

Introduction

In the introduction to the Qur'an (proper spelling and handling per the followers of Islam, "The Noble Qur'an") we read:

"The Qur'an ("Qor-Ann") is a Message from Allah to humanity. It was transmitted to us in a chain starting from the Almighty Himself (swt) to the angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad (saas). This message was given to the Prophet (saas) in pieces over a period spanning approximately 23 years (610 CE to 622 CE). The Prophet (saas) was 40 years old when the Qur'an began to be revealed to him, and he was 63 when the revelation was completed. The language of the original message was Arabic, but it has been translated into many other languages.

The Qur'an is one leg of two which form the basis of Islam. The second leg is the Sunnah of the Prophet (saas). What makes the Qur'an different from the Sunnah is primarily its form. Unlike the Sunnah, the Qur'an is quite literally the Word of Allah, whereas the Sunnah was inspired by Allah but the wording and actions are the Prophet's. The Qur'an has not been expressed using any human's words. Its wording is letter for letter fixed by no one but Allah.

Prophet Muhammad (saas) was the final Messenger of Allah to humanity, and therefore the Qur'an is the last Message which Allah has sent to us. Its predecessors such as the Torah, Psalms, and Gospels have all been superceded. It is an obligation - and blessing - for all who hear of the Qur'an and Islam to investigate it and evaluate it for themselves. Allah has guaranteed that He will protect the Qur'an from human tampering, and today's readers can find exact copies of it all over the world. The Qur'an of today is the same as the Qur'an revealed to Muhammad (saas). "

What Saith

The Scripture

about the cultic concept known as

Is Muhammad Really a Prophet?
Islam

الرَّكْتَابُ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ لِتُخْرِجَ النَّاسَ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ

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America, and most Christians, were blissfully *unaware* of the religion of Islam, the followers of the alleged prophet Muhammad, **until the murderous events of September 11th, 2001**. On that day at 8:46 a.m. - American Flight 11 from Boston was crashed into the North Tower of the New York World Trade Center. Ninety-two people were murdered on that particular flight. At 9:03 a.m. - United Flight 175 from Boston, with 65 people on board, are murderously crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center. At 9:45 a.m. - American Flight 77 - with its 64 passengers - are crashed into The United States Pentagon. On October 31, 2003, the death toll for these attacks was set at:

2752 Deaths - World Trade Center
 190 Deaths - Pentagon
 92 Deaths - American Flight 11
 65 Deaths - United Flight 175
 64 Deaths - American Flight 77

3163 Confirmed Deaths

These **people were killed by - regardless as to what the media may tell you - faithful followers of the Prophet Muhammad** - the founder of that religion we call *Islam*. Many americanized followers of Islam quickly protested that the faith of Muhammad is, in itself, *peaceful*. These attacks on innocent people were brought about by *extremists* who are *not the norm or the average* follower of Islam. Is this true? We'll discuss that in a bit. The most disturbing thing to me is this: According to the website islamicweb.com around **34,000 people converted to Islam in America following the events of September 11th**. Further, Islam is the *fastest growing religion* in the

world, according to the United Nations. Islamicweb reports:

Muslims in Asia (1996)	1,022,692,000 (30%)
Muslims in Africa (1996)	426,282,000 (59%)
Total Number of Muslims on the Earth (1996)	1,482,596,925
Total Number of People on the Earth (1996)	5,771,939,007
Percentage of Muslims (1996)	26%
Islam annual growth rate (1994-1995) from U.N.	6.40%
Christianity growth rate (1994-1995) from U.N.	1.46%
Total Number of Muslims on the Earth (1998)	1,678,442,000
Expected Number of Muslims on the Earth (2000)	1,902,095,000

the gains that Islam has had over the growth of Christianity. The following chart:

This table below shows the growth of Islam:

North America (1989-1998)	25%
Africa	2.15%
Asia	12.57%
Europe	142.35%
Latin America	-4.73%
Australia	257.01%

shows how Islam has grown *phenomenally*, even considering the attacks that the United States suffered from orthodox followers of Islam. Among every four humans in the world, one of them is Muslim. Muslims have increased by over 235 percent in the last fifty years up to nearly 1.6 billion. By comparison, Christians have increased by only 47 percent, Hinduism, 117 percent, and Buddhism by 63 percent. Islam is the second largest

religious group in France, Great Britain and USA.

In 1996 Islam was the *third largest religious group* in America (this chart is *in millions*):

- 59.0 Roman Catholic
- 15.3 Southern Baptist
- 10.0 Muslims
- 08.7 United Methodist
- 08.2 National Baptist USA
- 05.5 Church of God in Christ
- 05.2 Evangelical Lutheran USA
- 04.4 Mormon
- 03.7 Presbyterian Church USA
- 03.5 African Methodist Episcopal Church
- 02.6 Lutheran Church of Missouri
- 02.4 Episcopal Church
- 02.2 Assemblies of God
- 02.0 United Synagogue of America (Conservative Jews)
- 01.5 American Baptist
- 01.5 Baptist Bible Fellowship International
- 01.5 Greek Orthodox
- 01.3 United American Hebrew Congregation (Reform Jews)
- 01.2 African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- 01.0 United Orthodox Jewish Congregation of America (Orthodox Jews)
- 01.0 Disciples of Christ

A Brief History of Islam

Islam is a religious system **developed by a man named Muhammad**. Orphaned at the age of six when his mother Amina took ill and died, he was placed in the protection of his paternal grandfather, Abdul Al-Muttalib. When his grandfather died just two years later, he was placed in the care of his paternal uncle, Abu Talib. When Muhammad was in his early twenties he went to work for

a distant cousin, the wealthy Meccan merchant named Khadija bint Khawalayd. Around 595 AD Muhammad marries his cousin, and they had six children, two of whom died. Muhammad's business prospered as did *Mecca, Saudi Arabia*, the place where he and his wife lived.

With growth Mecca began to become more sinful and idolatrous. Muhammad, disturbed by this trend, began to retreat to a cave to commune with Allah - and it was in **610 AD that Muhammad had his first revelation from someone he believed to be God. Around 613 AD Muhammad began to publicly proclaim** the "revelations" that Allah gave him. These "revelations" would one day become known as the **Qur'an**, Islam's sacred scripture.

In **621 AD** Muhammad would go through *two alleged supernatural events*. First, he would go through **al-Israa** or "**The Night Journey**". During this *event* Muhammad is taken to Jerusalem and back by the angel Gabriel in a single night. During this *fantastic journey* Muhammad meets Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and others. Second, he would go through **al-Miraaj** an event where he would be **transported to Heaven**. This quotation is from the Islamic site bismikaallahuma.org:

"In the Al-Israa, Gabriel took the Prophet from the sacred Mosque near Kaabah to the furthest (al-Aqsa) mosque in Jerusalem in a very short time in the latter part of a night. Here, Prophet Muhammad met with previous Prophets (Abraham, Moses, Jesus and others) and he led them in prayer. After this, in Al-Miraaj, the Prophet was taken up to heavens to show the signs of God. It was on this journey that the five daily prayers were prescribed. He was then taken back to

6

Kaa'bah, the whole experience lasting a few hours of a night. Upon hearing this, the people of Makkah mocked at him. However, when his specific description of Jerusalem, other things on the way, and the caravan that he saw on this journey including its expected arrival in Makkah turned out to be true, the ridicule of the non-believers stopped. The event of Israa and Miraaj is mentioned in the Qur'an - the first verse of Chapter 17 entitled Al-Isra', "The Night Journey".

Islam is a religion founded by an alleged *prophet* (Muhammad), supported by an alleged *scripture* (the Qur'an),

"Muslims believe in all original scriptures and revelations of Allah, accepting them as the guiding light that the messengers received to show their respective people the right path to Him. However, some of these books and revelations had been lost or corrupted before the revelation of the Qur'an. The only authentic and complete book of Allah in existence today is the Qur'an, which has been preserved as it was revealed to prophet Muhammad through Angel Gabriel in its pristine, pure form." (islamicweb.com)

and professes its most holy place to be in Mecca.

Islam is **founded on five pillars** of faith:

1. The Testimony that there is **none worthy of worship except God** and that Muhammad is his messenger.
2. Establishing of the **five daily Prayers** (Salaah).
3. The **Giving of Zakaah** (charity), which is generally 2.5% of the yearly savings for a rich man working in trade or industry, and 10% or 20% of the produce for agriculturists. This money or produce is distributed

among the poor.

4. Refraining from eating, drinking and having sex from dawn to dusk in the month of **Ramadhann** (Sawm).
5. The **Pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca** during the month of Zul Hijjah, which is compulsory once in a lifetime for one who has the ability to do it.

Is Islam A Peaceful and *Tolerant* Religion?

Proponents of Islam protest vigorously anytime someone ascribes the deaths of the World Trade Center to followers of Islam. They **claim that Islam is a peaceable religion, no different than Christianity**. Is this true? Well, let's see if Islam is *tolerant* of other religions. We know that Christianity is not tolerant in the sense that Jesus Christ is the *only Way to God the Father*. What about Islam? Their sacred writings state:

"The Religion before Allah is Islam (submission to His Will)" - Qur'an 3:19

"It is He Who hath sent His Messenger with Guidance and the Religion of Truth, to proclaim it over all religion, even though the Pagans may detest (it)." - Qur'an 9:33

"We have not sent thee but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad tidings, and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not." - Qur'an 34:28

"But those who reject Faith and belie Our Signs, -- they shall be Companions of Hellfire." - Qur'an 5:86

Islam claims to be the only way to Allah, Christianity claims that Christ alone is the only Way to God the Father. Both cannot be true - either Muhammad is a *false prophet* or Jesus Christ is wrong. True followers of Islam may mouth respectful words about Jesus Christ, but these disciples do not believe the Christian Bible to be the Word of God.

When Jesus Christ sent messengers ahead to find a place of rest for Himself we read something very interesting:

(Luke 9:51-56 KJV) "And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, {52} And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. {53} And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. {54} And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? {55} But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, **Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. {56} For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.** And they went to another village."

The citizens of Samaria *refused to support our Lord*. The disciples immediately asked the Lord if He wanted them to "call down fire from Heaven" to punish these people. Jesus quickly corrected the disciples by reminding them that His ministry is - at this time - to **save** but not **destroy** men's lives. Jesus Christ, that sweet Lamb of

God, came to purchase our redemption from eternal damnation. Compare this with Islam's **holy text**:

"Let those who would exchange the life of this world for the hereafter, fight for the cause of God; whether he dies or triumphs, We shall richly reward him. ... The true believers fight for the cause of God, but **the infidels fight for the devil.** **Fight then against the friends of Satan ...**" (Qur'an 4:74,76)

"The believers who stay at home -- apart from those that suffer a grave impediment -- are not the equals of those who fight for the cause of God with their goods and their persons. **God has given those that fight with their goods and their persons a higher rank than those who stay at home ...**" (Qur'an 4:95,96)

"**Slay the idolaters** wherever you find them. ...lie in ambush everywhere for them. If they repent and take to prayer and render the alms levy, allow them to go their way ..." (Qur'an 9:5)

"**Those that make war against God and His apostle and spread disorder in the land shall be put to death or crucified or have their hands and feet cut off on alternate sides,** or be banished from the land. They shall be held up to shame in this world and sternly punished in the hereafter: except those that repent before you reduce them ..." (Qur'an 5:34, 35)

"Make war on them until idolatry shall cease and God's religion shall reign supreme" (Qur'an 8:39)

"Prophet, **rouse the faithful to arms.** If there are twenty steadfast men among you, they shall vanquish two hundred; and if there are a hundred, they shall rout a thousand unbelievers, for they are devoid of understanding." (Qur'an 8:65)

"Fight against such of those to whom the Scriptures were

given...and do not embrace the true Faith, until they pay tribute out of hand and **are utterly subdued.**" (Qur'an 9:29)

Does this sound the same as Christianity? Absolutely not! The Qur'an teaches the concept of **jihād**, attacking those who are not considered *the faithful followers of Islam*. The followers of Islam who killed 3163 people on September 11, 2001 were *faithful followers of Islam*.

On February 23rd, 1998, Usama Bin Laden issued a *fatwa* or a "**Declaration of Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders**". The following is an excerpt from this *fatwa*:



"... in compliance with God's order, we issue the following **fatwa** to all Muslims: The ruling to kill the Americans and their allies -- civilians and military -- is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it, in order to liberate the al-Aqsa Mosque and the holy mosque [Mecca] from their grip, and in order for their armies to move out of all the lands of Islam, defeated and unable to threaten any Muslim. This is in accordance with the words of Almighty God, "and fight the pagans all together as they fight you all together," and "fight them until there is no more

tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in God." This is in addition to the words of Almighty God: "And why should ye not fight in the cause of God and of those who, being weak, are ill-treated (and oppressed)? -- women and children, whose cry is: 'Our Lord, rescue us from this town, whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from thee one who will help!'" We -- with God's help -- call on every Muslim who believes in God and wishes to be rewarded to comply with God's order to kill the Americans and plunder their money wherever and whenever they find it. We also call on Muslim ulema, leaders, youths, and soldiers to launch the raid on Satan's U.S. troops and the devil's supporters allying with them, and to displace those who are behind them so that they may learn a lesson." Published in the Arabic Newspaper al-Quds al-Arabi (London, U.K.)

Is Usama Bin Laden a *radical* Muslim? Not really. Again, though many Muslims protest that their religion is inherently not violent - you cannot support this from the clear teachings of the Qur'an. I agree that Usama Bin Laden is a criminal and a nut ... but he follows the clear teachings of the Qur'an.

Is The Muslim "Jesus" The Same As The Jesus The Christian Follows?

Followers of Muhammad follow the Jesus Christ *falsely represented* in their religious text.

"The similitude of Jesus before Allah is that of Adam: he created him from dust, then said to him, 'Be': and he was." Qur'an: Sura 3:59

(Micah 5:2 KJV) "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah,

yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth **have been from of old, from everlasting.**"

The Jesus of the follower of Muhammad is a *created being*, made from dust, but the *true Jesus* is Eternal God (John 8:58), the Maker of all things (John 1:3).

(Colossians 1:16-17 KJV) "**For by him were all things created, that are in heaven,** and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: {17} And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

The followers of Islam **do not believe Jesus to be the Lamb of God** Who taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29, 36). They say:

"That they said (in boast), 'We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah.' But they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of surety they killed him not...." Qur'an: Surah 4.157

These people also believe that Jesus *was the forerunner* of Muhammad:

"And (remember) when 'Eesa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary), said: 'O Children of Israel! I am the Messenger of Allah unto you, confirming the Tawraat [(Torah) which came] before me, and giving glad tidings of a Messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad.' But when he (Ahmad, i.e. Muhammad) came to them with clear proofs, they said: 'This is plain

magic'." [al-Saff 61:6]

Followers of Muhammad believe that salvation is found only in following the five pillars of Islam:

"Those who believe, and suffer exile and strive (jahadu) with might and main in Allah's cause, with their goods and their persons, have the highest rank in the sight of Allah. They are the people who will achieve salvation." Surah 9:20

"If any do deeds of righteousness,- be they male or female,- and have faith, they will enter Heaven, and not the least injustice will be done to them." (Surah Verse 4:124 An-Nisaa, the Women)

Followers of Muhammad are **followers of a works based method of salvation**. The testimony of God's True Bible is that salvation is by *the Grace of God by faith in Christ Jesus*:

(Acts 4:12 KJV) "**Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**"

(Romans 10:9-11 KJV) "**That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. {10} For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. {11} For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**"

(Acts 16:31 KJV) "**And they said, Believe on the**

Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

(Ephesians 2:8-10 KJV) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast. {10} For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

To the followers of Islam Jesus is no more than a slave to Allah:

"I will then say what the Pious Slave Jesus the son of Mary said...(Hadith: Narrated by Ibn Abbas 5.117-118). Jesus..although he is just one of Allah's slaves." (Hadith: Narrated Nafi, 007.063.209). "You'd better get to Jesus, Allah's slave." (Hadith: Narrated Anas, 009.093.532, Volume 9, Book 93, Number 507.)

Yet the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is Eternal God the Son, completely equal with both the Father and the Spirit in all ways:

(Philippians 2:6-11 KJV) "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: {7} But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: {8} And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. {9} Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: {10} That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and

things in earth, and things under the earth; {11} And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The followers of Islam believe that Jesus Christ was *never crucified*, and therefore never paid for the sins of the world:

"And because of their saying (in boast), 'We killed Messiah 'Eesa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary), the Messenger of Allah,' - but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but it appeared so to them the resemblance of 'Eesa (Jesus) was put over another man (and they killed that man)], and those who differ therein are full of doubts. They have no (certain) knowledge, they follow nothing but conjecture. For surely; they killed him not [i.e. 'Eesa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary)]: But Allah raised him ['Eesa (Jesus)] up (with his body and soul) unto Himself (and he is in the heavens). And Allah is Ever All Powerful, All Wise." [al-Nisaa' 4:157-158]

To the followers of Islam Jesus is *not* God in the flesh. They do not support nor believe in the doctrine of the Trinity:

"Surely, they have disbelieved who say: Allah is the Messiah ['Eesa (Jesus)], son of Maryam (Mary)' "[al-Maa'idah 5:72]

"Surely, disbelievers are those who said: 'Allah is the third of the three (in a Trinity).'" But there is no Allah (god) (none who has the right to be worshiped) but One Allah (God -Allah). And if they cease not from what they say, verily, a painful torment will befall on the disbelievers among them." [al-Maa'idah 5:73]

For the **followers of Islam Jesus Christ is *not* the Son of**
16

God - and all who believe this will be cast into hell:

"Then the sects differed [i.e. the Christians about 'Eesa (Jesus)], so woe unto the disbelievers [those who gave false witness by saying that 'Eesa (Jesus) is the son of Allah] from the Meeting of a great Day (i.e. the Day of Resurrection, when they will be thrown in the blazing Fire)" [Qur'an: Maryam 19:34-38]

"That they ascribe a son (or offspring or children) to the Most Gracious (Allah). But it is not suitable for (the Majesty of) the Most Gracious (Allah) that He should beget a son (or offspring or children). There is none in the heavens and the earth but comes unto the Most Gracious (Allah) as a slave." [Maryam 19:88-93]

"Glory be to Him: (far exalted is He) above having a son."
Qur'an: Surah 4.171

Contrast this to the Bible teachings of **John 1:14; 3:16; Galatians 4:4**, and so forth. The Bible clearly establishes Jesus Christ as God the Son and the Son of God. Further, Jesus Christ is to be *worshiped* by the Christian ... though the follower of Muhammad is not allowed to worship Him.

"And behold, Allah will say--O Jesus Son of Mary, did you say to men, worship me and my mother as gods beside Allah? He will reply--Glory to you, I could never say what I had not right [to say].." Qur'an Surah al-Maa'idah 5:116

"Christ the son of Mary was no more than a messenger: many were the messengers that passed away before him." Qur'an: Sura 5:75

Compare this to:

(Hebrews 1:6-12 KJV) "And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And **let all the angels of God worship him.** {7} And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. {8} But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom. {9} Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. {10} And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: {11} They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; {12} And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail."

The followers of Islam believe that Jesus was the forerunner of Muhammad, because they say *Jesus was not fit to be the Intercessor or Mediator between God and man.*

"They will go to Jesus who will say, 'I am not fit for this undertaking, but you'd better go to Muhammad whose sins of the past and future had been forgiven (by Allah).'" Hadith Volume 9, Book 93, Number 507.

Yet the Bible record is clear: there is **only One Mediator between God and man, and that Mediator is Jesus Christ:**

(1 Timothy 2:5-6 KJV) "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ
18

Jesus; {6} Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

(Hebrews 8:6-7 KJV) "But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. {7} For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second."

(Romans 8:34-39 KJV) "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. {35} Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? {36} As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. {37} Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. {38} For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, {39} Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

See also Hebrews 9:15; 7:25; and Revelation 5:2-3, 5.

The followers of Islam believe that when Jesus returns He will marry, have children, and die forty years later:

"He (Jesus) will live for forty years during which he will marry, have children, and perform Hajj (pilgrimage)." (Wali

ad-Din, Miskat Al-Masabih, (tr. James Robson), Vol.II, p.1159; Sahih Muslim, Vol.1, p.92).

"He (Jesus) will perish all religions except Islam. He (Jesus) will destroy the Antichrist and will live on the earth for forty years and then he will die.." (Sunan Abu Dawud Book 37, Number 4310). After his death, he will be buried beside the grave of the Prophet Muhammad (Wali ad-Din, Miskat Al-Masabih, (tr. James Robson), Vol.II, p.1159; Sahih Muslim, Vol.1, p.92).

Compare this teaching to the *real Jesus of the Bible*:

(Hebrews 7:22-25 KJV) "By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. {23} And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: {24} But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. {25} Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

(Revelation 1:18 KJV) "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

The followers of Islam are *not following* the Jesus of Scripture ... and are lost and doomed to eternal damnation if they do not come to know the Biblical Jesus.

Witnessing To Followers of Muhammad

There is an excellent article from the Christian Research Institute (equip.org) by Don McCurry. Don McCurry is a consultant to many Christian organizations on the subject of Muslim evangelism. He is president of **Ministries to Muslims** (4352 Austin Bluff Pky. #357, Colorado Springs, CO 80918, or P.O. Box 6400, Altadena, CA 91003). Here is that article.

Witnessing to Muslims (Parts 1-3) by Don McCurry

PART ONE

Because of the long history between Christians and Muslims, the **Christian witness is viewed with great animosity by the Muslim**. The roots of this tragedy go back to the Emperor Constantine, who after allegedly having had a dream of the cross (313), wed the sword to the cross. One of his successors, the Christian Emperor Heraclius (reigned 610-641) was a contemporary of Muhammad (reigned 622-632).

"Holy War" (Jihad). **Following Muhammad's death (632), Muslim armies swept the Christian Byzantines** out of Syria, Palestine, and Egypt (636). Christians and Muslims have been at war with one another ever since.

Leaving aside the question of Muslim atrocities against Christians of both the East and the West, let me review the grievances of Muslims against the West, perceived as Christian. **The Crusades (around 1050-1291) are painfully and permanently inscribed in Muslim memories**. The Colonial Period (around 1450-1970), during which Western nations occupied about ninety percent of the Muslim world, has left the Muslim psyche

with a deep sense of shame and humiliation that needs to be avenged. But above all else, the **loss of Jerusalem to the Jews in 1967**, after more than thirteen hundred years of possession, rankles daily in Muslim minds. This, of course, is blamed on the "Christian" West because of the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 — perceived as the greatest sin ever committed against humanity.

We need to **remember, when seeking to witness to Muslims, that we are working in an atmosphere poisoned by the memories** of these and more recent (e.g., the U.S.'s two invasions of Lebanon) Muslim casualties. It is only by the grace of God that we have as much opportunity as we do to work with Muslims. **If we exhibit any form of cultural superiority, religious triumphalism, or selective amnesia concerning the sins of the West, perceived as Christian, we only make matters worse**. More to the point, the denigration of Islam as a religion or slurs against its founder, Muhammad, will not be tolerated. Working with Muslims calls for an especially sensitive approach. Thus, although I will address apologetic issues later in this series, it is first of all important for Christians to know something about how to approach Muslims.

In orthodox Islam, God has supposedly not spoken to a single human being since the year Muhammad died (632). For this reason, giving your own testimony of how you became a Christian — of how God revealed Himself to you — takes Muslims by surprise. This is a thoroughly biblical approach (1 John 1:3). And there is no argument against a testimony.

Muslims are usually genuinely seeking to please God (as they understand him). They can be complimented, for example, on their practices of confessing God, praying five times daily, giving to the poor, keeping a month-long fast, perceiving themselves as pilgrims, and even striving (jihada) on the "way of God." Similar points of contact can be found in their belief system concerning God, prophets, holy books, angels and demons, the decree of God, and the day of judgment. Of course, on each subject there are points of variance between Islamic and Christian doctrine, but the point is to find a common starting place.

One will find that each subject can always be related to the teaching of the Lord Jesus and the apostles and other Scriptures. The Qur'an bears surprising witness to Jesus. It affirms His virgin birth, His ability to heal and raise the dead, that He is both a word from God and a spirit from God, that He is the Messiah, an all-righteous one (sinless), among those nearest to God, that He is alive in heaven now and will return to judge the earth (Qur'an 3:45, 49; 4:158; 82:22). Muslims often are convinced that Christ is greater than Muhammad from just reading the Qur'an. These above points are excellent starting places in leading Muslims to biblical truth about Jesus.

Indeed, in our effort to bring Muslims to study the Bible, we have an unexpected ally in Muhammad's book, the Qur'an. In a careful reading of Quranic references (3:84; 5:51, 71; 6:34; 10:37, 64, 94; 46:12), we find that Muhammad affirmed his belief in what was revealed to Moses and Jesus. He taught that God confirms and guards all previous scripture, that Christians are to stand fast on their own books of the Law and the Gospel, and

that none could change the Word of God. Finally, the Muslim is told that if he has doubts he should ask the Jews and Christians, who were reading the Holy Books before he was.

If and when a Muslim begins to study Scripture, he (or she) is going to be under suspicion by his family and friends. He will need strong support and encouragement from a Christian friend. This support is even more critical at the time of conversion, baptism, and post-baptismal trauma. One must be ready to die with his or her disciple (John 15:13).

Even before all of the above begins, the Christian worker would do well to find a way to minister to human need in the environment of the disciple. This could take the form of personal help, medical service, teaching, relief in times of disaster, and development programs of any kind to improve the quality of life (Matt. 25:31-46).

Finally, we must realize that this work is not simply an intellectual exercise; it involves the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. In utter dependence on Him, we receive the insights and ideas that grip the mind and heart of our Muslim friend. And similarly, the Holy Spirit works in our friend to give understanding, insight, and receptivity to the good news of Jesus Christ. This trust in the work of the Holy Spirit is something to be cultivated in prayer and faith by the Christian worker.

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PART TWO

Islam has as many branches and sects as Christianity. The two major ones are the Sunnis and the Shias. They split over the issue of apostolic succession. When Islam's founder Muhammad died unexpectedly in A.D. 632, he had left no arrangement for a successor. His followers divided into two camps. The Sunnis were those who thought the leader should be elected democratically from among his closest followers, and the Shias were those who thought the leaders should be related to Muhammad. Perhaps 85 to 90 percent of all Muslims would call themselves Sunnis. We will consider witnessing to Sunnis in this installment, and in Part Three we will turn our attention to the Shias.

The word Sunni comes from the Arabic Sunnah, which simply means "the trodden path," or "tradition." In the Islamic context, it means someone who follows the exemplary pattern of conduct established by Muhammad, believed to be the model for all humankind.

Since Muhammad was just one solitary man, confined to a slice of time in seventh century Arabia, he could not foresee the problems Islam would face in its rapid expansion into other lands. His followers — who were imbued with Muhammad's obsession with law — had to devise new laws based on their understanding of what Muhammad would have done, if he had remained among them. This process took almost two hundred years and resulted in the formation of Islamic or Shariah Law.

A Sunni, then, is a person who believes that the true way of life is to attempt to keep the laws of Islam (Shariah) derived from the Qur'an and the other collected sayings of Muhammad. For this person, paradise is the reward of

those whose good deeds outweigh their bad on the day of judgment. With such a Muslim believer, there are two evangelistic approaches that can be used: to show the futility of the idea of salvation by law, and to show the inadequacy of Muhammad's life as a model for all humankind. Both approaches ultimately lead to the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Muhammad, in his obsession to discover and execute the will of God, set in motion a movement that resulted in a wild proliferation of laws attempting to cover every facet of life. By borrowing from the Egyptians the idea that God would weigh our good deeds against our bad deeds in a balance scale on the day of judgment, he betrayed a lack of understanding of the function of law. The law does not save; it condemns.

Christians can begin by complimenting the Muslim on his or her zeal to keep the law of God as he or she understands it, but then we must go on to show that the law has the ultimate function of showing us where we failed. As Paul wrote, "the letter [law] kills, but the Spirit gives life" (1 Cor. 3:6). Our Muslim friends also need to be disabused of the idea that 51 percent performance is good enough to obtain salvation. Show them what James wrote: "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it" (James 2:10). To this could be added Paul's words in Romans 3:20, "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather through the law we become conscious of sin," and in Galatians 3:24, "The law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith" (Gal. 3:24).

This then leads on to a discussion about Christ. And this discussion can be based on materials from both the Qur'an and the Scriptures.

In Qur'an 7:158, Muhammad asked people to follow him. Elsewhere in the Qur'an, Muhammad testified that Jesus was among those nearest to God, held in honor in this world and the hereafter (Qur'an 3:45). Muslims understand this to mean that Jesus was sinless and all-righteous, something that the early Muslims never claimed for Muhammad. In fact, in several Quranic passages (16:61; 40:55; 42:5, 30; 47:19; 48:1-2) we read that Muhammad was exhorted to seek forgiveness for his faults, that not a single living creature would be left on earth if God punished everyone for their wrongdoing, and that one of Muhammad's military victories served as an assurance of forgiveness of his sins, past and future. It is pointless for Muslims to argue for Muhammad's sinlessness or to compare him to Jesus, whom Muslims consider to be both sinless and alive in heaven, near to God right now. The contrast could be more sharply drawn by pointing out that Muhammad's grave is in Medina today, whereas Christ is alive in heaven with God.

In the Qur'an (2:253; 3:45-49; 4:158, 171; 5:49; 19:33; 89:22) it is noted that Jesus was called the Messiah; He was born of a virgin; He was among the righteous ones — those nearest to God; He received strength from the Holy Spirit; He could give sight to the blind, cure lepers, and raise the dead; He prophesied His own death and resurrection; He was called a Word from God and a Spirit from God; and finally, He is coming back with thousands of angels to judge the world. All these

characterizations add up to a powerful picture of a Christ who was more than a prophet, and — on Quranic terms alone — superior to Muhammad.

From this point on, it is up to the Christian witness to lead the Muslim friend into a study of biblical material on the person and nature of Christ. One suggestion would be to start with John 1:1-14, where Jesus is set forth as the eternal Word of God, an idea Muslims implicitly accept. Then go on to show the purpose of God for Him in becoming a man: to carry out the will of God in accomplishing the salvation of lost humankind, who would not be saved by the law, either Islamic or Mosaic.

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PART THREE

In previous installments of this series, we noted that Islam is divided into many sects, the two major ones being the Sunnis and the Shias. The original split between the latter two was over the question of who should succeed Muhammad as leader of the community. The Shias felt the leader should come from Muhammad's family; the Sunnis thought he should be someone of noted piety elected by and from Muhammad's closest companions. The Sunnis won with the first three successors; then the Shias, or party of Ali, assumed the leadership. But Ali was martyred, as were his only two sons (more on this shortly).

Down through the centuries, the Shias usually lost out in

these power struggles. This led to their taking on the nature of a protest movement against the corrupt Sunni leaders. Inevitably, to justify their separate minority identity, they developed theological doctrines that radically differed from those of the Sunnis on at least two major points: the idea of martyrdom and the idea of divine light indwelling their leaders. Both these beliefs open up Shias to Christian witness in a way not possible among the Sunnis.

Martyrdom for the cause of the people is memorialized in the Shia calendar year during their lunar month of Muharram. Of the three martyrs mentioned above — Ali (Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law) and Ali's two sons, Hasan and Husayn (Muhammad's grandsons) — that of Husayn is celebrated annually. The first ten days of the month of Muharram are dedicated to "passion plays" that retell the story of Husayn's betrayal and courageous stand, facing overwhelming odds, against the ruling house of Mecca (the Umayyids). On the tenth day, it is common for parades of self-flagellating men to beat themselves until the blood flows, lamenting the failure of the people to come to the defense of their beloved leader.

This brings us to the key point: Shias believe that the shed blood of their slain leader atones for their sins. They accept the concept of atonement — an idea totally unacceptable to the Sunnis. Of all the approaches I've seen Christians use in witnessing to the Shias, the most effective is through films depicting the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. (By the way, unlike Sunnis, Shias accept art forms depicting human beings, and practice drama.) I have seen them weep profusely while viewing such films. Afterwards, it is easy to speak to them of the deep

spiritual meaning of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

Anyway, with or without the use of a film, asking a Shia to talk to you about the martyrdom of Husayn naturally opens the door for the Christian to then bring into the conversation the atoning death of Jesus on the cross. The points to emphasize are the overwhelming odds against Jesus during His arrest and trial, the significance of the shed blood of Christ in atoning for the sins of the people, Christ's victory over death, and His promise of eternal life to those who believe in Him.

The second major point of contact has to do with the idea of "divine light" indwelling Muhammad, Ali, Husayn, the early "Imams," and currently, the present leading Ayatullah, whoever that may be. Before proceeding, let me explain the two technical words above. In Sunni Islam, an Imam is a leader of the prayers at the mosque. It could be anyone. In Shia Islam, the Imam is a big word. It refers to the succession of the spiritual leaders of the community. Depending on which branch of Shia Islam one is talking about, that line of succession terminated with the disappearance of either the fifth, the seventh, or the twelfth Imam. These lines came to an end centuries ago. Each was supposedly indwelt by divine light. This light was then passed on to a lesser order of clerics called "Ayatullahs." This word means "Sign or Miracle of God." The late Ayatullah Khomeini was the most famous such Ayatullah of our day. His successor at the moment is named Khameini.

For the Christian witness, this idea of divine light is the

bridging point with Shias. It was Jesus who first said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). Behind this is the idea of pure light coming through a sinless servant of God. The problem for Shias is that they are forced by their own set of assumptions to attribute sinlessness to their present-day Ayatullahs. But not even Muhammad claimed this attribute for himself.

The Qur'an exhorts Muhammad (and others, too) to seek forgiveness of his sins (Q. 40:55; 42:5; 47:19). The universality of sin is mentioned in Qur'an 16:61. The Qur'an also says that whatever misfortune happens to a Muslim happens because of his sin (Q. 42:30). It further says that even when victory comes it occurs so that God may forgive one's sins (Q. 48:1, 2). From these verses, one can demonstrate that no one is sinless or capable of being the "Light of the World." The big exception, of course, is Jesus. Even in the Qur'an, we read that he is "among the righteous ones," that is, sinless (Q. 3:46).

Moving from these Quranic passages, the Christian witness should then be able to show to the Muslim that Jesus is "the holy Son of God" (Matt. 1:20, 21; Luke 1:32); that He was indeed sinless (2 Cor. 5:21); that in Jesus is true spiritual life and this life is the true light of men (John 1:4); and, finally, that Jesus Himself claimed to be the Light of the world (John 8:12) and it is in His light that we see light (John 1:9).

Final Note From Pastor David

I tried not to use the term *followers of Muhammad* throughout this booklet. Muslims perceive themselves as *followers of Islam* - that system of religion - not as

followers of Muhammad. When we witness to them we should be careful to not offend, lest we drive them *away from the Cross of Christ*. Satan has deceived these souls, as it is written:

(2 Corinthians 11:13-15 KJV) "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. {14} And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. {15} Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

Let us seek their salvation through the preaching of the Gospel of Christ.