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### Unfolding the Revelation

the rise and progress of the Arabs. Arabia has been called "the pit of the abyss," because of its deserts and empty areas. It was here that Mohammedanism arose and spread like "a smoke." This false and fanatical faith threatened at one time to obscure the light of the gospel. The Saracenic invasion could be described in no better language than is used here. Like a horde of locusts out of the smoke, Mohammedanism swept on. The "star" to whom the key was given well describes the prophet Mohammed. But, although fanatical, they were not plunderers like the conquerors of Western Rome.

When the Arabian tribes gathered for the conquest of Syria, A.D. 632, Mohammed's uncle, Abu Bekr, who succeeded the prophet after his death, gave this following order, which fits the Bible prophecy exactly: "When you fight the battles of the Lord, acquit yourselves like men, without turning your backs; but let not your victory be stained with the blood of women or children. Destroy no palm trees, nor burn any fields of corn. Cut down no fruit trees, nor do any mischief to cattle, only such as you kill to eat. [Read Revelation 9:4.] When you make any covenant or article, stand to it, and be as good as your word. As you go on, you will find some religious persons who live retired in monasteries, and propose to themselves to serve God that way: let them alone, and neither kill them nor destroy their monasteries: and you will find another sort of people, that belong to the synagogue of Satan, who have shaven crowns; be sure you cleave their skulls, and give them no quarter till they either turn Mohammedans or pay tribute."—E. Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, ch. 51, par. 10.

Note the accurate description of these conquerors in Revelation 9:7-9 "Their faces were as the faces of men." (They wore beards.) "They had hair as the hair of women." (Their hair was long.) They had "crowns like gold." (These stately warriors wore a brilliant headdress or turban.) "Their teeth were as the teeth of lions." (They were fearless fighters.) "The shapes of the locusts were like unto the horses prepared unto battle." (The...