

“There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the prophet of Allah” This is the great Shahada /confession which is declared daily around the world.

Is Islam a “Christian Cult?”

- According to President Obama there are over a billion Muslims around the world.
- Originated in Mecca after the prophet Muhammad was born in 570 AD, religion started 610.
- As Jesus was the prophet for his people, Muhammad claimed to be the one to restore true religion and praise to Allah.
- Islam is the Arab term for submission
- Muslim is a derivative term for “one who submits”
- The Quran or Koran is Arabic for “the recitation” is a collection of revelations given to Muhammad by Allah via the archangel.
- Muslims believe in the Law of Moses, the Psalms of David and the gospel of Jesus Christ however these scriptures have been mutilated for various reasons and cannot be trusted. The Koran therefore is the only completely trustworthy revelation.
- Allah / God is one. The very idea of a trinity composition is blasphemy to a Muslim as it conveys the idea of polytheism.
- Jesus is a prophet of God and not a priest for the people to communicate to Allah. Muhammad supersedes Jesus. Most Muslims believe that Jesus was not crucified, was not raised from the dead but was taken directly to heaven in body without ever having died.
- Man cannot anticipate a direct relationship with Allah. He is perfect and therefore the only way we can relate is via angels and prophets.
- The Muslim god is a god of wrath, not love, judgment not grace. The believer submits to his rule and laws with the hope that he will be accepted into eternity. There is no real assurance, ever.
- The very concept of a personal relationship with Allah is absurd.
- Muslims believe that the Quran is a copy of revelation from God that was given long ago to reveal the truth.
- Some have compared Islam more like *Marxism* than Christianity.
- To become a Muslim does not require regeneration, (a born-again like experience), but simply an agreement with the “truth” as presented. Not requiring any real heart change. This explains why the night before the 911 terrorists flew planes into the world trade center they were out visiting strip clubs.

The founder and original prophet who received the Quran: Mohammad

- Lived from A.D. 570-632, born in Mecca, Arabia. Orphaned @ the age of 6, deeply troubled by the wickedness of Mecca.
- Married a wealthy widow named Khadijah, (15 years older than him)
- At the age of 40 would often go off into hills near Mecca to meditate, sometimes for days at a time.
- Was deeply troubled by the rampant polytheism of the Arabs and their neglect of the poor.
- One night, (“The night of Power & Excellence”), the archangel Gabriel appeared to him with a message from God.
- He began to preach against the wickedness of Mecca without much success. Some say that he was driven out of Mecca and he settled back in Yathrib in 622, later renamed Medina, (City of the Prophet), in his honor.
- In January of 632 he led an army of 10,000 men and stormed Mecca conquering it for Islam.
- Just 2 years later Mohammed died suddenly while he was well on his way to accomplishing his divine mission of unifying the Arab tribes under a theocracy governed by the will of Allah.
- Muhammad was succeeded by the “Caliphs.” Within a century after his death, Islam had spread well into Europe, throughout the middle-east and into northern Africa. This rapid spread was not via evangelism but by the sword of conquest.
- Jerusalem fell in 638, and Caesarea in 640. One of the largest Mosques, The Dome of the Rock, is located on the exact site of Jewish Temple built by Solomon. Do you think that this location was by coincidence? Do you think that the current plan to build the “Cordoba house,” was coincidentally close to NYC / World Trade Center / Ground Zero?

The Six “fundamentals” of Islam

1. Monotheism; “there is no God but Allah”
 - a. Pre-Muslim Arabs were polytheistic
 - b. The chief god of the Arabs was Allah
 - c. To offer worship to a lesser god is considered “*shirk*” / blasphemy
2. Belief in angels & jinn
 - a. Gabriel is the messenger that brought the Koran to Mohammad
 - b. Jinn are personal angels who accompany every Muslim to record their actions
3. Belief in God’s holy books, 104 of which are referred to in the Koran
 - a. Law given to Moses is chief among these
 - b. Psalms given to David
 - c. The Gospel, (*Injil*), given to Jesus
4. Belief in God’s prophets
 - a. No absolute agreement as to how many prophets there are
 - b. Adam, Jesus are prophets
 - c. Mohammad was the supreme prophet
5. Belief in the predestinating will of Allah
 - a. Good & evil deeds are predetermined by Allah
 - b. Prayers are made to the effect of enabling good deeds
6. Belief in the resurrection and final judgment
 - a. At the end of history Allah will judge all men
 - b. If good deeds outweigh bad you may enter into paradise (more next week of their sensual notion of paradise)
 - c. Completely dependent upon your works and still requires the approval of a somewhat capricious Allah

Basic practices of Islam (Pillars)

1. Recitation of the creed; “**there is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.**”
2. The regular practice of prayers. (Sunni Muslims must pray specific prayers accompanied by prescribed motions, 5 times per day.)
3. Must practice almsgiving. The Koran requires that **2.5%** of one’s income be given to the poor & needy or to the spread of Islam.
4. Fasting during the month of Ramadan. (during the day only and most often followed by feasts during the evening hours)
5. A pilgrimage to Mecca, (*Hajj*) is required @ least once in the lifetime.
6. Jihad, which means exertion or struggle in behalf of Allah to bring those outside of the faith into Islam. {we will discuss this more next week when we consider what is now called “radical Islam”}