

Akram Habib: False Teachings and Hidden Agenda

By Fred Aprim
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Akram Habib is a Coptic Egyptian-British who presents a program titled *Aqwal al-Nibuwa* (Words of Prophecy) on al-Hurriyya TV. His programs then get copied to YouTube TV channel. This article includes almost word by word Arabic to English translation of three of his video presentations. My comments to Mr. Habib are at the end under the last section titled “Fred Aprim’s Response”.

PART ONE of Mr. Habib’s series on Assyrians is titled *Emergence of Nations*. In this section, he attempted to show that the 70 nations of the Old Testament that were created after Noah’s Flood became the foundation for all the world’s present nations. Shem (Sam), Ham and Japheth, he said, are the forefathers of the current world nations.¹ Habib claimed that Noah did not name his children Sam, Ham and Japheth arbitrarily and that there was a reason behind those particular names. For example, he said, Ham means Hot, and that is why Ham’s children (Cush, Mizraim, Put and Canaan) and their latter generations lived in hot regions (Africa) or around regions of conflict. He then spoke about how Noah named his grandchildren and the reason for giving them those particular names.

Habib then arrived to his main subject and mentioned that Cush begot Nimrod, who is mentioned only four times in the Old Testament. Habib stated, “*But Nimrod did not play a big role in the Old Testament, however, his children created the most important, most dangerous and most evil kingdom that appeared throughout history and that is the Ancient Kingdom of Assyria*” (Minute 45:05). Habib said that ancient Assyria has nothing to do with today’s peaceful, loving Assyrian Christians and that ancient Assyria will rise again because it has an evil role in the end of time and the second coming.

Habib said Noah named his grandchild Nimrod because he knew ahead that his grandchild’s wish in life would be to revolt and rebel against God. He claimed that Nimrod was not the son of Cush as it is written in Genesis 10:8 because the sons of Cush were only five and are mentioned in Genesis 10:7. Habib said that Nimrod is perhaps the son of the cursed Canaan, but Cush raised him. Nimrod in time created the evil ancient Assyrian family, he said. Evil Nimrod who built the tower of Babylon to fight against God founded Babylon, Uruk, Akkad and Caliah in the land of Sinar (Shinar) in phase one and later he founded Assyria in phase two (Minute 16:10).

The evil ancient Assyrians are not the seed of anyone, he stressed. They are the making of many genealogy of different peoples that escaped or were kicked out from their regions, got together and created Assyria, the first evil and wicked kingdom in history. Finally he said, when we talk about the reemergence of ancient Assyria, we do not mean the return of ancient Assyrians because there is no such thing as Assyrian race anymore. It will rather be the gathering of many nations in the ancient region of Assyria for one purpose, which is evil, terror and blood.

PART TWO of Akram Habib’s series presentations was titled “*Ancient Assyria and the Spirit of Terror and Blood*”.² Habib said that Nimrod created Assyria and the evil ancient Assyrians that are always portrayed in the Bible as evil nation (Minute 9). Habib said, Nimrod in Hebrew is *gibbor*, which means one of three: either a giant man or a strong man or an evil man. He went on and on to impose his point that when it comes to Nimrod or *gibbor* in Hebrew, the meaning intended in the Bible was not a strong,

1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0lMSyG3u10&list=WL&index=2>

2 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCW2kjvrF_g

big man or hunter of animals rather it meant explicitly evil man and the hunter and persecutor of men or the challenger of God based on the Jewish Targum and other parts of the Bible. Habib claimed that Nimrod was a gigantic hunter against the Lord God, he hunted and killed people arbitrarily without a reason or without even knowing them (Minute 14:40). According to Habib, Nimrod was not a hunter of animals as it is mentioned in Genesis 11:9, “*He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod was a mighty hunter before the Lord*”.³ Nimrod, he claimed, was the first man who initiated terrorism against human beings in history (Minute 13:20). Thus, we, he said, could conclude that the ancient Assyrians were founded from this Nimrod and other people who rebelled against the real God; people who were the first who founded the violence, terror and bloody character (Minute 15:15).

Habib then stated that the foundation or the essence of Assyria was land [a country]. This land extended from Babylon, Uruk and Akkad in Iraq to Caliah in Syria. He then referred to Genesis 11:11, out of Sinar went forth Ashur and built Nineveh, and the city of Rehoboth, and Calah. He claimed that Ashur is a Hebrew name which means blessed (Minute 28). Assyria, he said, was created by two people; Nimrod and Ashur, the first was a symbol of rebellious and the second was blessed. Ashur is the second son of Shem (Sam).⁴ Habib said that it is likely that Ashur escaped from Nimrod and settled in a small village called after him and converted himself to a god and he was worshiped (Minute 32). This happened when Nimrod went north to the city of Ashur. Here, Ashur, the person, converted himself to a god. With this, Nimrod became the political leader and Ashur the god that is worshiped in the kingdom of Assyria. Ashur could have been good, but his association with Nimrod where they created an evil kingdom made him initiate the first worship of man in history and be against God in the process.

Habib said, the text in Genesis 11:11 was translated wrong. It was not Ashur that left Sinar. It was Nimrod that went to Ashur (Minute 33:20). The King James Bible was wrong (Minute 35). He said, the New King James fixed that mistake. Ashur the city was not built yet so Nimrod went to Ashur the person. In Hebrew, he said, Ashur means both Ashur, the person and Assyria, the country; however, the English translators caused confusion by translating Ashur to two different terms; person and country.

Habib said that Nimrod had a project to build an evil kingdom to rule the world. So he needed to build a new capital city to replace Ashur; thus he built Nineveh (Minute 37). Nimrod moved to Ashur after the collapse of his Tower of Babylon. But before he built Nineveh, he expanded Ashur and called it Rehoboth meaning vast area (Minute 38:30). Nimrod also built Calah, which became a capital too.

Habib goes on to say that the three things that distinguish the Assyrians are: land, violence and terror and no specific origin or root (Minute 40). He said it is important to understand that Assyria fell completely and disappeared in 612 BC along with its people (Minute 41). He described the book, *The Story of Civilization* by Wool Durante which was translated to Arabic by Mohammad Bedran as the most popular book in the world. The translator, Bedran, wrote that the people of Assyria were a mix of Semitic people who migrated from the civilized south and of non-Semitic tribes that migrated from the east and of the Kurds that came from the mountains of the Caucasus.⁵ The book said that the Assyrian nation was a savage nation (Minute 48:20). Habib referred to a couple of Egyptian writers, Abdul Aziz Salih and Salim Hasan in which they have mentioned that the Assyrians enjoyed abusing people and that their complete disappearance from ancient history was something that will remain a unique phenomenon (Minute 48:20-49:50). Habib stated that when the new Assyria is born again, it will most

3 Holy Bible: From the Ancient Eastern Text, George Lamsa

4 Genesis 10:22

5 Wool Durant, *The Story of Civilization*. Second Section, 265-266

likely be of the same character/combination; a nation that consists of many nations and they will be people with brutal and evil power (Minute 45-48).

Habib finally sent a message to what he called modern loving Assyrian Christians. He said that he is not against the modern Assyrians, but modern historians are showing that the modern Assyrians cannot be related to the ancient Assyrians and that the modern Assyrians took the name with the discovery of the Assyrian discoveries in 1845.⁶ He then referred to John Joseph's book in which he says that the relationship between the ancient and modern Assyrians is virtual, is an assumption and that there is no relationship between the two groups.⁷ Habib brought another example to make his point. At the end Habib said that he does not care if the Assyrians of today are the descendants of ancient Assyrians or not. However, he says that there will appear a new Assyria, an independent, terrorist kingdom that will gain control in the Middle East and will have a very bad role in the region (Minute 55). Habib concluded that God is preparing the stage for the second coming and that is why God is allowing the modern peaceful Assyrian Christians to flee and vacate the Middle East, because the descendants of Nimrod, other Sunni Islamists and ISIS will return again to the region and lead to the rise of evil Assyria for the second time which will bring havoc and destruction to the Middle East, but modern Assyrians cannot play a role in it.

Akram Habib and the Kurds

Another lengthy program on al-Hurriyya TV was about the Kurds. The episode titled, "*Formation of the great state of the Kurds and its relationship to the prophecies of the last days about the Medes*" was moderated by Dr. Ra'fat William, who had his friend Akram Habib as a guest.⁸ The very long program was nothing but a propaganda for the Kurds.

William states that the Kurds are very ancient people who are mentioned in the Bible as the Medes. Habib added that the Kurds are a great ancient nation that is 2700 years old. Habib claimed that the Kurds were a great nation and kingdom from 2700 years ago. The Kurdish's kingdom was the strongest in the Near East and it was known as the Kingdoms of the Medes and Persians. Around 2550 years ago, Kurds and Persians united and created the Kingdom of Mada and Peria. But this united kingdom fell 2200 year ago, the Kingdom of Persia rose again and remained until today, however, the Kurdish kingdom did not rise again as a country. The Kurds have since been oppressed and persecuted, he said. Kurdistan is rising and the Kingdom of Mada will be reborn again in northern Iraq. This will happen because it goes hand in hand with the Bible's prophecies, Habib said.



6 Habib referring to *The martyred Church; A History of the Church of the East*, David Wilmshurst, 2011

7 Joseph, John, *The Modern Assyrians of the Middle East*, 2000.

8 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gt_8ysj1YUU

Fred Aprim's Response:

It is incomprehensible that in this day and age a researcher would judge a nation and a civilization strictly from the Old Testament narrative and/or from the perspective of few questionable publications. Allow me to provide the readers with a different perspective.

1. Much work has been published in recent years regarding the so-called Assyrian cruelty. These publications addressed why ancient Assyrians were singled out. The ancient Greeks, Romans, Israelites, etc and modern day Ottomans, Americans (in Vietnam, Korea, Japan, Afghanistan, Iraq) etc. were cruel. Have Habib read Xenophon's Persian Expedition which describes how the Greek army dealt with the enemy?⁹ Was Moses, God's man, not cruel when he ordered his men to kill all enemy men, boys, and non-virgin women and save only the virgins to have as wives when his people were involved in war (Numbers 31: 8-18)? Did Habib read Numbers 25:4-8 or he reports and discards what suites him? Did he read Deuteronomy 3:3? Was the action of Jews' filling of a Church in Najran (in Saudi Arabia) with 2000 Jacobite Assyrian (Suryan) Christians, including priests, deacons, readers, etc. and piling wood around the church and burning them alive inside a church not cruel?¹⁰ The concept of a cruel Assyrian Empire was inherited from few classical authors, but mainly from the Hebrew Bible. The Assyrians were singled out in modern literature because they depicted cruelty in their art and displayed them on their walls for all to see as a method of deterrence, while other nations hid and covered their cruel acts.¹¹ Many of those classical authors failed on purpose to address the fact that manuscripts describe the Assyrian kings asking their enemies to surrender before a war in order to avoid bloodshed, and how women and children prisoners of war were carried in a humane way on carts.¹² Does that reflect cruelty? Lastly, but not least, the act of defining life and its values in ancient times could not be measured by the standards of the human values of today.

2. Habib, as an Egyptian and a researcher, should know better that these acts of cruelty were exaggerated whether expressed in the Assyrian art or mentioned in the Old Testament. What do we learn from the Assyrian-Egyptian relations in real history? Scholars tell us that it was not a relationship of one side terrorizing the other. We read: "*The Assyrian administration in Egypt was focused on indirect rule, in the sense that the Assyrian kings entrusted local Egyptians to rule Egypt on the conditions that these were loyal to the empire and provided material resources to Assyria... At the same time, there is no indication that the Egyptians who lived in Assyria were especially privileged (nor discriminated against).*"¹³ Does this reflect what Habib is claiming? No!

Also, we do not see Habib talk about what Egyptians did to the Israelites. We read, "*Egypt enslaved the Israelites for centuries, yet its relationship with Israel did not end when Moses led the people out of Pharaoh's hand and God destroyed the Egyptian army*" (Ex.12:33-42; 14). And we read that, "*many decades after Isaiah died, Pharaoh Neco killed King Josiah of Judah (2 Kings 23:28-30).* So going to war and killing kings or people was and still is common among nations and that is what happens during the ugly and merciless wars. We read that "*Egypt and Assyria would be accepted into the people of God on equal terms. Isaiah 19:25 features God referring to Egypt as "my people" and Assyria as "the work of my hands." The Lord usually reserves these designations for Israel in the Old Testament. That He can give them to Egypt and Assyria indicates their full conversion and incorporation into His*

9 Warner, Rex, trans. Xenophon: The Persian Expedition. First published 1949. London: Penguin Books, 1972, 161-162

10 Brock, S.P. and S. A. Harvey. Holy Women of the Syrian Orient. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987, 105.

11 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YD7Iq7q108U>

12 Saggs, H. W. F. The Greatness That Was Babylon. New York: The New American Library, Inc. 1968

13 <https://www.asor.org/onetoday/2022/08/neo-assyrian-empire-egypt/>

chosen nation.”¹⁴ These last few words refute everything that Habib claims. These words, i.e. **His chosen nation**, speak about the Assyrians as a surviving people and not only as a reemergence of Assyria as a country that will host murderers and evil people, as Habib claims.

Furthermore, Merneptah was son of Ramesses II. He was the 4th pharaoh of the 19th Dynasty of Ancient Egypt. He ruled Egypt for almost ten years, from 1213 BC until his death in 1203 BC, according to contemporary historical records.¹⁵ This will be about 240 years after the Israelites conquered the land of Canaan.¹⁶ He is arguably best known for his victory stele, featuring the first known mention of the name Israel. There is also an account of his 1208 BC campaign in Canaan in the form of a poem from the Merneptah Stele¹⁷, widely known as the *Israel Stele*, which mentions the suppression of revolts in Canaan where it makes reference to the supposed utter destruction of Israel in Canaan in a campaign prior to his fifth year. The Stele states: “*Canaan is captive with all woe. Ashkelon is conquered, Gezer seized, Yanoam made nonexistent; Israel is laid waste, bare of seed.*”¹⁸ Is that not cruel?

3. The Assyrian continuity issue has been addressed thoroughly by many in the last 30 years. Studies on the connection of ancient and modern Assyrians provided ample of references and proof.^{19 20} Scholars assert that people in general do not disappear in thin air.^{21 22} These studies relied on genealogy, anthropology, linguistic in addition to culture, land dwelling, etc. to prove that modern Assyrians are the descendants of ancient Assyrians.^{23 24} The collapse of the Roman Empire, or the bloody fall of Rome, is considered by many to be one of the greatest disasters in history. Why no one claims that the Romans disappeared completely?

4. The program about the Kurds seems to have been produced shortly after the invasion of northern Iraq by ISIS. Habib did not hesitate from glorifying the peshmerga (Kurdish forces); however, he failed to mention that the Kurds withdrew from Mosul and the Nineveh Plain and left the armless Assyrians (their weapons confiscated by the Kurds) at the mercy of ISIS. Habib failed also to analyze why ISIS never attacked the Kurdish region or Kurdish people in northern Iraq (KRI).

The question that we need to ask is, why does Habib without hesitation accept that today’s Kurds are the descendants of the Medes. Did he do any research? Concrete historical evidence or reliable scholarly texts that link the two groups together are absent. Real scholars agree that any relationship between the Kurds and the ancient Medes is circumstantial. In an interview by Egyptian Researcher Dr. Ahmad Saad Zayid with Dr. Khazal al-Majidi about civilizations, Dr. al-Majidi said that the Kurds cannot claim descend-ency from ancient groups such as Hittites just because a group of Kurds today live on the Hittite ancient lands... He said, Kurds are Kurds, no more no less. Period. The Kurds are not Hittites, not Medes, not Mitannis. Certain simple people cause confusion by spreading lies to the media such as Sumerians are Kurds, Babylonians are Kurds, Akkadians are Kurds, Bet Nahrain is

14 <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/egypt-and-assyria-serve-lord>

15 One record indicate his rule between 1224–1214

16 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xj4B5xPMgbQ>

17 Discovered in Thebes (modern Luxor) in 1896 and currently in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

18 <https://answersingenesis.org/archaeology/merneptah-stele/>

19 <https://www.atour.com/education/20001027a.html>

20 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4lM-jEHD0o>

21 <https://assyrians.n.nu/9>

22 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/545826>

23 https://www.fredaprim.com/pdf/Mr.Fred_Aprims_speech_delivered_during_the_European_Tour.pdf

24 <http://www.aina.org/articles/afasp.pdf>

Kurdish. We cannot make these false claims. We cannot build something based on lies and wrongful information. Medes are Medes. They are not Kurds.²⁵

Furthermore, what does Habib know about the Kurds to describe them as “good” people? We ask, good in what context? Did Habib read about the massacres of Assyrians and Yezidis at the hands of the Kurds in the 1840s, 1890s? Did Habib read how the Kurds participated in murdering two-thirds of the Assyrian Christians during WWI genocide?^{26 27}

5. We are told that until the 18th century, history or events that happened and writing down those events was written based on interpretations and personal opinions of people. Since the 18th century, history became a science where it was now written based on one major factual factor which is archaeological remains unless there are undisputed facts. Culture is components, ingredients, structures, systems and functions of a specific homogeneous group with its materialistic, moral and intangible components. Civilization is a giant system where many cultures worked for centuries together collectively and in harmony within a large society and influenced the path of history. A certain country could have many cultures that exist together but might not have a civilization, because these cultures do not work collectively and in harmony to create something for mankind. The writing system is the foundation of any Civilization without a group’s distinct writing system there is no civilization.²⁸

Dr. Khazal al-Majidi explained that the Assyrian civilization was one of greatest civilizations in history. Archaeologist Dr. Ahmed Qasem Al-Juma has argued that civilizations are classified in three categories: First, an acquired civilization, which borrows from the civilizations before it. This type does not add to those civilizations that preceded it. Second, an advanced civilization, which adds to those before it. Third, is the innovative human civilizations, which includes the Assyrian civilization.²⁹ What the Assyrians have invented and how they helped advance knowledge and science in the world are well documented. The Assyrian civilization could not be described as an “evil kingdom” as Mr. Habib would like to present it. What the Assyrian civilization accomplished for mankind in antiquity and in early Christianity and its impact on today’s world is beyond Mr. Habib’s narrow and wicked mind.

On the other hand, the Kurds were tribal mountain dwellers, who never established anything; they do not have a language of their own since Kurdish language is a mix of Turkish, Persian and Arabic. They do not have an alphabet of their own – they use Arabic alphabet. The Kurds never had a cohesive and homogenous society ruled within a defined kingdom or state.

6. Mr. Habib false information about history are plentiful. For example, he claims that Nineveh and Calah were built by Nimrod. Habib is relying on Biblical scholars for his misleading and wrong information. There is no archaeological evidence that Nimrod build Ashur (Assur), Nineveh, or Kalhu.

An Israeli scholar addresses many issues about the Assyrian Empire that refute what Habib has been claiming in his programs. In a discussion between Prof. Yoram Kohen, Alex Tseitlin and Yigal Bin Nun about the Assyrian Empire, Prof. Kohen stated that The Assyrian king acted like a shepherd of the

25 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9HayJo6nx4>

26 <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1233&context=gsp>

27 <https://mirrorspectator.com/2018/11/08/prof-hannibal-travis-speaks-on-the-assyrian-armenian-greek-and-yezidi-genocides/>

28 Hassan Bin Mohammed Center for Historical Studies, in Doha, Saturday 14/1/2023, hosted Dr. Khazal Al-Magdi, the researcher in the science and history of civilizations and religions.

29 Program Ma’aalim معالم on Al-Mosuliyya Iraqi TV, Nov. 19, 2020. The Wall of Nineveh and its Gates.

people on behalf of god Ashur in the temple. The King is the link between the god and the people. This concept of the shepherd influenced Judaism and Christianity. He said, it was common at that time that for people from the conquered regions to join the Assyrian armies. A large part of the exiles from Israel joined the Assyrian army and they filled a lot of professions within Assyria since there was constant movement of people within the empire. The new people considered themselves as part of the new system and the Assyrian empire accepted them and the exiles became integral part of their new society. Both the exiled people and the native Assyrians benefited from this situation. In fact there was a period of 50 years of peace and prosperity during the days of Minashe, King of Judah. The The Babylonian Empire was build based on the Assyrian model – in fact it was a blueprint of the Assyrian Empire with one simple difference where Nineveh the center moved to Babylon and the rest remained the same. Archaeological findings have shown that Assyrian bureaucracy continued to function under Babylonian leadership. Only the kind has changed, but the Assyrians continued to manage their estate and agricultural economy.³⁰

Considering all the above, one wonders, what kind of an evil plan is Mr. Akram Habib behind when he spreads the wild narrative that God planned for the modern Assyrians to leave their homeland. If the Kurds are peaceful loving people, as he claims, why is God not making the Kurds leave northern Iraq too. Habib is cherry-picking and manipulating the Bible or using his interpretation of it to serve a suspicious agenda. He is misleading his viewers by stating that Kurdistan is mentioned in Biblical prophecy. Could Habib show us where such exact wording is mentioned in the Bible?

Most researchers are compensated by certain institutions to conduct their research. Unfortunately, most of those researches are geared towards bolstering a specific theory or case, which those institutions intend to populate. It is argued that many researchers are not objective in their work and they choose to allow their bias to distort their interpretation of what they observe and that bias plays an ethical implications in research. The fact is that Mr. Akram Habib is manipulating or changing the words of God, and we all know what the Bible says about those who change one letter in the Bible:

“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll” (Revelation 22:18,19).

30 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Uwga6cWR6A>