The Antichrist and the Mahdi

Will Islam be the false religion of the last days?
Yes, say some Bible commentators, who point to stunning similarities between the Biblical Antichrist and Islam's messiah, the Mahdi.

Antichrist	Mahdi ("divinely guided one")
Appears *after* the rapture of the church (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9; no mention of the church from Rev. 4-18).	Appears after Muslims attain a majority status on the earth.
A powerful world leader (the "little horn" of Dan. 7; the "king of the north" of Dan. 11; the "beast from the sea" of Rev. 13; and the "scarlet beast" of Rev. 17).	Will preside over the entire earth as the final caliph of Islam. "He will reappear on the appointed day, and then he will fight against the forces of evil, lead a world revolution and set up a new world order based on justice, righteousness and virtue" (www.answering-islam.org).
Performs signs and wonders (Matt. 24:24; 2 Thess. 2:9).	Performs miracles.
Military leader who wages war (Rev. 6:2; 13:4, 7).	"The Mahdi resembles his forefather, the Prophet, in that he too will rise with a sword to wipe out tyrants and those who mislead people, the enemy of God and the Prophet. He will attain victory by sword and scare …" (www.al-islam.org). "Imam Mahdi will smash the might of the non-Muslim forces in that period, forces which had come together from all parts of the world" (www.islamicaweb.com).
Establishes a one-world false religion that demands worship of the dragon (Satan) and the beast (Antichrist) (Rev. 13:4, 8).	Will establish Islam on earth and will govern people by the Sunnah. Islam will be the only religion allowed to be practiced (Surah 24:54; 28:4; 61:9). "Islam will be the world's religion, gaining precedence over all other religions and the call of the Unity of God (*tawhid*) will be heard all across the world" (www.al-islam.org).

Antichrist	Mahdi
Signs seven-year treaty with Israel, but breaks it after three and a half years (Dan. 9:27).	Initiates a seven-year treaty with the "Romans," or the West, specifically with a descendent of Aaron, the brother of Moses. "The Prophet said: There will be four peace agreements between you and the Romans. The fourth will be mediated through a person who will be from the progeny of Hadrat Aaron (Honorable Aaron, the brother of Moses) and will be upheld for seven years. The people asked, 'O Prophet Muhammad, who will be the imam (leader) of the people at that time?' The Prophet said: He will be from my progeny and will be exactly forty years of age. His face will shine like a star" (www.answering-islam.org).
Persecutes Jews and Christians under the power of Satan (Rev. 12; 13:5-7). Beheads many (Rev. 20:4).	"The Mahdi will offer the religion of Islam to the Jews and Christians; if they accept it they will be spared, otherwise they will be killed" (www.al-islam.org). Muhammad's preferred form of execution was beheading.
Attacks Israel and establishes the Temple Mount as his seat of authority (Ezek. 38:9-12; Zech. 14:2; Matt. 24:15-22; 2 Thess. 2:4).	Attacks Jerusalem and conquers it for Islam. "(Armies carrying) black flags will come from Khurasan (Iran). No power will be able to stop them and they will finally reach Eela (Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem) where they will erect their flags" (www.al-islam.org). "… That will abolish the leadership of the Jews … and put an end to the domination of the Satans who spit evil into people and cause corruption in the earth" (www.answering-islam.org).
Changes the laws and the times (Dan. 7:25).	The "laws" could refer to the establishment of Islamic Shariah law around the world. The "times" could imply the imposition of the Islamic calendar, based on the career of Muhammad and beginning with the migration of Muhammad from Mecca to Medina (*Hijra*). Islam even has a different week, with Friday, rather than Saturday (Jews) or Sunday (Christians), as the day of worship.

Antichrist	Mahdi
Depicted as a rider on a white horse (Rev. 6:2). This is an imitation (or counterfeit) of the true Messiah who returns on a white horse (Rev. 19:11).	Depicted as a rider on a white horse (Rev. 6:2). Muslim transmitter of the Hadith, Ka'b al Ahbar, is quoted as saying, "I find the Mahdi recorded in the books of the Prophets…. For instance, the Book of Revelation says: 'And I saw and behold a white horse. He that sat on him … went forth conquering and to conquer" (www.al-islam.org).
Is opposed by two witnesses who proclaim the truth of Christ, perform miracles (including the ability to breathe fire on their enemies) and, after being martyred, rise from the dead (Rev. 11:1-12).	Is opposed by an Antichrist, known as Dajil or ad-Dajjal, who deceives large groups of people with false claims of prophecy and miracles involving fire and the raising of the dead.*
Is defeated, along with his army, and he is cast into hell by the returning Christ (Rev. 19:20-1).	Is exalted by the returning Christ, who declares Islam true and corrects false Christian beliefs, most notably about his deity and the Trinity. "Jesus, son of Mary, will descend [from heaven] and will perform his prayer, standing behind him [the Mahdi]" (www.al-islam.org).

* Jerome and Frank Dominguez write, "At the end of times there will also come the Muslim Antichrist (Dajil) who will try to discredit Islam and the Prophet with lies and so undo the work of the Mahdi. He will convince large groups of people with false claims of prophecy and miracles involving fire and the raising of the dead. But Jesus Christ … will discredit Dajil and then physically kill him with a spear" ("The Islamic Messiah and Antichrist").

Main Sources:

- "Comparing The Biblical Antichrist And The Mahdi," www.answering-islam.org
- "Understanding the Antichrist – Part II" by Jerry Robinson, www.raptureready.com
- "The Coming Islamic Antichrist," www.theologyonline.com/forums
- "Al-Imam Al-Mahdi: The Just Leader of Humanity" by Ayatollah Ibrahim Amini, translated by Dr. Abdulaziz Sachedina, http://al-islam.org
- "The Islamic Messiah and Antichrist" by Jerome and Frank Dominguez
- *New Bible Dictionary*
- *Harper's Bible Dictionary*
- *Easton's Bible Dictionary*

Copyright 2008 by Rob Phillips