League, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Turki, from Saudi Arabia, said the Koran prohibits any acts of violence. He told the delegates, "Islam is against all killing that is without a just cause. We cannot accept those who say that Islam is a religion that kills or harms others." Sheikh Al-Turki said Muslims also oppose those who use religion for political purposes. The senior Jewish representative at the conference was Jonah Metzger, the chief rabbi of Israel. He spoke of the need for greater understanding between faiths, directing his remarks to the delegations from Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan, and Egypt, who were sitting just a short distance away. Resolutions passed by this conference included the following statements:—

"Considering inter-religious dialogue as one of the most important instruments for ensuring peace and harmony among peoples and nations;"

"Confirming the importance of religion for the well-being of all mankind;"

"Condemning the misrepresentation of religions and the incorrect use of differences among religions as a means for achieving selfish, disruptive and violent goals;"

"That religions must aspire towards greater co-operation, recognizing tolerance and mutual acceptance as essential instruments in the peaceful coexistence of all peoples;"

"That educational programs and the means of social communication should be essential instruments for promotion of positive attitudes towards religions and cultures;"

"That the entire human family must be encouraged to overcome hatred, enmity, intolerance and xenophobia;"

"We look forward to joint actions to ensure peace and progress for humanity and to foster the stability of societies as the basis for a harmonious world for the future;"

"May our commitments be blessed and all the peoples of the world be granted justice, peace and prosperity."

The opening statement of the conclusions of this conference is based upon a lie. To say that "inter-religious dialogue is one of the most important instruments for ensuring peace and harmony among peoples and nations," is to make a fatal error.

Such dialogue is no such thing. The only instrument of peace is the gospel of peace, even the message of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Man's peace with his neighbour begins with his making peace with God through Christ the only mediator.

When men condemn "the misrepresentation of religions" as did this conference, they are firing a shot at the preaching of the gospel of Christ. Why? Because it condemns all other religions as false teaching and damnable doctrines! The words of Christ in John 14:6 are



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hated by men. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." As the world prepares to embrace religious inclusivism, the true believers need to recognise the threat to their freedoms such a development presents. The "scarlet woman" of Revelation 17 was "drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus," verse 6. Killing Christians will be deemed "a just cause", Revelation 13. This "united nations of religions," with its delegates from apostate Protestant denominations, Roman Catholicism and various other shades of Christendom as well as the other false religions of the world is an early showing of her final manifestation before the world.