

A new heaven and a new earth

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administration of the Chief Minister who has liberated the role of the woman and welcomed all races to the worship of one God.

"If the Muslims and Peoples Temple can get together, anybody can make it," the Rev. Jones proclaimed. He advised listeners not to fall into "the trap of religious sectarianism and provincialism." All religious groupings, he observed, must forget their petty differences in order to overcome exploitation.

He mentioned that only a few days ago some misguided individuals had fire-bombed his church's property and made threatening telephone calls concerning the Jubilee, but instead of discouraging him, these incidents only "proved that this meeting was the hand of God upon us."

The Rev. Jones called the Honorable W.D. Muhammad "a prophet," and declared. "With the alternatives I see on the horizon, I only wish he were running for President."

Turning to the pages of history, he pointed out that "Muslims made room for Jesus and gave him honor. And its high time that Christianity gave honor to Muhammad." Bro. Jones underscored the dangers of taking scriptures literally, citing the Biblical verse which reads: "Servants, obey your master."

Referring to the example of Jesus, he observed: "Jesus said there's only one way you can be saved—'Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, let the oppressed go free.'"

"Who is fulfilling the words of Jesus? Who opened his arms and said, 'Come Christians, come Jews, come atheists, come agnostics? Who is fulfilling the words of Jesus any better than the Honorable Wallace D. Muhammad?" The Rev. Jones concluded his speech with these words: "If you come after the Nation of Islam—you better

come after me."

THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Honorable W.D. Muhammad voiced appreciation for Bro. Jim Jones and for "the great community that he heads—the Peoples Temple Church. In time," he noted, "maybe we will all realize just how much the world is indebted to the step that has been taken this day."

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31 "So then we see the Scripture is truth, unchanging. He who speaks that name Before us, and guarding it In safety so precious, Before them by what God hath revealed, And follow not their vain Deceits, nor change From the Truth that hath come To them. To each among you Have we decreed a Law And an Open Way. If God had so willed, He would have made you A single People, but (O ye Who will to test me) He what He hath chosen you to drive As if it had an end, that The goal of you all is in God. It is He that will show you The track of the conquest, In which ye do prosper."

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Delving deeply into scripture, the Chief Minister showed that there is no compulsion in religion. "God never imposes His way on anybody or any community. Almighty God's way is an open way." He went on to say that Almighty Allah had purposely let different religious communities flourish around the world in order to test man and to eventually produce a unity from diversity, a oneness which would lift all peoples to Him.

The Chief Minister demonstrated the unity of all true believers and the oneness of all the great heroes of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. "Those who believe that they should conform to God's righteousness are all brothers in one brotherhood," he declared.

"Jesus verified the truth of Moses and he continued the chain of truth... Muhammad came and he supported the teachings and the teachers of the Old Testament. He spoke of Jesus as his brother in the faith."

Thus, there is no division in the family of prophets, but there is division among humanity. "That alone is evidence that we have strayed from the pure teachings of those prophets," the Honorable W.D. Muhammad stressed.

"The world has become a world of enemies because religious orders have promoted this," he observed: "They have condemned the other communities as infidels." However, prophet Muhammad ibn Abdullah of 1,400 years ago (peace and blessings) "taught his followers to protect the sacred houses of other religious communities."

Today, the Lost-Found Nation of Islam pursues only one goal, Minister Muhammad boldly proclaimed: "to preach the truth regard- less to whom or what. . . Jesus said, 'Know the truth and the truth will make you free.'"

The Chief Minister pointed out that Christians have been praying to an "old heaven" because God himself says that He's going to make a New Heaven and a New Earth. Minister Muhammad stressed that a wicked mentality which "portrayed itself as light" had established a false kingdom and buried the real, life-giving word of God.

We've come to see rabbis, priests and imams spit out nothing but air," because there has been "a famine in the Earth—not for food, but for the word of God." The Chief Minister added that it has been religious leadership which "has failed the world, not politics, nor science."

"Where are you, Pope?" he asked. "Where are you, imams?"—"Rabbis, its time for you to come out of your hiding place."

In conclusion, the Honorable W.D. Muhammad assured his listeners that: "God has ordained a natural movement to destroy the corrupt world and establish truth. This is our day!"

Nation of Islam's interfaith rally

By John Hart

(Times Religion Writer)

LOS ANGELES—The Nation of Islam, once known commonly as the Black Muslims, joined Sunday in its first interfaith rally.

Wallace D. Muhammad of Chicago, Chief Minister of the Nation of Islam since the death of his father, Elijah Muhammad 15 months ago, spoke to an estimated 18,000 persons, all of whom had to pass through airport-type security checks to enter the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Muhammad criticized today's world religious leadership for failing to end oppression or achieve unity, and he noted the traditional Islamic indebtedness to Moses and Jesus as predecessors of Muhammad.

There is no division in the family of prophets, he said, but there is division in us.

Under Wallace Muhammad's leadership, Caucasians have been admitted to membership in the Nation of Islam and friendly relations have been established with Arabic Islamic representatives. Sunday's "Spiritual Jubilee" marked the Nation's first

venture into interfaith cooperation.

Preceding Muhammad on the platform was the Rev. Jim Jones, the white founder-minister of Peoples Temple Church, which claims more than 12,000 members in three California churches.

Peoples Temple co-sponsored the program.

Jones, a Protestant minister, recalled that several years ago, tension was high between his San Francisco church and a neighboring Nation of Islam Temple.

"But under Wallace Muhammad all those things have changed," Jones said—"peace has come."

The Peoples Temple Churches, affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), are considered unorthodox under the Rev. Jones' leadership. The emphasis is on community service and support of worthy secular causes.

The Rev. Jones said that even atheists and agnostics are welcome to his church as long as they agree with the gospel messages to serve others.

Pointing to the fact that traditional Islam regards Jesus as a prophet, the

minister declared—to the cheers of the audience—"Its high time Christianity gave honor to Muhammad."

Representatives of the predominantly Arabic Islamic Foundation of Southern California, and the Southern California Council of Churches extended their congratulations from the platform.

Some speakers began with an Arabic Islamic greeting of peace, including Supervisor Kenneth Hahn and Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally. The latter recalled that it wasn't safe to give sucars ago, recalling the exchange of gunfire between police and Muslims at a Mosque in Los Angeles in 1962.

Greetings were also extended by activist educator Angela Davis, Mayor Thomas Bradley, and a young Black woman member of the Sikh Dharma Brotherhood who wore white clothing and headgear similar to the attire of thousands of Nation of Islam women in the audience.

The Honorable W.D. Muhammad said those who knew of the rally but stayed in their churches or temples (the doors opened at 11 a.m. for what turned out to be a five-hour event) "stayed in the darkness of Satan."

—Reprint from Los Angeles Times



THE REV. Jim Jones observed that "All around us strife and division have been rising in the land, forces which would set race against race, brother against brother, which would even bring about the genocide of people deemed unfit for survival. But people around the world are beginning to come into an awakening, into a resurrection of humanistic reality. In the face of forces of destruction, the oppressed people are coming to an understanding that if we do not unite and put aside our differences, then we will very possibly not survive on terra firma."