

## The Last Days in Arabia?

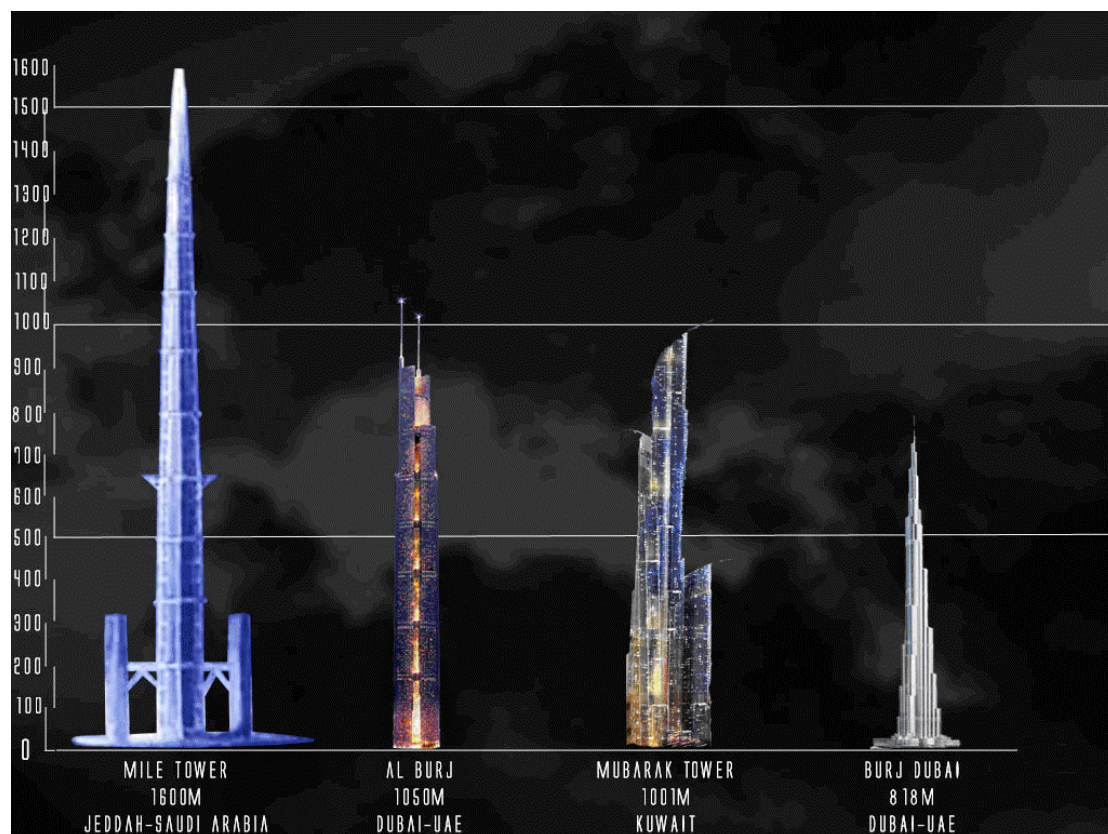
George Potter

My October article mentioned some of the signs that the Muslims believe will indicate that the Day of Judgment or End of the World has arrived. Of course as Latter-day Saints, we see all around us the signs that our own prophets have foretold of the Second Coming of our Savior. However, talk around the Mosque is alive with doomsday speculation. Since the October 2007 announcement of the world's newest tallest building, last-days dialog has heated up among the long-bearded old men of Arabia. *The Mile Tower* in Jeddah will stand 1600 meters (one mile) high.

The Arabs oil sheiks are in a hot race to see who can build the tallest building. As you can see in the illustration below, each oil kingdom is trying to out-build the other. To me it is irritating to see out how our gasoline dollars are being wasted building outrageous towers. However, to many Muslims it means much more. They see the building of the milestone tower as possibly the end of the world. Why? Their prophet Mohammed said over 1,400 years ago:

"His messengers, and the Last Day, and that you affirm the Decree, the good of it and the bad of it.' ... **'That you see poor, naked, barefoot shepherds of sheep and goats competing in making tall buildings.'**"<sup>i</sup> Mohammed referred to the unbelieving Arabs as the naked Arabs.

If you read my novel *The White Bedouin*, you will realize that 50 years ago the Arabs were among the world's very poorest people and that their new-found wealth is a sign of the last days.



In September, I visited Dubai and saw the on-going construction of the Burj Dubai, currently the world's tallest building. I nearly broke my neck trying to see to the top of it from the taxi. Not being an engineer, it was hard for me to comprehend how the structure remained standing. Projected to be twice as tall, the colossal *Mile Tower* will dwarf the *Burj Dubai*. What is next I wonder?

Of further interest to last-days watchers is that the U.S. engineering firm Bechtel will manage the US\$ 14 billion dollar construction of *The Mile Tower*. You see, Mohammed made another curious prophecy...that the Arabs and the cow-breeders would be friends in the Last Days. Among Saudis, the common interpretation of "cow-breeders" is "cowboys." You guessed it— American cowboys, i.e., Ronald Reagan, the Bushes, and the rest of us cowhands.

Grab your saddles; things are getting interesting!

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1. Sunni Path, 6 October 2007/  
[http://qa.sunnipath.com/issue\\_view.asp?HD=7&ID=879&CATE=1&redirect=yes](http://qa.sunnipath.com/issue_view.asp?HD=7&ID=879&CATE=1&redirect=yes)<sup>i</sup>