



## Arabs in the Shadow of Israel: The Unfolding of God's Prophetic Plan for Ishmael's Line

*By Tony Maalouf*

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(Foreword by Eugene H. Merrill) A compelling call for Christians to rethink the role of Arabs—also descendants of Abraham and recipients of his blessing.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Maalouf does an excellent job incorporating cultural considerations into his arguments...This work furnishes a needed corrective to the common view of the current Middle East situation and will prove to be critical in getting the Church back to a more complete understanding of how God is working in the region. Carefully considered, the book will give the reader a more comprehensive and less one-dimensional understanding of how we should relate to Arabs today. Consideration of Dr. Maalouf's points will hopefully enhance Christian outreach to the Arab people. With a clearer understanding of the Arabs' role in God's prophetic plan more Christians hopefully will develop a love for the children of Ishmael. And as always, that love will lead to positive action." (R. Todd Bradley *The Criswell College* 2005-02-16)

"Most Western Christian support Israel and have a predisposition against the Arab nations. With authoritative scholarship, the Lebanese Christian author and theology teacher investigates Scripture carefully. Tony Maalouf reveals rich insights about Ishmael...There are over 100 pages of endnotes, bibliography and general index. Nevertheless, this thought-provoking scholarly work is very readable." (A. Karen Davis *Pulpit Helps* 2005-02-16)

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"Maalouf makes clear the profoundly important role that the Arab has played in biblical times and since, and he displays his burden, like that of Paul, that his own Arab people might be saved." (*WIN-Informer* 2004-11-01)

"Arabs in the Shadow of Israel is an excellent piece of scholarship. . . . I would endorse and recommend it unreservedly. His work should certainly be essential reading for any Christian claiming a biblical perspective on the peoples of the Middle East." (Ant Greenham *Faith & Mission* 2005-03-01)

"Anyone interested in the Middle East and the Arab world will benefit from this excellent study." (Roy B. Zuck *Bibliotheca Sacra* 2005-07-01)

"If you are at all interested in the Middle East today, this book merits your attention." (Pastor Ken Hornok *Voice* 2005-02-01)

"It is time to present Ishmael from a Christian perspective, and to reclaim him as part of biblical legacy. This will help build a bridge for dialogue with those who claim Ishmael as their ancestor. The biblical legacy of Arabs and Jews has the potential to reconcile both antagonistic parties under the Abrahamic umbrella and to offer the hope of the gospel of peace in an area tyrannized by war." (*Theology Digest* 2005-05-01)

"Heavy-going at times, this brilliant study by a Lebanese Arab Christian provides the Scripture scholar, and anyone else interested in contemporary Israeli-Arab conflicts in the Middle East, a history of the Arab people reaching back to their biblical roots. . . .Maalouf outdoes himself with another thorough study concerning the Magi at Christ's birth. Contrary to old myths and legends, Maalouf, with internal and external evidence, proves that the Magi were truly Arabs bearing gifts, items drawn from the store of Arab international trade, incense, spices, and gold. Christian missionaries to the Middle East will find this book a must-read." (Robert B. Fisher *Missiology* 2005-04-01)

From the Back Cover

"A masterful piece of scholarship on a much neglected topic."

—Kenneth E. Bailey  
Professor Emeritus of Middle Eastern New Testament Studies  
Tantur Ecumenical Institute, Jerusalem

Western Christianity's longstanding support of Israel has certainly, but unintentionally, nurtured a bias against Arab people, traditionally tied to Abraham's first son, Ishmael. Lebanese Christian Tony Maalouf contends that this perspective differs dramatically from the biblical portrayal of Ishmael and the nations that have sprung from him.

By tracing the role of the Arab people throughout Scripture and prophetically into the final moments of history, Maalouf provides a much-needed understanding of a crucial contemporary issue and challenges Christians to think biblically about the complex issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"A rare and extraordinarily helpful book. . . . One of the most thought-provoking, scholarly yet readable books I have seen."

—Paige Patterson  
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

"An excellent study for any believer interested in the Middle East and the Arab world."

—Patrick Cate  
President of Christar

"Maalouf tackles the often contentious subject of Arab-Jewish relations with insight, kindness, and clarity."

—Charles H. Dyer  
Senior Vice President and Provost, Moody Bible Institute

**Tony Maalouf** (Ph.D., Dallas Theological Seminary) has served as assistant academic dean and professor of biblical studies at Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary in Amman, Jordan, and as an adjunct professor

at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon. He teaches and speaks throughout the Middle East and works on developing theological literature for Christians in the Arab World.

#### About the Author

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