

GOD AND CIVILIZATION –

In conflict...

In musings past I have touched on the conflict between the Jew, the Christian, and the Muslim as to their faith, belief and understanding of God, the one God each allegedly pray to and are inspired by and infer that accommodation to respective cultures of each appear if not hopeless, irrational and uncompromising. And that inference has touched on the conflict between God and civilizations clash, the twain irreconcilable.

Judaism forges from the Torah and Moses in the Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible), law of God as to instruction, doctrine, etal, whereas the Apostle Paul preaches “let us do good to all men” in Galatians 6:10,- the New Testament while Mohammed speaks of “A man’s true wealth is the good he does in the world” in the Koran (Qu’ran). Thus, the historical record seems to lay the foundation for an accommodation.

Yet, the world watched with anticipation when President Jimmy Carter , together with President Anwar al-Sadat of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Menachem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel in the middle of September, 1978 as part of the Camp David Accords, met for two long weeks, ostensibly to reconcile the end of the on-going strife between Israel and the Arab republics. Highlight was the visit by Sadat to the Israel Knesset and Begin visit to Ismailia, Egypt with warm receptions in each parliament. This ultimately led to peace between Israel and Egypt but the rest of the Arab world rebelled. And conflict soon erupted traumatized by the assassination of Sadat in 1981, and Israel entry into Lebanon to chase down the harassing Palestinian Authority. History is replete with the on-going moments of peace and war between the Jew and the Arab. The search for the illusive Palestinian state –even with the Hamas occupation of Gaza-bodes continued antipathy towards each other despite the Semitic relationships of language and proximity for centuries.

Much of the world seems to blame Israel for much of the mideast problems as attested to United Na-

tion observations as recent foot-dragging over the nuclear issue with Iran continues. A return there by Envoy Mitchell of the United States suggesting more accommodation by the Jew over intransigence about long-time plans to build apartments in Jerusalem versus Arab complaints. For the scholar one needs to look at long-time history of the place and the Jew-Arab status. It is revealing:

“The millions who died in the Iran-Iraq war, mass murder of black Christian citizens by Arab Moslems in Sudan, murders in Algeria, Saddam’s invasion of Kuwait, endangering Saudi-Arabia, his butchering of his own people, Egypt’s use of poison gas in Yemen in the 60’s, Assad, the father, killing tens of thousands of his people in El Hamma, Syria, Taliban control of Afghanistan, Libya’s culpability in the blowing up the Pan Am flight-none of these had anything to do with Israel, and there is more....the root of the trouble is that the entire Moslem region is totally dysfunctional and would have been so if Israel had joined the Arab league, and an independent Palestine existed for 100 years...this a result of scholarly analysis of the so-called on-going Israel-Arab conflict.”

Now, in a never-ending war, still afloat with militant Islam(Wahhabism)in the guise of al-Qaeda and Taliban forces with a questionable strategy and tactical operation posed to leave Iraq this year and began withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2011, one wonders what constitutes a viable end-game for seeming ‘war of civilizations’ and the continuing drama of Israel-Arab conflict and the threat of a nuclear Iran in near future?

Our President has violated most of the tenets of a good leader: blaming others, rather than accepting responsibility; kow-towing to nation leaders, apologizing for alleged American failings; inability to grasp the significance of the growing economic/financial debacle, and most of all, to set the example and bring us under his wing. This man is an ideologue, not a leader.