



Pearl Harbor/Iraq Tribute; Zionophobia: Ishmael Will Always Persecute Isaac: Birth of Anti-Semitism; Arabs Occupy Promised Land, Gen 25:13-15; Gal 4:22-30

This is the 63rd anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor—December 7, 1941. The U.S. Pacific Force comprised nearly 100 naval vessels including 8 battleships. U.S. military casualties exceeded 3,000, of which, over 2,000 were fatalities. All 8 battleships were damaged; 3 were destroyed, and a 4th was capsized. The USS *Arizona* sank with a loss of 1,102 sailors. This attack precipitated the United States' involvement in World War II which concluded with the surrender of Germany on May 8, 1945 and of Japan aboard the USS *Missouri* on September 2, 1945. In between many servicemen gave their lives in defense of our country

Although Hawaii was then just a territory of the United States it marked the second time our borders were assaulted by predator forces, the first being the British in 1812. The third occurred on September 11, 2001.

As a salute to those who died 63 years ago at Pearl Harbor as well as those who have died in wars following and previous, I'd like to read a letter written by a Marine serving in Iraq to his father. It relates some of the heroic deeds performed by our servicemen there which for whatever reason are rarely reported in the American media. Their emphasis seems to be centered on events that present a negative image of the war in Iraq. But there are many heroic events that have occurred and many young heroes who pulled them off. As our recognition of Pearl Harbor Day I'd like to relate the observations of one Marine whose letter to his father was made available to me. I'll withhold his name but his letter reads as follows:

Nov 19, 04

Dear Dad -

Just came out of the city and I honestly do not know where to start. I am afraid that whatever I send you will not do sufficient honor to the men who fought and took Fallujah.

Shortly before the attack, Task Force Fallujah was built. It consisted of Regimental Combat Team 1 built around 1st Marine Regiment and Regimental Combat Team 7 built around 7th Marine Regiment. Each Regiment consisted of two Marine Rifle Battalions reinforced and one Army mechanized infantry battalion.

Regimental Combat Team 1 consisted of 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines; 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines and 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry. Cutting a swath around the city was an Army Brigade known as Blackjack. The Marine Regimental Combat Team's were to assault the city while Blackjack kept the enemy off of the backs of the assault force.

The night prior to the actual invasion, we all moved out into the desert just north of the city. It was something to see. You could just feel the intensity in the Marines and Soldiers. It was all business. As the day cleared, the Task Force began striking targets and moving into final attack positions. As the invasion force commenced its movement into attack positions, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion led off Regimental Combat Team 1's offensive with an attack up a peninsula formed by the Euphrates River on the west side of the city. Their mission was to secure the Fallujah Hospital and the two bridges leading out of the city. They executed there tasks like clockwork and smashed the enemy resistance holding the bridges. Simultaneous to all of this, Blackjack sealed the escape routes to the south of the city. As invasion day dawned, the net was around the city and the Marines and Soldiers knew that the enemy that failed to escape was now sealed.



The 5th Marines began the actual attack on the city by taking an apartment complex on the northwest corner of the city. It was key terrain as the elevated positions allowed the command to look down into the attack lanes. The Marines took the apartments quickly and moved to the rooftops and began engaging enemy that were trying to move into their fighting positions. The scene on the rooftop was surreal. Machine gun teams were running boxes of ammo up 8 flights of stairs in full body armor and carrying up machine guns while snipers engaged enemy shooters. The whole time the enemy was firing mortars and rockets at the apartments. Honest to God, I don't think I saw a single Marine even distracted by the enemy fire. Their squad leaders, and platoon commanders had them prepared and they were executing their assigned tasks.

As mentioned, 7th Cavalry joined the Regiment just prior to the fight. There is always a professional rivalry between the Army and the Marine Corps but it was obvious from the outset that these guys were the real deal. They had fought in Najaf and were eager to fight with the Regiment in Fallujah. They are exceptionally well led and supremely confident.

The 7th Cav became our wedge. In short, they worked with 1st Marines. We were limited in the amount of prep fires that we were allowed to fire on the city prior to the invasion. This was a point of some consternation to the forces actually taking the city. Our compensation was to turn to 7th Cav and ask them to slash into the city and create as much turbulence as possible for 1st Marines to follow. Because of the political reality, the Marine Corps was also under pressure to "get it done quickly." For this reason, 7th Cav and 1st Marines became the penetration force into the city.

Immediately following 5th Marines' attack on the apartment buildings, 1st Marines took the train station on the north end of the city. While the engineers blew a breach through the train trestle, the Cavalry soldiers poured through with their tanks and Bradley's and chewed an opening in the enemy defense. 1st Marines followed them through until they reached a line deep into the northern half of the city. The Marine infantry along with a few tanks then turned to the right and attacked the heart of the enemy defense. The fighting was tough as the enemy had the area dialed in with mortars. 5th Marines then attacked into the northwest corner of the city. This fight continued as both Marine rifle battalions clawed their way into the city on different axis.

There is an image burned into my brain that I hope I never forget. We came up behind 5th Marines one day as the lead squads were working down the Byzantine streets of the Jolan area. An assault team of two Marines ran out from behind cover and put a rocket into a wall of an enemy strongpoint. Before the smoke cleared the squad behind them was up and moving through the hole and clearing the house. Just down the block another squad was doing the same thing. The house was cleared quickly and the Marines were running down the street to the next contact. Even in the midst of that mayhem, it was an awesome site.

The fighting has been incredibly close inside the city. The enemy is willing to die and is literally waiting until they see the whites of the eyes of the Marines before they open up. Just two days ago, as a firefight raged in close quarters, one of the interpreters yelled for the enemy in the house to surrender. The enemy yelled back that it was better to die and go to heaven than to surrender to infidels. This exchange is a graphic window into the world that the Marines and Soldiers have been fighting in these last 10 days.



I will end with a couple of stories of individual heroism that you may not have heard yet. I was told about both of these incidents shortly after they occurred. No doubt some of the facts will change slightly but I am confident that the meat is correct.

The first is a Marine from 5th Marines. His name is Corporal Yeager (Chuck Yeager's grandson). As the Marines cleared an apartment building, they got to the top floor and the point man kicked in the door. As he did so, an enemy grenade and a burst of gunfire came out. The explosion and enemy fire took off the point man's leg. He was then immediately shot in the arm as he lay in the doorway. Corporal Yeager tossed a grenade in the room and ran into the doorway and into the enemy fire in order to pull his buddy back to cover. As he was dragging the wounded Marine to cover, his own grenade came back through the doorway. Without pausing, he reached down and threw the grenade back through the door while he heaved his buddy to safety. The grenade went off inside the room and Cpl Yeager threw another in. He immediately entered the room following the second explosion. He gunned down three enemy all within three feet of where he stood and then let fly a third grenade as he backed out of the room to complete the evacuation of the wounded Marine. You have to understand that a grenade goes off within 5 seconds of having the pin pulled. Marines usually let them "cook off" for a second or two before tossing them in. Therefore, this entire episode took place in less than 30 seconds.

The second example comes from 1st Marines. Cpl Mitchell is a squad leader. He was wounded as his squad was clearing a house when some enemy threw pineapple grenades down on top of them. As he was getting triaged, the doctor told him that he had been shot through the arm. Cpl Mitchell told the doctor that he had actually been shot "a couple of days ago" and had given himself self aid on the wound. When the doctor got on him about not coming off the line, he firmly told the doctor that he was a squad leader and did not have time to get treated as his men were still fighting. There are a number of Marines who have been wounded multiple times but refuse to leave their fellow Marines.

It is incredibly humbling to walk among such men. They fought as hard as any Marines in history and deserve to be remembered as such. The enemy they fought burrowed into houses and fired through mouse holes cut in walls, lured them into houses rigged with explosives and detonated the houses on pursuing Marines, and actually hid behind surrender flags only to engage the Marines with small arms fire once they perceived that the Marines had let their guard down. I know of several instances where near dead enemy rolled grenades out on Marines who were preparing to render them aid. It was a fight to the finish in every sense and the Marines delivered.

I have called the enemy cowards many times in the past because they have never really held their ground and fought but these guys in the city did. We can call them many things but they were not cowards.

My whole life I have read about the greatest generation and sat in wonder at their accomplishments. For the first time, as I watch these Marines and Soldiers, I am eager for the future as this is just the beginning for them. Perhaps the most amazing characteristic of all is that the morale of the men is sky high. They hurt for the wounded and the dead but they are eager to continue to attack. Further, not one of them would be comfortable with being called a hero even though they clearly are.

By now the Marines and Soldiers have killed well over a thousand enemy. These were not peasants or rabble. They were reasonably well trained and entirely fanatical. Most of the enemy we have seen have chest rigs full of



ammunition and are well armed are willing to fight to the death. The Marines and Soldiers are eager to close with them and the fighting at the end is inevitably close.

Even with everything that I knew and expected from the last nine months, the brutality and fanaticism of the enemy surprised me. The beheadings were even more common place than we thought but so were torture and summary executions. Even though it is an exaggeration, it seems as though every block in the northern part of the city has a torture chamber or execution site. There are hundreds of tons of munitions and tens of thousands of weapons that our Regiment alone has recovered. The Marines and Soldiers of the Regiment have also found over 400 IEDs already wired and ready to detonate. No doubt these numbers will grow in the days ahead.

In closing, I want to share with you a vignette about when the Marines secured the Bridge (the one where the Americans were mutilated and hung on March 31). On the Fallujah side of the bridge where the Americans were hung there is some Arabic writing. An interpreter translated it for me as we walked through. It read: "Long Live the Mujahadeen. Fallujah is the Graveyard for Americans and the end of the Marine Corps."

The Marines had written their own message below the enemy's. It is not something that Mom would appreciate but it fit the moment to a T.

49. When on 14 May 1948 the British pulled down the Union Jack and the Jews raised the Star of David the conflict described by Paul in Galatians 4:19 was intensified with a vengeance:

Galatians 4:29 - Just as at that time [**Genesis 21:9-10**] the one born according to the flesh [**Ishmael by Hagar**] kept on persecuting [**inceptive imperfect active indicative of δῶκω, diōkō**] the one born according to the Holy Spirit [**Isaac by Sarah**] so also it is the case today [**the sons of Hagar continue to persecute the sons of the Sarah**].

50. The verb **δῶκω, diōkō** is an inceptive imperfect tense. The inceptive imperfect signifies the initiation of a process and denotes the beginning of an action that continues without implying anything as to its completion.
51. Paul indicates that this conflict continues unabated in the Church Age: "so also it is the case today."
52. The warfare between the Arabs and the Jews began in Genesis when the births of Ishmael and Isaac also saw the birth of anti-Semitism.
53. The Abrahamic Covenant included the promise that Abraham would be the father of a great nation. Abraham and Sarah were childless and therefore he thought that his heir must be someone he was to adopt. The Lord assured him otherwise in:

Genesis 15:4b - "... one who shall come forth from your own body, he [**Isaac**] shall be your heir."

54. However, time passed. By Genesis 16 Sarah had become impatient and insisted that Abraham sire a child with their Egyptian maid, Hagar.
55. The result was an immediate pregnancy which caused Sarah to become extremely jealous and she began to treat Hagar harshly, so much so that Hagar fled toward Shur.



56. But the Lord intervened in a theophany and insisted that Hagar return to Abraham and Sarah:

Genesis 16:9 - Then the angel of the Lord [**Jesus Christ in a theophany**] said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority."

57. The deed was done. Hagar was pregnant with an illegitimate son who was not a member of the Messianic line. Abraham had made a mistake in judgment by listening to his wife's suggestion and having intercourse with someone other than her. The resultant offspring became the patriarch of the most vicious and implacable enemies that the Jews would ever encounter.

58. Although the Lord would ultimately keep his promise to Abraham through David, He permitted the birth of Ishmael to take place. And in addition He issued a promise that guaranteed the Jews would have an arch enemy throughout their generations:

Genesis 16:10 - Moreover, the angel of the Lord said to her [**Hagar**], "I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they shall be too many to count."

59. This promise is fulfilled by the line of Ishmael that makes up a large portion of the hordes of Arabs that have persecuted the Jews for millennia and have perfected the crime of anti-Semitism:

Genesis 25:13 - These are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, in the order of their birth: Nebaioth \ne-bā' yoth\, the first born of Ishmael, and Kedar \kē' der\ and Adbeel \ad' be-el\ and Mibsam \mib' sam\

v. 14 - and Mishma \mish' ma\ and Dumah \dū' ma\ and Massa \mas' a\

v. 15 - Hadad \hā' dad\ and Tema \tē' ma\, Jetur \jē' tur, Naphish \nā' fish\ and Kedemah \ked' e-ma\.

v. 16 - These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages, and by their camps; twelve princes according to their tribes.

60. These twelve tribes of Ishmael decided to settle on land that is smack-dab in the middle of the real estate God promised to Abraham:

Genesis 25:18 - They [**the twelve tribes of Ishmael**] settled from Havilah \hav' i-la\ to Shur which is east of Egypt as one goes toward Assyria [**Arabia**]; he settled in defiance of all his relatives [**the descendants of his half-brother Isaac**].

61. What Abraham did was doubt the promise of God and instead put his trust in the inappropriate and blasphemous suggestion of his wife. Abraham was promised the land between the Nile and the Euphrates.

62. What his bastard son did was settle his entire family pretty much in this entire area in defiance of his relatives, i.e., his first cousins, the Jews. The phrase "in defiance" is the plural of "face":

פָּנִים panim - Lit.: "in front of"

This is an idiom that refers to a geographic location where one positions himself in defiance of others. Further elaboration is provided by:

Harris, R. Laird (ed.). *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1980), 727:

פָּנָה pana – "turn." The basic meaning of the verb is "to turn," but it may assume a number of nuances. For example *pana* may mean "to turn towards" a direction, a person, or a thing.



פָּנִים *panim* - “face.” This particular word always occurs in the plural, perhaps indicative of the fact that the face is a combination of a number of features. The face identifies the person and reflects the attitude and sentiments of the person.

In the Bible the “face” is described not merely as an exterior instrument in one’s physiology, but rather as being engaged in some form of behavioral pattern, and is thus characterized by some personal quality. It is only natural that the face was considered to be extraordinarily revealing of a man’s emotions, moods, and dispositions.

We have defined the mental status of “disposition” in previous classes and it bears repeating here:

American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 380:

Disposition. 1. One’s customary manner of emotional response. 2. A tendency, especially when habitual.

Disposition is equivalent to an habitual frame of mind.

Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, 365:

Disposition: 2 a: Prevailing tendency, mood, or inclination. b. Temperamental makeup. c. The tendency of something to act in a certain manner under given circumstances.

Implies customary moods and attitudes toward the life around one.

63. Ishmael’s disposition, and that which developed in the souls of his twelve sons, was an “habitual mood” and “frame of mind” that crystallized into the sin of anti-Semitism. They settled to the east of Canaan and developed a perpetual deep-seated hatred for their cousins who followed the line of Isaac. According to Paul it is still true today:

Galatians 4:22 - It is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman [**Ishmael by Hagar**], the other by a freewoman [**Isaac by Sarah**].

Galatians 4:23 - But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through the promise.

v. 28 - Now we, brethren [**believers**], according to the standard of Isaac, are children, the born ones of promise.

v. 29 - Just as at that time [**Genesis 21:9-10**] the one born according to the flesh [**Ishmael by Hagar**] kept on persecuting [**inceptive imperfect active indicative of διώκω, *diōkō***] the one born according to the Holy Spirit [**Isaac by Sarah**] so also it is the case today [**the sons of Hagar continue to persecute the sons of the Sarah**].

64. Anti-Semitism was first committed in:

Genesis 21:9 - Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian—the son whom Hagar had borne to Abraham—mocking.

The word “mocking” is the Piel stem of the verb:

שָׂחַק *sachaq*: In the Qal stem it is the verb “to laugh” but when in the Piel stem it can be used in a negative sense to indicate mockery and derision, the disposition indicated by Paul through his use of the verb *diōkō* in Galatians 4:29. In fact, the inceptive imperfect tells us that Ishmael continuously made fun of his younger brother Isaac. It is from the *sachaq* word group that we find the proper name for Isaac:

יִשְׁחָק *Yischaq*: “he laughs”



65. When at age 99 Abraham was told that he and Sarah would have a son Abraham laughed:

Genesis 17:16 - Then God said to Abraham, "I will bless Sarah and will give you a son through her. I will bless her and she will become a mother of nations. Kings of countries will come from her!"

v. 17 - Then Abraham bowed down with his face to the ground and laughed [**Qal stem of קִּיץ *sachaq*: to laugh in disbelief**] as he said to himself, "Can a son be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"

Genesis 17:18 - Abraham said to God, "O that Ishmael might live before you with your blessing!"

v. 19 - God said, "No, Sarah your wife is going to bear you a son and you will name him Isaac [**יִצְחָק *Yischaq*: "he laughs"**]. I will confirm my covenant with him as a perpetual [**עוֹלָם *'olam*: eternal**] covenant [**eternal life clause**] for his descendants after him [**true Israel**]."

When Sarah heard the prophecy she too laughed:

Genesis 18:9 - The Lord with His two angelic honor guards asked Abraham, "Where is Sarah your wife?" He replied, "There, in the tent."

v. 10 - The Lord said, "I will surely return to you when the season comes round again, and your wife Sarah will have a son!" (Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, not far behind Abraham.

v. 11 - Abraham and Sarah were old and advancing in years; Sarah had long since passed menopause.)

v. 12 - So Sarah laughed to herself thinking, "After I have grown old will I have pleasure and conceive, especially when my husband is old too?"

v. 13 - And the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh [**Qal stem of קִּיץ *sachaq*: to laugh in disbelief**] and say, 'Will I really have a child when I am old?'

v. 14 - Is anything impossible for the Lord? I will return to you when the season comes around again and Sarah will have a son."

66. There's a whole lot of laughing going on in these verses but with varied meanings. Abraham and Sarah laugh in the Qal stem of *sachaq* and it means they did so as an expression of their disbelief that they could any longer procreate.
67. Ishmael laughed at Isaac in the Piel stem of *sachaq* which means he did it derisively, making fun of Isaac and belittling him. Paul informs us through the use of the inceptive imperfect active indicative of διώκω, *diōkō* in Galatians 4:29 that Ishmael did this habitually.
68. We could say that Ishmael "sachaged" "Yischaq." But it was a laughter motivated by a sin that would emerge over time as anti-Semitism and be practiced habitually by his sons down to this very hour. Paul concludes in:

Galatians 4:30 - For what does the Scripture say [**in Genesis 21:10**]? "Cast out the bondwoman [**Hagar**] and her son [**Ishmael**], for the son of the bondwoman [**Ishmael**] shall not be an heir with the son of the free woman [**Isaac**]."