

Helping Muslims See Christ in Christianity

Understanding Islam in Light of the Bible

by Joe Wrostek

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Dedicated to Jesus Christ and the work of the Gospel
around the world.

“May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done on
earth as it is in heaven”- Jesus

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Introduction

Who Is Jesus - Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?

2 Corinthians 11:3-4, “³ But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent. ⁴ You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different kind of Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed.”

Is Jesus Christ really only a prophet, as Muslims believe and teach? Or is He the unique Son of God, mankind’s only Savior and Mediator as Christians have taught for almost 2,000 years? This book was written to help you the reader discover the real Jesus of the Bible in light of what Muslims believe.

Jesus said to his first disciples almost 2,000 years ago, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me” (John 10:6, NIV). Jesus declared Himself to be the only mediator between God and man. This statement only leaves today’s reader with three basic options on how to receive Jesus after reading these words; Jesus was a liar, a lunatic or the Lord. He could not have only been a prophet and make that claim.

First, was Jesus a liar? Did He know He was not the only way to God, but rather chose to deceive His disciples and receive self-centered glory? According to both Muslims and Christians, Jesus wasn’t a liar, He was a holy man who spoke the words of God, and so Jesus cannot be a liar (Sura 2:136). Second, was Jesus a lunatic? Did Jesus suffer from mental illness and was filled with self-delusion? Of course not, Jesus was a wise man, even the Qur’an refers to Jesus (Iesa) as a messenger of God with “clear proofs and evidences” (Sura 2:87,136,253), therefore Jesus could not have been a lunatic.

And thirdly, was Jesus declaring His Lordship? Did Jesus really come to earth to be the only way, the only truth, and the only way to God? This is the only real option left; Jesus was really God in the flesh, sent to be the mediator for mankind and He meant exactly what He said (John 1:1,14).

So why are there Muslims today and not only Christians? Because Muslims have been taught not to believe all that is written in the Gospels, especially the Gospel of John because it supports Jesus' divinity more than any other book. Muslims have been taught to reject anything in the Bible that does not correspond to the Qur'an, and for that reason, this booklet has been written.¹ This booklet has been written so that you will be able to learn (1) The History of Islam (2) What Islam Believes (3) The Biblical Answers to Islam (4) How to Reach Muslims with the Gospel

Before you begin to read this booklet, please take some time now to pray and ask God to fill you with His wisdom and understanding so that you will be able to comprehend all that is taught in this book. Then pray for compassion and love to fill your heart so that you can see the Islamic world as Jesus does, as a lost and hurting group of people that need to be saved. And lastly, prepare yourself for action; pray that God will begin to stir your heart so that you can reach the Muslims in America with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Review:

1. What is the central disagreement between Muslims and Christians about Jesus?
2. Could Jesus have been just a good man or a prophet? Explain your answer.
3. Pray and ask God to show you who the real Jesus Christ is.

¹ Abdullah Yusuf Ali, *The Qur'an: Text, Translation, and Commentary* (Elmhurst, New York: Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an Inc., 1934), 282-284.

Section I: The History of Islam

This first section deals with the roots of Islam and how it compares to Biblical history and Christianity.



Chapter 1

The History of the Abrahamic Faith

Sura 3:110, "... If only the People of the Book had faith, it were best for them: among them are some who have faith, but most of them are perverted transgressors."

1 Chronicles 29:18, "O LORD, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you."

Abraham is the central founding figure in Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Therefore, along with Judaism and Christianity, Islam is considered an "Abrahamic Faith" because Muslim's consider Abraham the father of the Arabic people, the prophets, and Mohamed.²

The largest attested amount of information found on Abraham comes from the Old Testament book of Genesis. Genesis teaches that Abraham was born Abram the son of Terah who lived in the city of Ur in the land of Mesopotamia during the 1700's B.C. [Genesis 11:31]. God visited Abram and told him that he was to leave his father's house, move to a new land that He would show him, and become the father of a great nation [Genesis 12:1-2]. During these visitations Abram's name, which means, "exalted father" in Hebrew, was changed by God to Abraham, which means "father of a multitude" [Genesis 17:5].

Abraham was obedient to God and left his family and homeland and moved to the land of Canaan and began to serve God and follow His commands. Abraham was taught by God to be circumcised, make sacrifices, and follow God's moral commands. During this time Abraham became discouraged because God had promised to make him a great nation, but Sarah his wife could not bare children, so out of frustration he had a child with his wife's servant named Hagar. Hagar gave birth to the Abraham's first child named Ishmael. A few years later God came back to Abraham and told him that He wanted him to have a child with Sarah and that this child was to be called Isaac and he was going to bless

² Frederick Mathewson Denny, *An Introduction to Islam* (New Jersey: Pearson Education, 2006), 11.

him and make him a great nation. Abraham, disbelieving he and Sarah could bring forth a child in their old age, asked God if would bless Ishmael instead and make him a great people and nation, but God did not relent and he promised that the child he would bless would come from Sarah and be named Isaac [Genesis 16-17].

Eventually Abraham and Sarah had Isaac, the child of promise. Isaac's birth was a miracle because Sarah was ninety years old and Abraham was a hundred years old when he was born. Genesis then records that as Isaac began to grow older Ishmael began to pick on him and cause Sarah trouble. Sarah then asked Abraham to cast out Hagar and her son Ishmael and let Isaac be Abraham's only son in the family. Abraham reluctantly gave in to his wife's wishes and put away Hagar and Ishmael, however God had mercy on Ishmael and made him a great nation [Genesis 21].

According to the Bible Isaac's decedents became the nation of Israel, God's chosen people, and through them He founded the Jewish religion. Ishmael's descendents became the Arabic speaking nations of the Near East and were worshippers of pagan gods, which eventually became Muslims after Mohamed's visions in the seventh century A.D. (Genesis 25:12-23).

How Islam Views Abrahamic History

Though Islam and Christianity agree on much of the story of Abraham, the Qur'an disagrees with the Bible in a few very important ways. First, Islam teaches that all of the Biblical characters were Muslim like how Mohamed was and how Muslims are taught to live today. Therefore, all of the stories are always seen with an Islamic twist. Second, because of the Muslim's distortion of Jewish history they believe it was Ishmael, not Isaac, that was Abraham's "only child" that was asked by God to be sacrificed. And thirdly, Islam teaches "extra-Biblical" things about Abraham, Ishmael, Noah, and Lot in the Qur'an that are not verified in the Bible or anywhere else in history prier to the conception of Islam in the seventh century A.D.

Here are some verses from the Qur'an that teach the things mentioned above:³

(1) Abraham and the Old Testament Characters Were Muslims:

Sura 2:132, "And this was the legacy that Abraham left to his sons, and so did Jacob; "Oh my sons! Allah hath chosen the Faith for you; then die not except in the Faith of Islam."

Sure 3:67, "Abraham was not a Jew nor yet a Christian; but he was true in Faith, and bowed his will to Allah's (Which is Islam), and he joined not gods with Allah."

(2) Ishmael was Chosen to by God to be Sacrificed and was a Prophet:

Sura 37:102, "Then, when [the son] reached [the age of] [serious] work with him, he said: "O my son! I see in vision that I offer thee in sacrifice: Now see what is thy view!" [The son] said: "O my father! Do as thou art commanded: thou wilt find me, if Allah so wills one practicing Patience and Constancy!"⁴

Sura 19:54, "Also mention in the Book [the story of] Isma'il: He was [strictly] true to what he promised, and he was an apostle [and] a prophet."

(3) Abraham built Mecca and the Ka'ba with Ishmael

Sura 2:125-128, "125 Remember We made the House a place of assembly for men and a place of safety; and take ye the station of Abraham as a place of prayer; and We covenanted with Abraham and Isma'il, that they should sanctify My House for those who compass it round, or use it as a retreat, or bow, or prostrate themselves [therein in prayer]. 126 And remember Abraham said: "My Lord, make this a City of Peace, and feed its people with fruits,-such of them as believe in Allah and the Last Day." He said: "(Yea), and such as reject Faith,-for a while will I grant them their pleasure, but will soon drive them to the torment of Fire,- an evil destination [indeed]!"

³ Ali, Note while reading some of Suras: Many of the Suras do not specifically teach the Muslim point of view, but if the Islamic commentators teach it as being true from Islamic history, than the meaning is read into the passage. Abdullah Yusuf Ali speaks for the Muslim view on the Qur'an in his translation and comments of the Qur'an, iii.

⁴ See Ali's comments on this passage and Sura 37:99-10 under comments 4098-4102, 1204-1205.

127 And remember Abraham and Isma'il raised the foundations of the House (With this prayer): "Our Lord! Accept (this service) from us: For Thou art the All-Hearing, the All-knowing. 128 "Our Lord! make of us Muslims, bowing to Thy (Will), and of our progeny a people Muslim, bowing to Thy (will); and show us our place for the celebration of (due) rites; and turn unto us (in Mercy); for Thou art the Oft-Returning, Most Merciful."⁵

[4] Lot was a Prophet and was lied about in the Bible for being raped by his daughters

Sura 7:80, "We also (sent) Lut: He said to his people: "Do ye commit lewdness such as no people in creation (ever) committed before you?"⁶

A Christian Response to Islam's View of Abrahamic History

After reading the Suras it is easy to tell that Muslims believe their religion founded in the seventh century is really the true faith of Abraham and the patriarchs, which came thousands of years earlier. However, there are many problems with these claims made by Islam. First, the Bible has always taught that Abraham was the father of the Jewish nation and was the first "Jew"; therefore he was not a Muslim. Second, Isaac was the child specifically named in the Bible as being the child brought to be sacrificed, and it wasn't until Mohamed and the Qur'an that there were any questions to who it was.

And thirdly, the extra-Biblical stories of the Qur'an have no historical proof in the Bible or anywhere else in history. And specifically the history of Mecca and the Ka'ba can more easily be traced back to the pagan religions found in Saudi Arabia during the time of Mohamed rather than the ancient stories found in the Bible.

Here are some Scriptures and data concerning the Islamic claims:

⁵ See Ali's comments on this passage and Sura 2:124-128 under comments 125-128, 52-53.

⁶ See Ali's comments on this passage under comment 1049, 363.

[1] Abraham and the Old Testament Characters Were Jews/Israelites, not Muslim/Arabs:

1 Chronicles 16:15-17, “15 He remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations, 16 the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. 17 He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant”

Micah 7:18-20, “ 18 Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. 19 You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. 20 You will be true to Jacob, and show mercy to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our fathers in days long ago.

God considers Abraham the father of the Jewish nation called Israel and therefore, he was technically the first “Jew” or “Israelite”. When God changed Jacob’s name to Israel He was fulfilling his promise made to Abraham and keeping His everlasting covenant with him. The Jews/Israelites are Abraham’s offspring from Isaac the child of promise and will always be God’s chosen people according to the Bible.

[2] Isaac, not Ishmael, was Chosen by God to be Sacrificed:

Genesis 22:2, “Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

Genesis 22:9-10, “ 9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.”

[3] Ishmael is never mentioned as a Prophet but Rather A Great Archer and the Father of Pagan Nations:

Genesis 21:20, “God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer.”

Genesis 22:12-18, “12 This is the account of Abraham's son Ishmael, whom Sarah's maidservant, Hagar the

Egyptian, bore to Abraham. 13 These are the names of the sons of Ishmael, listed in the order of their birth: Nebaioth the firstborn of Ishmael, Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, 14 Mishma, Dumah, Massa, 15 Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah. 16 These were the sons of Ishmael, and these are the names of the twelve tribal rulers according to their settlements and camps. 17 Altogether, Ishmael lived a hundred and thirty-seven years. He breathed his last and died, and he was gathered to his people. 18 His descendants settled in the area from Havilah to Shur, near the border of Egypt, as you go toward Asshur. And they lived in hostility toward all their brothers.¹⁷

The Bible is clear on its view of Isaac and Ishmael, therefore the student of the true Abrahamic faith can easily see that God chose Isaac as Abraham's sacrifice and for His everlasting covenant. Ishmael was a not a prophet or a significant person in God's covenant, but rather the father of the Arab tribes people that become notorious for their paganism and superstitious worship of false gods and idols. More will be discussed later on the history of Mecca and the Ka'ba as well as other pagan practices found in Islam.

Review:

1. Why is Abraham so important to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam?
2. Was Abraham a Muslim or a Jew? Describe the differences between his life in the Bible from the Quran.
3. Pray and ask God to show you who Abraham and Ishmael really were.

⁷ Easton's Bible Dictionary lists the descendants of Ishmael as the father's of the Arab tribes of the Near East and that Kedar, one of Ishmael's sons, was a tribe that was associated with walking away from God (Psalm 120:5).

Chapter 2

The History of the Israelite Nation and the Jewish Faith

Sura 3:110, “Ye are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in Allah. If only the People of the Book had faith, it were best for them: among them are some who have faith, but most of them are perverted transgressors.”

Isaiah 55:3, “Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.”

It is important to now know the history of the Jewish nation because Islam believes that they are the fulfillment of the true worship to God that was taken from the Jews because of their sin and idolatry. Jewish history is also important when understanding the history of Islam because twenty of Islam’s twenty-five prophets are found most extensively in the Bible as Jewish history.⁹ Therefore, to properly understand Islam one must understand Jewish history, its central figures, and the faith of the Judaism.

The continued history of the Jewish nation and the people of Israel from the time of Abraham and his son Isaac are found in first five books of the Bible known as the Pentateuch, which are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Number, and Deuteronomy. Here is a brief summary: Isaac fathered Jacob (Gen. 25:19-34), God changed Jacob’s name to Israel (Gen. 32:22-32), Israel had twelve sons which became the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel (Gen. 35:21-26), Joseph, one of Israel’s sons became a leader in Egypt and eventually moved all of Israel’s family to Egypt (Gen. 37:12-38, 39-46), then after four hundreds of slavery in Egypt, God choose Moses, an Israelite, to set the Jews free from the oppression of the Egyptian Pharaoh (Exodus 1-12:30), God then led over a million Israelites out of Egypt into the land of Canaan (Exodus 12:31-15), during this forty year long journey God gave Moses and people of Israel His commands for worship, government, and

⁹ List of the twenty “Jewish” prophets (Jewish is put in parenthesis because Muslims believe all the prophets were Muslim – Sura 2:136): Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Lot, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job, Jethro, Moses, Aaron, Ezekiel, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, and Zechariah.

culture [These commands can be mostly easily seen and outlined in the book of Deuteronomy].

Once the Israelites were settled in the land of Canaan they became a strong nation under the conquests of Moses' successor Joshua [The Book of Joshua], after Joshua Israel was ruled by God's appointed judges, when the Israelites would sin and turn away from His commands God would appoint judges to rule over the land and deliver the Israelites from their captors [The book of Judges], after a time of judges the Israelites asked God for a king and He gave them Saul for their first king Saul [1 Samuel 8-9], but because of Saul's sin, God took away the throne from him and gave it to David [1 Samuel 15-16], David then became the blood line for all the kings of Israel and he made Jerusalem the capitol of Israel [2 Samuel 7:15-16].

After David came Solomon who built the first temple to God [1 Kings 6], and then Solomon had two sons that split the Israelite kingdom into two different nations [1 Kings 12-13], the nation of Israel and the Nation of Judah, each nation had their own king [In David's blood line] and military, during these times of the kings Israel and Judah would fall in and out of sin and as a result God would send prophets [Jeremiah, Isaiah, Joel, etc] and when they would not listen God would allow other nations to conquer them [1-2 Kings & 1-2 Chronicles], eventually God sent His last warnings to the people of Israel and after they did not listen they were conquered by the Assyrians around 710 B.C and taken into captivity [2 Kings 20], and then God sent His last warnings to Judah and when they continued to disobey God's commands, He sent Babylon to conquer Judah around 586 B.C. and bring to Babylon as Slaves [2 Kings 24-25 & Daniel], and during the times of captivity both the people of Israel and Judah began to act as one nation again.

Eventually the Israelites, as one nation and people group, were allowed to come back and settle in Jerusalem and certain parts of Israel [Ezra & Nehemiah], though they would never have a king again, they had hopes found in their prophecies that a King would come to them in the line of David and deliver them from their pagan oppressors, this king was called the "Messiah" [Isaiah 9:1-7].

How Islam Views Jewish History

Muslims believe much the same as it pertains to the Biblical accounts of Israel's history. Where the Muslim differs with the Jew and Christian on the history of Israel is the severity of God's punishment for Israel's sin. The Muslim believes that because of the Jews great perpetual sin against God and His commands, God cursed them and took His covenant away from them and then replaced them with the descendants of Ishmael and the Arabic-speaking people of the Middle East. Muslims believe this is why God chose Mohamed, a descent of Ishmael, to be His last and final prophet, they believe he was sent by God to restore the "true" worship of the Jewish prophets because the Jews had been too sinful to ever bear the message of God again.

Here are some quotes by Mohamed from the Qur'an concerning Israel's great sin. **[Note: Jews and Christians are sometimes called, "People of the Book".]**

Sura 3:110, "Ye are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in Allah. If only the People of the Book had faith, it were best for them: among them are some who have faith, but most of them are perverted transgressors."

Sura 45:16-17, 16 "We did aforetime grant to the Children of Israel the Book the Power of Command, and Prophethood; We gave them, for Sustenance, things good and pure; and We favoured them above the nations. 17 And We granted them Clear Signs in affairs (of Religion): it was only after knowledge had been granted to them that they fell into schisms, through insolent envy among themselves. Verily thy Lord will judge between them on the Day of Judgment as to those matters in which they set up differences."

Sura 5:13, "But because of their breach of their covenant, We cursed them, and made their hearts grow hard; they change the words from their (right) places and forget a good part of the message that was sent them, nor wilt thou cease to find them-barring a few - ever bent on (new) deceits: but forgive them, and overlook (their misdeeds): for Allah loveth those who are kind."

A Christian Response to Islam's View of Jewish History

There is no doubt that these Suras in the Qur'an are specially dealing with Israel and God's strong disappointment in them and His passionate desire for a "true" people of faith. In his commentary of the Qur'an, Islamic Scholar Abdullah Yusuf Ali says the Islamic position best in regards of the Jewish people being cursed in Sura 5:13 when he writes, "*Cursed them*: that means that because of the breach of their Covenant, God withdrew His overflowing grace from them."⁹

Also, in Sura 5:13, when Mohamed says Israel is "ever bent on new deceits", Ali says, "Israel, when it lost God's grace as above, began to sin against the truth and religion... they began to misuse Scripture itself... they conveniently forgot a part of the Message and purpose of God and they invented new deceits to support the old ones."¹⁰

Therefore, in the Muslim mindset, Mohamed came to set in order the "deceits" of the people of Israel. According to the Qur'an most of the Jews (People of the Book) had become "perverted transgressors" and were no longer able to rightly handle the Word of God. They were "cursed" and given a "hard heart" and no longer could even remember God's message to them of their purpose as a nation.

This is not however the message of the God of the Old Testament. According to the prophets, even some that Muslims believe in, such as Ezekiel, God would punish the Jews for their sins, but He would not reject them or "curse" them forever. He still considered them His people and had a plan of redemption for them that did not include Mohamed and his new religion.

Here are some quotes from the Bible that speak of God's everlasting covenant with the Jewish people, despite their sin.

Isaiah 55:3, "Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David."

⁹ Ali, 245.

¹⁰ Ibid.

Micah 7:18-19, “ 18 Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. 19 You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. 20 You will be true to Jacob, and show mercy to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our fathers in days long ago.”

Ezekiel 11:16-21, 16 "Therefore say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Although I sent them far away among the nations and scattered them among the countries, yet for a little while I have been a sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone.' 17 "Therefore say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel again.' 18 "They will return to it and remove all its vile images and detestable idols. 19 I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. 20 Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God. 21 But as for those whose hearts are devoted to their vile images and detestable idols, I will bring down on their own heads what they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD."

Therefore, after reading these verses it clear to see why the Christian still believes that God loves Israel and consider them His chosen nation. Also, when reading the New Testament it can be easily seen that God has not rejected the Jewish people, but rather God has allowed them to fall away for a season so that the Gentiles might come to faith, but God does promise that eventually all Israel will be saved.

Romans 11:25-26, “25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.”

Review:

1. Why is Abraham so important to religion?
2. Was Abraham a Muslim or a Jew? Describe the differences between the Quran and the Bible.

Chapter 3

The History of the Christian Faith Until Mohamed

Sura 5:14, "From those, too, who call themselves Christians, We did take a covenant, but they forgot a good part of the message that was sent them: so we estranged them, with enmity and hatred between the one and the other, to the day of judgment. And soon will Allah show them what it is they have done."

Matthew 16:18, "...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

After the Jews settled back in Israel around 400 B.C., God did not speak any new messages to his people for about four hundred years and the Jewish Bible known as the "Tanak" or "Torah" was canonized with its twenty-four books, which is identical to the Christian Bible's Old Testament with its thirty-nine books, the only difference is how the Jews arranged the books of the prophets, but the material is the exact same.¹¹

During this time the Roman government rose to world dominance and controlled Israel, in 6 B.C. John the Baptist was born and a short time later started his ministry (Luke 1:5-25,57-80), he was called by God to preach the message of repentance and prepare the way for the Messiah (Luke 3:1-20), during the same time of John of the Baptist, Jesus was born and came into His ministry and was baptized by John in 30 A.D. (Luke 3:21-23), Jesus had a ministry for about three years that was primarily to the Jewish people (Matthew 15:24). He developed a core group of twelve followers He called His disciples and He also had many other people that followed Him and His new teachings on being "born-again" and that the "kingdom of God was near and within men's hearts" (Luke 6:12-16, John 3:3-16, & Matthew 4:12-17).

Jesus taught from the Old Testament that He was the promised Jewish Messiah (Luke 4:14-30), He healed the sick and did many wonderful miracles (Mark 1:32-34), during His ministry He faced great opposition from the Jewish

¹¹ Andrew E. Hill & John H. Walton, *A Survey of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991), 20-21.

community that believed He was a false prophet and a blasphemer because He called Himself the “Son of God” (John 10:36 & Matthew 14:33), the “Son of Man”¹² (Luke 21:27 & Mark 2:10-11), and He even made Himself equal to God (John 10:30, 20:28-29).

Because of God’s divine plan and man’s wickedness, Jesus at the age of thirty-three was sentenced to die on the cross after only being in ministry for three years (Matthew 27:11-31). He then was put to death on the cross and buried in a grave (Matthew 27:32-61). He then rose from the grave proving His divinity and thus fulfilled the need for the sacrifice for mankind’s sin (John 3:16). He appeared to His disciples and gave them authority and a commission to go into all the world and preach the Gospel; which is Jesus death, burial, and resurrection for the forgiveness of men’s sins (Matthew 28 & Romans 5:12-6:23)

After Jesus’ ascension into heaven the remaining one hundred and twenty disciples gathered together and waited for the promised Holy Spirit (Acts 1), the Holy Spirit came on the Jewish Day of Pentecost and filled every believer and He gave them mighty power for the preaching of the Gospel and thousands of people were saved (Acts 2). From that point on Jesus’ church was established upon the Holy Spirit, Jesus’ teachings, and the apostles doctrines (Acts 2:42-47); the church began to grow and spread rapidly around all the known world with signs and wonders following the message of Jesus’ death and resurrection (Acts 3-27).

During the first one hundred years of the church the disciples wrote the life story of Jesus and His teachings, these stories were called the “Gospels”; which are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.¹³ Paul, a new Jewish convert to Christianity began to write the doctrines in which Jesus had taught him concerning non-Jewish believers in Jesus, and along with Paul; Peter, James, John, and Jude wrote letters to the churches on how to live a life pleasing to God through Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 1). These teachings are called the “Epistles”. And John, an apostle of Jesus, wrote the last book of New

¹² “Son of Man” is divine title in Daniel 7:13-14

¹³ J. Ed Komoszewski, M. James Sawyer, & Daniel B. Wallace, *Reinventing Jesus* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2006), 129-130.

Testament called the Book of Revelation, describing the things he saw concerning the second coming of Jesus and His judgment of earth.

After the first century when last apostle John died, the disciples of the disciples began to gather together the letters that came from the Apostles and made what is known today as the New Testament, the NT contains twenty-seven books altogether and covers the life of Jesus (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), the Acts of the Apostles (Acts), the epistles of Paul (Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon), the Book of Hebrews (author unknown), the epistles of Peter (1-2 Peter), the epistles of John (1-3 John), the epistle of Jude & James, and the prophetic book by John called Revelation. The first canonized list of the complete New Testament is officially written in an Athanasian' Festal Letter by 367 A.D. and partial forms of the canon go back as early to the second century.¹⁴

As the church began to grow in the first three centuries from 90-400 A.D., the Christians began to make creeds such as the "Apostles Creed", the "Nicene Creed" and the "Athanasian Creed", these creeds were meant to unify the churches and protect them from heresies from within and solidify their core beliefs in a hostile environment and protect them from attacks from the outside pagan world that was persecuting them.¹⁵ These core beliefs are known today as the fundamentals. Here is a list of the core beliefs that true Christians have always taught and believed:

1. God has revealed Himself in the Bible (Genesis-Revelation) and it is the only infallible authoritative rule for faith ¹⁶
2. There is only one God
3. God is one being, revealed in three distinct persons; namely the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit
4. Jesus is fully God and fully man
5. Salvation is only by grace through faith in Jesus' atoning sacrifice
6. Jesus will come back and judge the living and dead

¹⁴ Ibid, 127-128. The Muratorian Canon had 22 of the 27 books in 170 A.D.

¹⁵ Earle E. Cairns, *Christianity Through the Centuries* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 1981), 131-132.

¹⁶ This is found in Athanasius' 39th Festal Letter in the year 367

7. There is an eternal punishment for those who reject Jesus and an eternal reward for those who have faith in Jesus¹⁷

Also, during these three hundred years of great growth the church also suffered severe persecution first from the Jews and then from the Romans.¹⁸ The Romans martyred and crucified many of the leaders and made Christianity illegal all throughout the Roman Empire, but around 381 A.D. Constantine, a Roman Emperor, was given a vision of the cross and made Christianity the religion of Rome.¹⁹ During this time what is known today as the Roman Catholic Church began to develop and oppress many Christians that did not choose to follow the newly appointed political leaders of the church.²⁰

The Catholic church then began to grow as the Roman Empire began to fade away and become the newly formed Byzantine Empire, it was during this time of the Byzantine Empire around 570 A.D. while the church was being led astray by the papal powers of the Roman Catholic church that in Mecca a city in Arabia that Mohamed was born. And forty years later he received his "visions" from God that he claimed were the restoration of the one true faith of Abraham, Isaac, and Jesus.

How Islam Views Christian/Church History

Muslims have very little in the way of agreement when it comes to church history. First, Muslims believe that Jesus and John the Baptist were Muslims and did what Muslims do today; prayed five times a day facing Mecca, fasted during Ramadan, and taught total submission to God. Second, all the claims from the Gospel writers that claim Jesus said; He was equal to God, He was the Son of God, or that He was crucified for man's sins are claimed to be lies told by Paul and the false teachers of Christianity. And thirdly, Muslims believe all of church history is corrupt, the doctrines of the trinity are paganistic lies, salvation by faith in Jesus' sacrificial atonement

¹⁷ These doctrines are all found in the Athanasian Creed

¹⁸ Cairns, 89-94.

¹⁹ Cairns, 24.

²⁰ Cairns, 157-162.

is heresy, there is no authority in the Tanak (Jewish Bible) or the twenty-seven books of the New Testament because they are corrupt and have been purposely distorted by deceiving Christians and Jews, and the preaching of the Gospel of Christ for all nations is false- because God has taken away the authority from the "People of the Book" and have given it to Mohamed and his followers.

Here are some examples of the above statements found in the Qur'an:

(1) Jesus was a Muslim:

Sura 2:136, "Say ye: "We believe in Allah, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to (all) prophets from their Lord: We make no difference between one and another of them: And we bow to Allah (in Islam)."

Sura 3:52, "When Jesus found Unbelief on their part He said: "Who will be My helpers to (the work of) Allah." Said the disciples: "We are Allah's helpers: We believe in Allah, and do thou bear witness that we are Muslims."

(2) The False Disciples Lied- Jesus never claimed to be God:

Sura 3:55, "Behold! Allah said: "O Jesus! I will take thee and raise thee to Myself and clear thee (of the falsehoods) of those who blaspheme; I will make those who follow thee superior to those who reject faith, to the Day of Resurrection: Then shall ye all return unto me, and I will judge between you of the matters wherein ye dispute."

Sura 4:171, "O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: Nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (no more than) an apostle of Allah, and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in Allah and His apostles. Say not "Trinity": desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is one Allah. Glory be to Him: (far exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth. And enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs."

(3) Church History is Full of Lies and Evil:

Sura 5:14, "From those, too, who call themselves Christians, We did take a covenant, but they forgot a good part of the message that was sent them: so we estranged them, with enmity and hatred between the one and the other, to the day of judgment. And soon will Allah show them what it is they have done."

Sura 9:30, "The Jews call 'Uzair a son of Allah, and the Christians call Christ the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouth; (in this) they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. Allah's curse be on them: how they are deluded away from the Truth!"

(4) The Tanak and the New Testament are Corrupted:

Sura 5:49, "And this [He commands]: Judge thou between them by what Allah hath revealed, and follow not their vain desires, but beware of them lest they beguile thee from any of that [teaching] which Allah hath sent down to thee. And if they turn away, be assured that for some of their crime it is Allah's purpose to punish them. And truly most men are rebellious."

(Note: Abdullah Yusuf Ali comments on Sura 5:49, "Just as the Taurat [Tanak] is not the Old Testament, or the Pentateuch, as now received by the Jews and Christians, so the Injil mentioned in the Qur'an is certainly not the New Testament, and it is not the four Gospels as now received by the Christian Church."²¹)

Sura 4:157, "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 a surety they killed him not"

A Christian Response to Islam's View of Christian/Church History

After having read the above verses from the Qur'an it is obvious that Muslims have many differences with the Christian perspective of God, Jesus, the Bible and the church. However, since Mohamed came over five hundred years after Jesus and had no scholarly training in church history or the

²¹ Ali, 286.

authenticity of Scripture and the doctrines taught by the church, his claims must be rejected and the Bible must speak for itself.

Here are some Bible verses that answer the charges of Islam against its beliefs:

(1) Jesus was a Jew and the Son of God:

Matthew 1:1, "A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham"

Luke 22:70, "They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied, "You are right in saying I am."

(2) The True Disciples Worshipped Jesus and Kept His Teachings Alive:

John 20:27-29, "27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Luke 1:1-4, "1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. 3 Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."

(3) Church History Was Preserved Through the Apostles:

1 Thessalonians 2:13, "And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe."

2 Peter 1:15-17, "15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. 16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honor

and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

(4) Both the Old and New Testament (66 Books) are Preserved.²²

2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness"

2 Peter 1:19-21, "19 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

Review:

1. Did Jesus preserve His church or did He fail? Explain your answer either way.
2. What are some differences between the first Christians and Islam?
3. Pray and ask God to show you what the first Christian were like.

²² Komoszewski, Sawyer, & Wallace, 53-121. This section does not have space to show all the convincing proof of the authenticity of the Bible and its divine preservation through the multitude of manuscripts shown through the science of textual criticism, therefore I suggest the reader to study the subject in this book.

Chapter 4

The History of Mohamed and the Islamic Religion

Sura 48:29, "Muhammad is the apostle of Allah, and those who are with him are strong against Unbelievers, (but) compassionate amongst each other."

Galatians 1:8, "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!"

Now that we have covered the history of Judaism and Christianity we have now set the stage for the history of Mohamed and the Islamic religion. Mohamed was born around 570 A.D., over five hundred years after Jesus, in the city of Mecca in land of Arabia. The people of Mecca were Arabs, descendants of Ishmael that settled in the land of Arabia, which is now called Saudi Arabia.

Mohamed claimed to have had his first vision when he was forty years old in the year 610 A.D while he was mediating in a cave on the Meccan mountainside. He said that while he was in the cave a "mysterious, personal presence" came to him and announced, "O Muhammad, you are the messenger of God." At first he thought this was an evil spirit known to the Arabian people as a "jinn", so ran away from the cave terrified. He was so terrified that when he went home to his wife he was shaking uncontrollably and asked her to cover him with blankets until the terror left him.

Mohamed then went back to the same cave and the presence came to him again and this time he was so terrified that he wanted to throw himself off of a high cliff, but then the presence came and announced himself to him as the angel Gabriel.

Later according to Mohamed Gabriel appeared to him again while he was sleeping and revealed to him to the first verse of the Qur'an written on a silk bed sheet. The spirit began to choke him with the sheet and commanded him to recite what was written on it, when Mohamed responded out of fear that he was unable to recite it, the spirit pressed harder upon his

neck and choked him even more and yelled, "Recite!" Again Mohamed said he could not recite it and the spirit pressed down so hard that Mohamed was near death and commanded him to recite the verse. Mohamed trying to save his own life cried out, "What shall I recite?" and the spirit gave him these words to recite, "In the Name of thy Lord who created Man of a blood-clot. And thy Lord is the Most Generous, who taught the Pen, taught man that he knew not." (Sura 96:1-5).²³

Though Mohamed still had doubts in his visions and encounters with the spirit calling itself Gabriel, his wife Khadija and his "Christian" cousin Waraqah helped confirm and convince him that these visions were from God and were similar to those given to Moses and other prophets. After a time of dark depression for about three years Mohamed began to consider suicide and lost all hope in God, but then as he was ready to give up and die he began to have more visions. He then began to recite these messages from the spirit to others who then would later write them down, these recitation were later called the "Qur'an", which means "recitation" in Arabic.

Mohamed called his new faith "Islam", which means "submission", and called those who followed him, "Muslims", which means, "one who submits". Mohamed then began to preach his new message from the spirit to his friends and family. The first real followers of Islam were his wife Khadija, his cousin Ali, his adopted son Zaid, and his lifelong faithful companion Abu Bakr. Mohamed's new message to the people of Mecca was simple; he taught the belief in one God named Allah, the belief in judgment, and the practicing of good deeds to the poor.

Because most of the people in Mecca were pagans that worshipped many different gods in the forms of idols and stones, he began to face opposition as he claimed to have a new faith in only one god. Mohamed also began to warn the people of Allah's judgment upon them because of their evil behavior. But the people of Mecca would not listen to him. Soon Mohamed began to try to appease the pagans of Mecca

²³ Denny, 48-49.

by preaching that their local gods had some good (Sura 53:19-23), but still the people would not listen to his new beliefs.²⁴

Mohamed then was given an invitation by some Madinans to move to Medina and teach his new faith there to the people. Medina was a city located 200 miles north of Mecca and was a city with great agriculture and was heavily influenced by the monotheistic Jews in the area. The people there were suffering from tribal conflicts and needed social order. Mohamed began to turn his focus more on social structure and military power at this time. He soon began to lead raids against the caravans of traders from Mecca and thus gained new power and respect from the struggling people of Medina and new financial power from the raids. These new raids were said to be ordained by Allah because the Meccans had resisted the truth about Allah and were defiant towards Mohamed his prophet (Sura 22:39-40, 2:216-217,244)

Soon these raids led to a battle with the Meccan army called the Battle of Badr. At the Battle of Badr Mohamed and his experienced 300 fighting men defeated a Meccan army three times their size. After this battle Mohamed began to grow very popular in the eyes of the other Arab tribes and as his military strength grew very powerful and well as his new religion. To his followers Mohamed was both a prophet and a general.

Eventually Mohamed and his powerful army inspired by their prophet's divine guidance went back to Mecca and conquered the great Arab city and made it the capitol of Islam both militarily and religiously with Mohamed as there supreme ruler. After the conquest of Mecca Mohamed controlled most of Arabia and he became one of the largest military forces of the Middle East.²⁵

Mohamed soon made Mecca and its pagan sanctuary Ka'ba the center of the world. The Ka'ba, which was a sanctuary

²⁴ Norman Geisler & Abdul Saleeb, *Answering Islam*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002), 74-75. Some Muslims today call these verses the "Satanic verses" and believe that Mohamed was influenced by Satan to say those things about the gods and then made changes to the Sura. Other do not believe it ever happened, however, Rahman, a contemporary Muslim scholar, believes the story to be true about the "Satanic verses".

²⁵ Geisler & Saleeb, 80-81.

used to house 360 pagan gods, one for each day of the Arabic year, was later revealed to Mohamed as the place where Abraham had made a temple to God on behalf of Hagar. Mohamed cleansed the temple of its gods, all except for the black stone believed to have come from god, and made every Muslim bow down and pray towards it five times a day.

As Mohamed ruled the land his recitations were made the “Law of Allah”. This type of religious dictatorship through Islam would later be called “Sharia Law”, which means, “the path of life”. Because of the two different cities Muslims lived in and the two different responses Islam faced in its conception Mohamed’s revealed recitations in the Qur’an have been seen in two different categories.

First, the Meccan suras that deal primary with Allah speaking to Mohamed about Islam as a religion that has come to fulfill the lost faith of Abraham in which the Jew and the Christian have lost. These were given to Mohamed in the first thirteen years of his prophethood. The pagan worshippers of Mecca people did not receive these verses very well.

Second, are the Medinan suras that deal primary with Islam as a dominant military force. These were the suras that Mohamed received when he was a general and was dominating the tribes in Arabia and taking over their land. These suras deal harshly with unbelievers and are what made Islam a strong military force in the land. Though the chapters and verses in the Qur’an are not any chronological order, most scholars are able to discern by the tone and style of each verse whether it was written in Mecca or Medina.²⁶ Both of these periods of revelations made the Qur’an useful in both “religion and political” order, this is known to Muslims as “din wa dawla”.

When Mohamed died in 632 A.D. he was the primary ruler of the Arabian Peninsula. Most of all Arab people were followers and strong believers in his revelations and were ready to carry Islam to the rest of the world. However, after Mohamed’s death there came division on choosing the next leader. Because Mohamed had not chosen a leader there were two

²⁶ Ibid, 96-97.

main groups with two different opinions on who should lead the great religion and political power. The first group, who were the majority and Mohamed's most loyal and faithful followers, believed that Abu Bakr should take Mohamed's place because he had been with him from the very beginning. The second group, which was lesser and primarily the Medinan followers, believed that Ali, one of Mohamed's relatives should be next in line to rule.

The majority of Muslims followed Abu Bakr as their leader. Abu is known as Islam's first caliphate, which means "ruler or head of state". The majority of Muslims who followed Abu became known as the Sunnis, which gets its name from the word "sunna", which means "trodden path" and concerning Mohamed it means "the trodden path of the prophet".

The lesser group of Muslims who believed that a blood relative should always rule Islam became known as the Shiites, "shii" means "follower". The Shiites believe in the caliphate being a "Imamah", an appointed leader from Mohamed's family that possess divine guidance and power. Their first ruler was Ali, who was Mohamed's cousin, and his closet four companions who were called the "Four Companions". Therefore, the Shiites did not follow the first three caliphs of the Sunnis, but rather stayed faithful to Ali and upheld the belief in Imamah.

Within the first thirty years after Mohamed's death, Ali the Imam of the Shiites was at war with Mu'awiya the caliphate of the Sunnis. Though Ali, Mohamed's suffered the most, and Sunni because the dominant group of Islam, both groups were able to grow in their own land.

The Sunnis under the rule of Mu'awiya and his family dynasty called the Umayyads established Islam as a world religion. By 732, only a hundred after Mohamed's death, Islam ruled most of the Middle East in such places as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Palestine, Turkey, Iraq, and Iran. Also Islam was stretching into other parts of the world such as India, Africa, and Europe. And Islam with its navies even had control over much the Mediterranean Sea and its coasts.²⁷

²⁷ Denny, 80-93.

During this time of military conquest the caliphs of the Sunnis and the Imams of the Shiites continued in the tradition of the Hadith. Many leaders wrote commentaries of the Qur'an and their beliefs on how Islam should be ruled. The Hadith served as the backbone for the ruling body in all areas of life in the countries in which Muslims ruled. As Islam continued to grow it also faced many trials from within as different sects would break away and teach different ideas of Islam.²⁸ These different sects led to many internal war and conflicts. Yet, Islam continued to grow and dominate through war and religious intolerance.

How Islam Views Its History

Islam views its history as being a divine act of God. The Qur'an is full of verses that teach its truth not only for the Arab people but also for the whole world. Islam believes that it is the only right religion in God's eyes and that all other religions need to follow the last and greatest prophet Mohamed. The Muslims believe in Jihad as a struggle or war against evil and it can be used by God to bring about God both in the promotion of Islam around the world and in its control of governments and world domination.

Though Mohamed had many wives, was a military general, and believed it was okay to have slaves and oppress Jews and Christians, he was able to convince people that he was the last and greatest prophet of God upon the earth. And even though Mohamed came over five hundred years after Jesus he taught that his teachings in the Qur'an about Jesus should be followed above the Bible.

Here are some verses in the Qur'an that teach wholehearted love of Islam on various subjects:

[1] Mohamed was a Great Prophet

Sura 47:2, "Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but [he is] the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets: and Allah has full knowledge of all things."

²⁸ For example during the first one hundred years there were Kharijites who broke off and were on their own. Plus, the Sufis, who were mystics, also arose and were neither Sunni nor Shiite.

Sura 48:29, "Muhammad is the apostle of Allah. and those who are with him are strong against Unbelievers, (but) compassionate amongst each other."²⁹

(2) It was Gabriel that Visited Mohamed

Sura 2:97, "Say: Whoever is an enemy to Gabriel-for he brings down the (revelation) to thy heart by Allah's will, a confirmation of what went before, and guidance and glad tidings for those who believe"

(3) The Qur'an Is Above All Other Scripture

Sura 17:88, "Say: "If the whole of mankind and Jinns were to gather together to produce the like of this Qur'an, they could not produce the like thereof, even if they backed up each other with help and support."

Sura 27:26, "Verily this Qur'an doth explain to the Children of Israel most of the matters in which they disagree."

(4) Islam Is Superior To All Religions

Sura 2:208, "O ye who believe! Enter into Islam wholeheartedly; and follow not the footsteps of the evil one; for he is to you an avowed enemy."

Sura 3:85, "If anyone desires a religion other than Islam (submission to Allah., never will it be accepted of him; and in the Hereafter He will be in the ranks of those who have lost (All spiritual good)."

(5) The Ka'ba is a Spiritual Place of Worship

Sura 5:97, "Allah made the Ka'ba, the Sacred House, an asylum of security for men, as also the Sacred Months, the animals for offerings, and the garlands that mark them: That ye may know that Allah hath knowledge of what is in the heavens and on earth and that Allah is well acquainted with all things."

A Christian Response to Islam's View of Islamic History

Christianity views the history of Islam as deceptive, violent, and demonic. First, Islam is deceptive in history because

²⁹ Though there are no verses that specifically say, "Mohamed is a prophet", verses like these show that he acted and was seen as a prophet. Also, the term "apostle" in the Qur'an often means the same as the word "prophet".

Mohamed came over five hundred years after Jesus and even though he could not read the Bible he claimed to be the only one to properly understand it. Mohamed declared Jesus (who was believed to be God in the flesh) was only a prophet, he reinterpreted everything in the Bible (from the Old Testament to the New Testament) to fit his new revelatory beliefs, and he made himself to be a prophet that could give new divine commands as God.

Second, Islam's history from the very beginning was engrossed in violence. Since the time of the Medinan raids on the Meccans Islam has not stopped fighting the outside world they believe are infidels and they has not stopped fighting internally between its own sects where each one believes they are they only one who is right and the other side does not have the right to live.

And thirdly, Islam in history is demonic because even Mohamed himself believed the spirit that brought him the message was an evil spirit that tried to kill him. Therefore, since God does not bring revelation that way, it was a demon that led him astray and has brought the death and damnation of untold millions of lives.

Please read the following verses that support the above Christian views:

[1] Islam Is Deceptive:

Galatians 1:1-3, " 6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!"

2 John 1:7-11, " 7 Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.

9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. 11 Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.

1 Timothy 6:3-4, “3 If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions”

(2) Islam Is Violent:³⁰

Matthew 5:43-46, “43 You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. 44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! 45 In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. 46 If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.”

John 18:36, “Jesus said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.’”

(3) Islam Is Demonic³¹:

1 Samuel 16:4, “Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.”

1 Timothy 4:1, “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.”

³⁰ Ibn Warraq, *Why I am Not A Muslim*, (Amherst, New York, 1995), 242-244. See the history of the Umayyads (661-75) and the Abbasids (749-1258) in Islam's history for examples of dictatorship and godless in conquest.

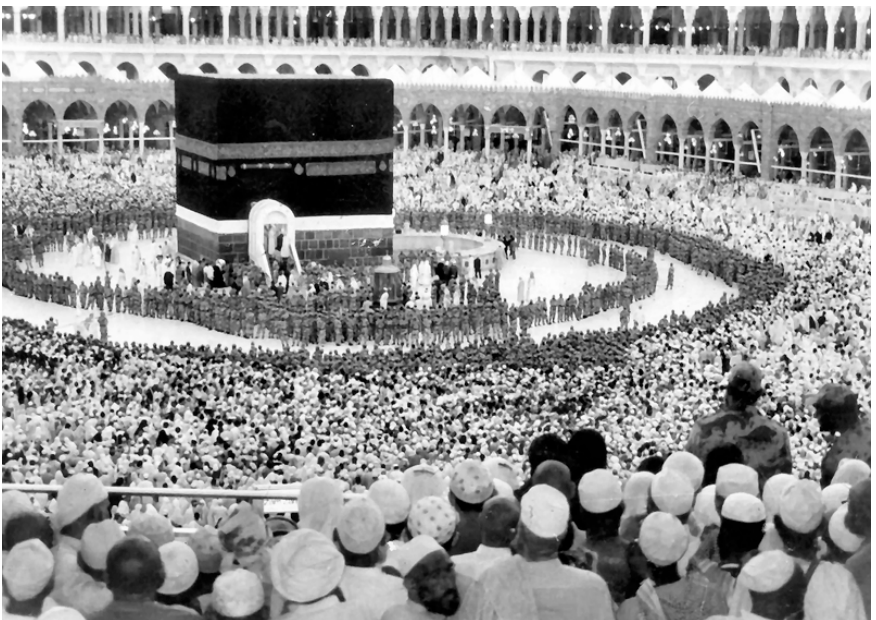
³¹ Geisler & Saleeb, 72-73. Read Ibn Ishaq's [A Muslim historian who lived in the 700's] biography about the encounters Mohamed had with the spirit that visited him and how it terrified him and almost led him to suicide.

Review:

1. Explain the differences between how the Bible and the Quran view Islam.
2. Explain how Islam changed the original Gospel as taught by Paul.
3. How can Islam be considered deceptive, violent, and demonic?

Section II: The Islamic Religion

This second section teaches the six beliefs, five pillars, and customs of Islam.



Chapter 5

The Six Beliefs of Islam

Sura 3:85, "If anyone desires a religion other than Islam (submission to Allah, never will it be accepted of him; and in the Hereafter He will be in the ranks of those who have lost [All spiritual good]."

Colossians 2:1-2, "20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: 21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? 22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence."

The religious beliefs and practices of Islam are based on the Qur'an and the commentaries Mohamed made about the Qur'an, which are called the "Hadith", which means "narratives". Both the Qur'an and the Hadith make what is called the "sunnah", which means, "the trodden path of the Prophet". After Mohamed's death the followers of Islam developed the six main beliefs of Islam and the five important pillars that make a person a Muslim.

The six fundamental beliefs of Islam guide how every Muslim views Allah, the world, and the after life. All major sects of Islam share these beliefs and consider them to be essential to be a good Muslim.

Here are the six major beliefs of Islam called the "Aqida", which means "creed":

1. **Belief in One God** (*Allah*), the one and only one worthy of all worship (*tawhid*).
2. **Belief in all the Prophets** (*nabi*) and Messengers (*rusul*) sent by God
3. **Belief in the Angels** (*mala'ika*).
4. **Belief in the Books** (*kutub*) sent by God (The *Suhuf Ibrahim* - "Scrolls of Abraham", the *Tawrat* - "Torah", the *Zabur* - "Psalms", the *Injil* - the "Gospel", and the *Qur'an*.)
5. **Belief in the Day of Judgment** (*qiyama*) and in the Resurrection (life after death).
6. **Belief in Destiny** (Fate) (*qadar*).

(1) Belief in One God Allah

Islam holds to a traditional Judaic view of God being the only one supreme sovereign Creator worthy of worship (tawhid). The Arabic word for God is "Allah", which means, "the divinity". Before Mohamed the pagan people of Mecca, called the "Ka'ba cult", believed that Allah was the supreme God over all the lesser gods. The Ka'ba cult worshipped many different gods in the Ka'ba sanctuary and called Allah the "high god over all other gods".³²

After Mohamed's visions he adopted the pagan Arabian name for god, Allah, and declared him to be the same God of Abraham and Jesus. After Mohamed borrowed the pagan name for god (Allah), he then declared that Allah was the one and only supreme divine being and that all the other gods found in the Ka'ba sanctuary were just detestable idols. Therefore when Mohamed conquered Mecca he cleansed the Ka'ba of all its 360 idols and made Ka'ba the holiest site for Muslims and the direction all Muslims should pray to Allah.

The Qur'an describes Allah with 99 names that are said to encompass the true, prefect and exalted nature of the Creator.³³ Here are just some of the 99 names to describe Allah:

"The Compassionate, The Merciful, The King, The Holy, The Source of Peace, Guardian of Faith, The Protector, The Mighty, The Compeller, The Majestic, The Creator, The Evolver, The Forgiver, The Subduer, The Bestower, The All-knowing, The Opener, The Withholder, The Expander, The Abaser, The Honorer, The Humiliator, The All-Hearing..."

Here are the main Suras that describe the greatness of Allah and his many names:

Sura 17:110, "Say: "Call upon Allah, or call upon Rahman: by whatever name ye call upon Him, (it is well): for to Him belong the Most Beautiful Names. Neither speak thy Prayer aloud, nor speak it in a low tone, but seek a middle course between."

³² Denny, 38.

³³ Geisler & Saleeb, 24-27. List of all 99 names.

Sura 7:180, "The most beautiful names belong to Allah, so call on him by them; but shun such men as use profanity in his names: for what they do, they will soon be requited."

Sura 59:22-24, "Allah is He, than Whom there is no other god;- Who knows [all things] both secret and open; He, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. 23 Allah is He, than Whom there is no other god;- the Sovereign, the Holy One, the Source of Peace [and Perfection], the Guardian of Faith, the Preserver of Safety, the Exalted in Might, the Irresistible, the Supreme: Glory to Allah. [High is He] above the partners they attribute to Him. 24 He is Allah, the Creator, the Evolver, the Bestower of Forms [or Colours]. To Him belong the Most Beautiful Names: whatever is in the heavens and on earth, doth declare His Praises and Glory: and He is the Exalted in Might, the Wise."

Allah is seen in the Qur'an as being transcendent and distant in regards to his creation, merciful and kind to those who serve him in total submission as a slave, controlling and dominating over every person's actions and deeds, and the punisher and repayer of hell fire to all disbelievers. Allah is seen best in Sura 3:31, "If ye do love Allah, Follow me: Allah will love you and forgive you your sins: For Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful." Allah is seen to really only love those who love him first.

(2) Belief in Prophets and Messengers

Islam believes that Allah can speak his message through messengers (rusul) called prophets (nabi). Islam believes that God has sent these prophets all throughout human history to be used to teach people Allah's commands. As we have discussed in the previous section on the history of Islam, twenty-two out of the twenty-seven prophets of Islam are found in the Bible. However, since the time of Mohamed, Islam teaches that these prophets were Muslims, not Jews or Christians as the Bible had taught previously for hundreds of years.

Here is the full list of all of Islam's twenty-seven prophets:

1. Adam
2. Enoch
3. Noah
4. Eber
5. Shaloh
6. Abraham
7. Lot
8. Ishmael
9. Isaac
10. Jacob
11. Joseph
12. Job
13. Jethro
14. Moses
15. Aaron
16. Ezekiel
17. David
- 18.

Solomon 19. Elijah 20. Elisha 21. Jonah 22. Zechariah 23.
John the Baptist 24. Jesus 25. Muhammad

Since the Qur'an is not a narrative book like the Bible the Qur'an relies heavily upon the Bible for the stories and history of each of the prophets found in the Bible. These prophets are seen in the Qur'an as all being equal and all being Muslim. Even though Mohamed and religion of Islam did not originate until the seventh century, according to the Qur'an all the prophets including Abraham and Jesus were Muslim.

Here are some Suras that teach the importance of Prophets, also known as "Apostles" as it pertains to Islam.

Sura 2:136, "Say ye: "We believe in Allah, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to (all) prophets from their Lord: We make no difference between one and another of them: And we bow to Allah (in Islam)."

Sura 4:163, "We have sent thee inspiration, as We sent it to Noah and the Messengers after him: we sent inspiration to Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob and the Tribes, to Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron, and Solomon, and to David We gave the Psalms."

Even though Muslims consider all the prophets to be equal, they still cherish Mohamed, the last prophet of Islam, in a very special and different way. First, Muslims will never say Mohamed's name without saying afterwards, "Peace Be Upon Him". Second, Mohamed's writings in the Qur'an and the Hadith are believed to be more well preserved and better for the practice of true Islam verses all the other prophet's writings found in the Bible. And lastly, Muslims believe that Mohamed is the ideal Muslim and is to be followed more closely in his way of life more than all the other prophets. Therefore, Islam resembles more of a religion of one prophet than of many.

(3) Belief in Angels

Islam believes in good and bad angels (mala'ika). Muslims teach that angels are neither male nor female and they have been made from light. Muslims believe Allah sends the good angels as messengers and helpers of Muslims. The two most

important good angels of Allah that are mentioned in the Qur'an are Gabriel and Michael. Satan (Iblis), the leader of bad angels, was supposedly an angel that rebelled against Allah and was cast out of heaven because he refused to bow down to Adam (Qur'an 7:11-18). He has many fallen angels that work with him to do evil in the world, Harut and Marut, are two fallen angels mentioned in the Qur'an (Sura 2:102).

The Qur'an also talks about angels created from fire called jinn (singular is jinni). These jinn are believed to have the ability to possess poets and give them a special awareness and power of speech. The jinn are believed to be either created male or female and have a limited life span. Also, these jinn have the ability to be bad or good. The Qur'an even speaks of some of the jinn converting to Islam (Sura 72:1-19).

The belief of angels in Islam is very important for many reasons. First, because Islam believes that Gabriel was the angel who came to Mohamed and tried to kill him and give him the Qur'an. Second, because Muslims believe that every person has a good angel and bad angel that record their bad and good deeds to be revealed on the Day of Judgment. And lastly, because Islam still believes that angels and jinni are messengers that can interact with mankind for the bad or good Allah's will.³⁴

(4) Belief in Books

Islam believes that Allah has spoken through messengers in times past and commanded them to write down their revelations from Allah. These recorded messages from the prophets are considered holy and perfect for the teaching of true Islam. All true Muslims must believe and recite the teachings of these prophets.

Muslims believes in five main books [kutub] sent by Allah: (1) The Scrolls of Abraham "Suhuf Ibrahim" (2) The Torah "Tawrat" (3) The Psalms "Zabur" (4) The Gospel "Injil" (5) The Qur'an. Each of these five holy books are considered sacred, however, Muslims only believe the Qur'an is perfect in content

³⁴ Denny, 98.

and preservation.³⁵ Here is a brief description of each of the books.

First, the “Scrolls of Abraham” are unknown to Muslims except for the reference found in the Qur’an 87:18-19; 53:36-37. Therefore, they do not serve any real purpose or meaning in the religious beliefs of Muslims. Second, the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament given to Moses, is considered by Muslims to have been corrupted and lost by the Jews. However, wherever these books agree with the Qur’an they are useful to Muslim, but wherever the Torah disagrees with the Qur’an the Qur’an is always superior. Though there is no unified consensus to what portions of the Torah are still considered inspired to the Muslim, the Qur’an does teach that the book of Moses is to be used as a guide,

Sura 46:12, “And before this, was the book of Moses as a guide and a mercy: And this book confirms [it] in the Arabic tongue; to admonish the unjust, and as Glad Tidings to those who do right.”

Third, the Psalms of David are also useful to the Muslim as long as they agree with the Qur’an. Muslims believe David was both the king of Israel and a Islamic Prophet who wrote most of what is called the Book of Psalms. The Qur’an teaches that these Psalms (songs) should be recited in prayer.³⁶ However, as with the Torah, there is no unified theory to what Psalms are still useful for the Muslim. But Mohamed in the Qur’an does state that he believed the Psalms of David were sent from God.

Sura 17:55, “And it is your Lord that knoweth best all beings that are in the heavens and on earth: We did bestow on some prophets more (and other) gifts than on others: and We gave to David [the gift of] the Psalms.”

Forth, is the Gospel given to Jesus. As with the Torah and the Psalms, the Gospel is believed to have been corrupted and can be only accepted as divine if it agrees with the Qur’an. Though the Muslim does not have any real set standard to judge the Gospel of Jesus as seen in Matthew, Mark, Luke,

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Abu Huraira, *Hadith*, Volume 6, Book 60, Number 237. “The Prophet said, “The recitation of Psalms (David's Quran) was made light and easy for David that he used to have his ridding animal be saddled while he would finish the recitation before the servant had saddled it.”

and John, other than by the Qur'an which is over five hundred years older, they still choose to reject much of what it says today. Some Muslims believe that the Gospel of Jesus is not so much a book like those found in the New Testament but rather the overall message of Jesus as seen in all the writings about Jesus, both in the pseudo Gospels of Thomas, Judas, and Barnabas and the canonical Gospels.³⁷

Therefore, whatever agrees with the Qur'an is useful but whatever differs with message of Mohamed is considered to be corrupted because the Qur'an is believed to be the final and most authoritative word of Allah. And yet the Qur'an says the following about the Gospel of Jesus,

Sura 5:47, "Let the people of the Gospel judge by what Allah hath revealed therein. If any do fail to judge by [the light of] what Allah hath revealed, they are [no better than] those who rebel."

Lastly is the Qur'an, which is believed by Muslims to be the last and greatest words of Allah given to the Prophet Mohamed. The Qur'an, which means "recitations", was given to Mohamed by way of revelation and angelic visitations over the period of twenty-three years. The Qur'an, written in Arabic, has 114 chapters, which are called "suras", and 6236 verses that are called "ayat".

The suras also are accompanied by different titles which are words found within the sura. For example in the Qur'an Sura 1 is called the "The Opening", Sura 2 is called, "The Cow", and each of the 114 suras has a title accompanying the number. The suras are classed as either Meccan or Medinan depending on where they were written. Though the chapters are not any chronological order, the longer suras tend to be in the beginning and the shorter chapters are towards the end.

Muslims believe the Qur'an is superior to all other books because of its scientific claims, its literally style, its prophecy, its ability to change lives, and its flawless preservation. The Muslims calls these claims "proofs" for the Qur'an's divine inspiration.³⁸ Therefore, the Qur'an is full of verses that claim

³⁷ Geisler & Saleeb, 303-307.

³⁸ Ibid., 183-190.

its divine supremacy over all books. Here are some verses that states the Qur'an's view of its nature:

Sura 10:37-38, "37 This Qur'an is not such as can be produced by other than Allah. on the contrary it is a confirmation of [revelations] that went before it, and a fuller explanation of the Book - wherein there is no doubt - from the Lord of the worlds. 37 Or do they say, "He forged it"? say: "Bring then a Sura like unto it, and call [to your aid] anyone you can besides Allah, if it be ye speak the truth!"

Sura 4:82, "Do they not consider the Qur'an [with care]? Had it been from other Than Allah, they would surely have found therein Much discrepancy."

(5) Belief in Judgment

Islam believes that one day Allah will resurrect the dead and judge the whole world. On this Day of Judgment, Allah will judge each person according to the life they lived. Each person will come before Allah and have their life weighed in Allah's scales of justice. Each person's bad and good angels will place all their actions, deeds, and thoughts on the scales, and if the bad out weighs the good, Allah will punish them in hell fire for eternity, but if their good out weighs the bad they will be granted eternity in paradise, which is known as the "Garden of Allah".

Sura 21:47, "We shall set up scales of justice for the Day of Judgment, so that not a soul will be dealt with unjustly in the least, and if there be [no more than] the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it [to account]: and enough are We to take account."

Muslims do not necessarily believe only Muslims will go to paradise, but rather whoever has more good deeds than bad deeds will be allowed to come (Sura 2:62, 111). However, if people commit such sins as "shirk", which means to be an idolater or a polytheist, they will automatically be punished and sentenced to hell (Sura 90:19-20). And at the same time if someone has died in the cause of Jihad, which is "holy war or struggle against evil", as a martyr they are automatically given entrance into paradise.³⁹

³⁹ Abu Huraira, *Hadith*, Volume 1, Book 2, Number 35. "The Prophet said, "The person who participates in [Holy battles] in Allah's cause and nothing compels him to do so except belief in

Here are some of the descriptions found in the Qur'an of paradise and hell:

Paradise:

1. It is an eternal Garden of Bliss (Sura 57:21)
2. Place of extreme joy and happiness (Sura 75:22-23)
3. Virgin servants are given as rewards and sex slaves (Sura 56:17-24)
4. Wives are given as a rewards for companions (Sura 78:31-34)
5. One can eat whatever they desire (Sura 52:22-23)
6. Wine is drank without sinning or getting hung over (Sura 56:17-19)

Hell:

1. An eternal fiery pit with gates (Sura 3:131, 39:71, 101:8-11)
2. There are different classes of hell (Sura 15:43-44)
3. People, jinn, and idols made of stone are the fuel for hell's fire (Sura 3:10, 72:14-15, 21:98-99)
4. Hell has gate keepers that are fallen angels (Sura 22:19-20, 66:6)
5. Faces and skin are burned and boiled (Sura 14:49-50)
6. Great regret and sorrow (Sura 67:6-11, 35:37)

(6) Belief in Destiny

Islam teaches that Allah has pre-planned everyone's life and controls every detail of what they do and think, this is called "qadar", which means, "divine destiny". According to the Islamic belief there is no such thing as free will, therefore man never has a choice; everything he does is controlled and determined by Allah. In the Hadith a Muslim scholar says it best this way,

*"When God resolved to create the human race, he took into his hand a mass of earth, the same whence all mankind was formed, and in which they after a manner pre-existed, and having divided the clod into two equal portions, He threw one half into hell, saying, "These to eternal fire, and I care not," and projected the other half into heaven, adding, "And these to Paradise, I care not."*⁴⁰

Allah and His Apostles, will be recompensed by Allah either with a reward, or booty (if he survives) or will be admitted to Paradise (if he is killed in the battle as a martyr)."

⁴⁰ Mateen Elas, *Understanding the Koran* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004), 88.

Muslims believe that whatever Allah has decreed will happen and there is nothing anyone can do to prevent it from happening. Therefore, when Muslims talk about the future they say, "Insha'Allah", which means, "If God wills it". This causes the Muslim to see everything whether good or bad as the will of Allah.

Muslims are taught to be obedient and to serve Allah with all their might, but they also are always taught that they really have no control of the outcome of their behavior, all things are willed by Allah and for Allah. Therefore, the Qur'an teaches the Muslim to view life as always being controlled by Allah as seen in this verse, "Now Allah leaves straying those whom He pleases and guides whom He pleases: and He is Exalted in power, full of Wisdom" [Sura 14:4].

Review:

1. Explain the six beliefs of Islam.
2. How does Islam view the Bible, Psalms, and the Gospel of Jesus?
3. Does Islam teach a person can know whether or not they will go to paradise or hell at judgment? Explain your answer.

Chapter 6

The Five Pillars of Islam

Sura 2:208, "O ye who believe! Enter into Islam whole-heartedly; and follow not the footsteps of the evil one; for he is to you an avowed enemy."

Galatians 4:8-9, "8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. 9 But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles?"

The five Pillars of Islam are the basic duties that every Muslim must perform to be a good Muslim. The Pillars are the religious acts of worship that make a Muslim righteous before Allah. Islam teaches that all people must perform these Pillars as acts of worship to be given the chance to inherit eternal life.

The five Pillars of Islam are as follows:

1. **Shahadah** - Profession of faith, "There is no true God except Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."
2. **Salat** - Prayers, five times a days facing Mecca and the Friday prayer, "Jum'ah"
3. **Zakah** - Paying of alms (giving to the poor)
4. **Sawm** - Fasting during Ramadan
5. **Hajj** - Pilgrimage to Mecca
6. **Jihad**: Struggle of Holy War (some Muslims consider this the sixth pillar)⁴¹

(1) The Shahadah, "Profession of Faith"

Islam teaches that the Shahadah is the first and greatest act every Muslim must perform. The Shahadah is the Islamic creed and confession of faith. The Shahadah states, "La ilaha illa Allah, Muhammadu Rasul Allah" which is translated into "There is no god but God, Muhammad is the Messenger of God".

⁴¹ Denny, 126.

When a person wishes to convert to Islam they must make this confession outloud and believe it with all their heart. Even though anyone can say the Shahadah at anytime to convert and accept Islam, there must be seven basic conditions that the new convert must fulfill when making the Shahadah. These conditions are done in their heart.

Here are the seven conditions of the Shahadah:

1. **Al-`Ilm**: Knowledge of the meaning of the Shahadah, its negation and affirmation.
2. **Al-Yaqeen**: Certainty, cannot have any doubt.
3. **Al-Ikhlaas**: Sincerity which negates shirk
4. **Al-Sidq**: Truthfulness that permits neither falsehood nor hypocrisy.
5. **Al-Mahabbah**: Love of the Shahadah and its meaning, and being happy with it.
6. **Al-Inqiad**: Submission to its rightful requirements
7. **Al-Qubool**: Acceptance that contradicts rejection.⁴²

When the person makes this confession without any doubt and meets the conditions above they are considered a Muslim. Therefore, the Shahadah is the most important act of worship for the Muslim faith. Even though being a Muslim does not guarantee their place in paradise, because they still will be judged by their deeds, this allows them to begin their good deeds and work towards salvation and pleasing Allah.

(2) Salat, "Prayer"

Islam teaches that Muslims must pray (salat) five times a day facing the Ka'ba in Mecca. The five times of salat are: (1) early morning, "salat al-fajr" (2) noon, "salat al-duhr" (3) mid-afternoon, "salat al-asr" (4) sunset, "salat al-maghrib (5) evening, "salat al-isha". These times of prayer involve the Muslim purifying himself and kneeling on a prayer mat facing Mecca, facing Mecca when praying is called the "qibla". In Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia the call to prayer (adhan) can be heard from the Mosque. And all dedicated

⁴² Jamaal ud-Deen az-Zarabozo, "Conditions of La ilaaha illa Allah", Al-Basheer Magazine, Vol. 7, No. 5 Jan-Feb 1996, <http://www.sunnahonline.com/ilm/aqeedah/0005.htm> [Accessed Oct. 16, 2008].

Muslims are to stop whatever they are doing and begin to pray the set prayers.

The call to prayer goes as follows:

1. Allahu akbar (God is most great"), 4x
2. Ashhadu an la ilaha illaallah ("I testify that there is no god but God"), 2x
3. Ashhadu anna muhammadan rasul allah ("I testify that Mohamed is the messenger of God"), 2x
4. Hayya ala-al-salat ("Hurry to prayer"), 2x
5. Hayya ala al-falah ("Hurry to success), 2x
6. Allahu akbar (God is most great"), 2x
7. La ilaha illaallah ("There is no god but God"), 2x⁴³

Muslims also go to the Mosque to pray for the salat prayers. The Mosque, which means, "collective", is a place where Muslims go to pray and hear the teachings of the Qur'an with other Muslims. In the Mosque there are leaders known as Imams who lead the daily prayers. In the Mosque men and woman pray separately and line up in rows kneeling on the floor.

Friday prayers, which are called, "Salat Al-Jum`ah", are the main day in which Muslims come to pray and hear a message from the Imam. During these times of prayer and worship the Muslim believes he is storing up good deeds for Judgment Day and is pleasing Allah because he is a good slave to his commands. He shows that he is a true Muslim who submits to Allah and accepts his guidance as seen in the verse from the Qur'an.

Sura 2:150, "And from wheresoever you start forth (for prayers), turn your face in the direction of Al-Masjid-al-Haram (at Makkah), and wheresoever you are, turn your faces towards, it (when you pray) so that men may have no argument against you except those of them that are wrong-doers, so fear them not, but fear Me! - And so that I may complete My Blessings on you and that you may be guided."

⁴³ Denny, 110-111.

(3) Zakah, “The Paying of Alms”

The “paying” of alms should not be confused with the “giving” to charity, which is called, “sadaqa”. Even though Muslims are commanded to give freely to the poor and charity as they choose best, however, the zakat is considered a duty that all Muslim must pay. The paying of alms is likened unto a tax that all Muslims must legally pay to Mosque.

The zakat is a certain percentage of the person’s wealth that is owed to the Mosque. Each Mosque and sect of Islam has its own way of determining the exact amount owed by each person. For example, one group could consider the following to be owed, to pay 1/40th (2.5%) of the wealth which they have had for a full lunar year, 2.5% of goods used for trade, and 5% or 10% of certain type of harvests depending on irrigation. The zakat requires that all “cash, cattle, and crops” be taxed. Though the amount is different for each person because it is determined by each person’s own belongings, the average Muslim is required to give around 5-15% of their total income.

The zakat is not thought of as a favor or a gift, but rather the duty of all Muslims. The reason is because the zakat supports the Mosque and the needs of the Muslim people in the community. Therefore, the paying of zakat is considered an act of worship because one does it as obedience to Allah’s commands.

Sura 73:20, “...establish regular Prayer and give regular Charity; and loan to Allah a Beautiful Loan. And whatever good ye send forth for your souls ye shall find it in Allah.s Presence,- yea, better and greater, in Reward and seek ye the Grace of Allah. for Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.”

(4) Sawm, “The Fast During Ramadan”

Sawm is the fast during the month of Ramadan every year. Ramadan, which means, “scorched”, is the ninth month in the Arabic calendar. In the western calendar it is the month of September. Most people do not understand how a festival can be celebrated during a religious fast, but the reason is because Muslims only fast from sunrise to sunset, and though

during this time they do not even drink water, when the sun goes down they begin to feast and enjoy many of their favorite foods with family and fellow Muslims.

During this time of prayer and fasting Muslims believe they are being cleansed from all their sins and the evil things they have done throughout the year. Also, they believe that it is the best time to talk to Allah because he more apt to listen to their prayers during this month. The last ten days of Ramadan are considered to be the most important spiritual days in the month because the heavens are said to be open. The greatest of these ten days is called "Laylat al-Qadr" which means, "Night of Power". This is the time Muslims believe Mohamed was given the verses of the Qur'an. They also believe that this is time in which Allah seals their fate for the year, so they pray for his mercy.

Sura 97:1-5, ""Verily! We have sent it [this Qur'aan] down in the Night of Decree [Lailatul-Qadr]. And what will make you know what the Night of Decree is? The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. Therein descend the angels and the Rookh [ie. Jibreel [Gabriel]] by Allaah's Permission with all Decrees, Peace! until the appearance of dawn."

(5) Hajj, "The Trip to Mecca"

The "hajj" is a week long festival in the twelve month of the year (December) where the Muslim joins other pilgrims from around the world and travels to the Ka'ba and performs all the religious rites taught by Islam in the city of Mecca. This journey to Mecca and the Ka'ba is called the "hajj", which means, "pilgrimage". Since Islam believes that Mecca is the literal center of the world and that the Ka'ba sanctuary is the holiest site in the world, all Muslims are required to visit Mecca during this festival at least one time in their lifetime.

The Muslim believes the Ka'ba is an important and holy place for many reasons. First, Muslims believe that the place where the Ka'ba cult built a sanctuary is where Abraham built an altar to make a sacrifice for Hagar the mother of Ishmael. Second, they believe that the "Black Stone" that the Ka'ba cult used to worship along with 360 other idols in the Ka'ba is a meteorite sent from Allah as a sign during the time of Adam

and Eve. And lastly, Muslims believe Ka'ba is center of the world and the place in which Muslims should always face while praying.

During the week of hajj the pilgrims perform the following religious practices:

1. Each person walks counter-clockwise seven times about the Kaaba
2. They run back and forth between the hills of Al-Safa and Al-Marwah
3. They drink from the Zamzam Well
4. They go to the plains of Mount Arafat to stand in vigil
5. They throw stones in a ritual Stoning of the Devil
6. The pilgrims then shave their heads, perform an animal sacrifice, and celebrate the four day global festival of Eid al-Adha

Sura 2:197, "The hajj (pilgrimage) is (in) the well-known (lunar year) months (i.e. the 10th month, the 11th month and the first ten days of the 12th month of the Islamic calendar, i.e. two months and ten days). So whosoever intends to perform hajj therein by assuming Ihram), then he should not have sexual relations (with his wife), nor commit sin, nor dispute unjustly during the hajj. And whatever good you do, (be sure) Allah knows it. And take a provision (with you) for the journey, but the best provision is At-Taqwa (piety, righteousness, etc.). So fear Me, O men of understanding!"

(6) Jihad, "The Struggle Against Evil"

Jihad, sometimes considered by Muslim scholars to be the sixth pillar, is the "the struggle or fight for Allah". Today some moderate/liberal Muslims who are less historically accurate try to make claims that jihad mostly means to fight against temptation or stand against social evils. However, this is not true when one looks directly at the Qur'an, the life of Mohamed, the Hadiths, and the bloody history of Islam.

Middle East historian Bernard Lewis argues that "the overwhelming majority of classical theologians, jurists, and traditionalists [i.e., specialists in the hadith] ... understood the obligation of jihad in a military sense."⁴⁴ Also, Scholar David

⁴⁴ Bernard Lewis, *The Political Language of Islam* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988), p. 72.

Cook writes, "In reading Muslim literature – both contemporary and classical – one can see that the evidence for the primacy of spiritual jihad is negligible. Today it is certain that no Muslim, writing in a non-Western language (such as Arabic, Persian, Urdu), would ever make claims that jihad is primarily nonviolent or has been superseded by the spiritual jihad. Such claims are made solely by Western scholars, primarily those who study Sufism and/or work in interfaith dialogue, and by Muslim apologists who are trying to present Islam in the most innocuous manner possible."⁴⁵ And according to Douglas Streusand, "in hadith collections, jihad means armed action; for example, the 199 references to jihad in the most standard collection of hadith, Sahih al-Bukhari, all assume that jihad means warfare."⁴⁶

However, though Islam undoubtedly believes in a type of holy war by the sword, it does not teach or sanction random violence (Sura 2:190). The Qur'an gives the reasons to fight and how a Muslim can fight when he is commanded to. The two main reasons the Qur'an calls for Jihad is for Muslims to fight against those who oppress and hurt the innocent and to fight against those who reject the Islamic faith after they have been taught it (Sura 2:193, 4:75, 4:76, 9:29).

For the first thirteen years of Islam, known as the Meccan period, the Qur'an does not speak much about jihad, but in the Medina period, the last ten years of Mohamed's life the Qur'an gives an abundance of verses that deal with jihad. Many scholars believe this was because in Mecca Mohamed was a new prophet trying to get along with the Meccan people, but when he was rejected by them and then accepted by the Medinans he became a great military force and saw the benefit of war. And it is the Islam of the Medinan period that brought Islam to a world power.

Today jihad is not readily admitted and praised in countries where Islam is the minority religion and they live among stronger governments. However, in places like Iran and Pakistan where Islam is strong and the non-believers are less powerful, jihad is vividly seen and felt by all. Though many

⁴⁵ David Cook, *Understanding Jihad*, (University of California Press, 2005), p.165-166.

⁴⁶ Muhammad ibn Isma'il Bukhari, *The Translation of the Meaning of Sahih al-Bukhari*, trans. Muhammad Muhsin Khan, 8 vols. (Medina: Dar al-Fikr: 1981), 4:34-204.

Muslims in the west try to dismiss these Jihadists as being extreme and outside of normative peaceful Islam, all one has to do is read the Qur'an and see the example that Mohamed left and it becomes very clear that the Qur'an teaches war as an act of worship to Allah.

Fight Against the Pagans:

Sura 9:5, "But when the forbidden months are past, then fight and slay the Pagans wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem (of war); but if they repent, and establish regular prayers and practice regular charity, then open the way for them: for Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful."

Fight Against the Friends of Satan:

Sura 4:76, "Those who believe fight in the cause of Allah, and those who reject Faith fight in the cause of Evil: So fight ye against the friends of Satan: feeble indeed is the cunning of Satan."

Fight Against all Unbelievers:

Sura 9:29, "Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued."

Sura 9:123, "O ye who believe! Fight the unbelievers who gird you about, and let them find firmness in you: and know that Allah is with those who fear Him."

Review:

1. Explain the five pillars of Islam, including Jihad.
2. Why is fasting during Ramadan so important?
3. Explain from the Quran how Jihad is being used today around the world.

Chapter 7

The Religious Customs of Islam

Sura 4:43, "O ye who believe! Approach not prayers with a mind befogged, until ye can understand all that ye say,- nor in a state of ceremonial impurity (Except when travelling on the road), until after washing your whole body. If ye are ill, or on a journey, or one of you cometh from offices of nature, or ye have been in contact with women, and ye find no water, then take for yourselves clean sand or earth, and rub therewith your faces and hands. For Allah doth blot out sins and forgive again and again.

Matthew 15:7-6, "7 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 8 "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men." 10 Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. 11 What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'"

Islamic purity and religious customs are very important in the day-to-day life of a Muslim. Purity and religious customs effect the Muslim both spiritually and physically. Living pure and keeping the customs in the Muslim world affects how a person dresses, how they get married, how and when they pray, what food they eat, the roles of men and women in society, how they treat the Qur'an, how to speak about the Prophets, and even what hand to eat with. Literally, from the cradle to the grave Islam has laws of purity and religious customs that must be obeyed for Allah to be pleased with the Muslim.

The Qur'an contains many purity laws and customs, but it is the Hadith that contains the most detailed rules of everyday life. Such narratives from past Muslims have been the source of much of what is taught today in Islam. Like the Jews of Jesus' day the Muslim is following the way of men's tradition in hopes to pleasing Allah.

The most daily applied laws of purity in Islam deal with prayer and worship in the Mosque. When a Muslim becomes unclean because of using the bathroom or passing gas he has to be cleansed with cleansing baths before he can pray. These impurities of everyday are called "hadath" and the cleansing is called "wudu", which means "ablutions", this cleansing must happen before prayer and entering the

Mosque, because Allah does not accept the prayer of someone with dirty hands and smelly feet.

Sura 5:6, “O ye who believe! when ye prepare for prayer, wash your faces, and your hands [and arms] to the elbows; Rub your heads [with water]; and [wash] your feet to the ankles. If ye are in a state of ceremonial impurity, bathe your whole body. But if ye are ill, or on a journey, or one of you cometh from offices of nature, or ye have been in contact with women, and ye find no water, then take for yourselves clean sand or earth, and rub therewith your faces and hands, Allah doth not wish to place you in a difficulty, but to make you clean, and to complete his favour to you, that ye may be grateful.”

Here is a list of the many purity laws and religious customs of Islam:

Dietary Laws:

1. Taking Allah's name before eating and drinking and using the right hand for the purpose
2. Must perform a ritual called the “Dhab'hah” while slaughtering animals for it to be clean
3. Muslims can not eat pork, animals dead before slaughter, dogs, or blood
4. Can not drink wine

Social Customs:

1. Woman should not talk to men in public and men should not touch a woman
2. Taking Allah's name before eating and drinking and using the right hand for the purpose
3. When speaking about the prophets say “sallallahou alayhi wasalla”, which means “peace be upon him”
4. When you see a fellow Muslim say, “Al-salamu ‘alaykum”, which means, “May peace be upon you” and the other will say, “Wa ‘alaykumu'l-Salam”, which means, “And may peace be on you also”.
5. The ceremonial utterances after sneezing, “Al-Hamdullilah”, which means, “All gratitude is for only Allah” after sneezing and anyone who hears him should reply by saying, “Yarhamukallah”, “May Allah bless you”
6. Only shake and touch people with the right hand

Dress Customs:

1. Women are to wear the "hijab" in public and cover their whole body except for their eyes
2. Men should not wear gold, expensive jewelry, or silk clothes

Marriage Customs:

1. Marriages are to be prearranged by the family
2. A man can have more than one wife
3. A man can physically punish his wife if she disobeys (Sura 4:34)

Child Birth Customs:

1. Say the "Adhan", which is the call to prayer, in the right ear of a new born and the "Iqamah", which is the second call to prayer, in his left.
2. Circumcise the male offspring

Grooming Customs:

1. Muslims have to be sure to clip their moustache, shave their pubes, remove hair from under their armpits, and keep their nails trim
2. Abstention from sexual relations during the menstrual cycle and the puerperal discharge

Burial Customs:

1. Bath a dead body before burying it
2. Then cover the dead body in coffin cloth
3. Then sprinkle the body with clay from the head side of the body three times in the grave

Ceremonial Customs:

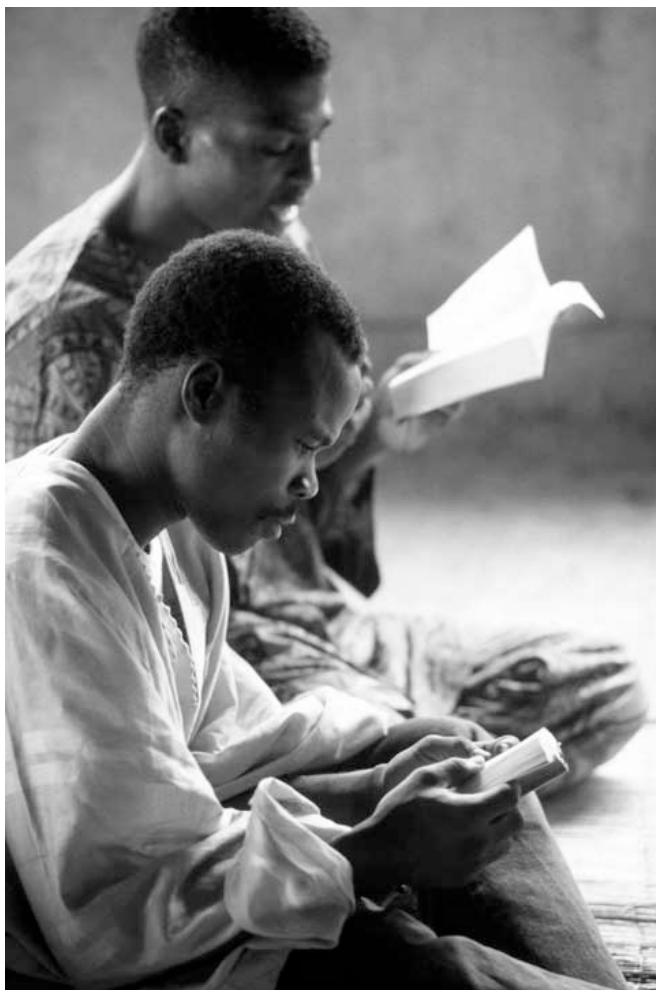
1. Clean the nostrils, mouth, hands, feet, ear, and elbows before praying
2. Women: Ceremonial bath after the menstrual cycle and puerperal discharge (First the hands should be washed; then the genital area should be thoroughly cleaned by the left hand; then "Wudu" should be done except that feet should be washed later at the end; then while inserting the fingers in the hair, water should be soaked into it so that it reaches its roots; then water should be poured all over the body. In the end, the feet should be washed.

Review:

1. Why do you think there are so many religious customs in Islam?
2. What are some customs that might have a negative impact on people living in a Muslim culture?
3. What custom would be the hardest for you to follow? Explain why.

Section III: Biblical Answers to Islam

This third section uses the Bible to answer the questions that Islam brings to Christianity.



Chapter 8

Biblical Answers to Islam

Sura 2:87, "We gave Moses the Book and followed him up with a succession of apostles; We gave Jesus the son of Mary Clear (Signs) and strengthened him with the holy spirit. Is it that whenever there comes to you an apostle with what ye yourselves desire not, ye are puffed up with pride?- Some ye called impostors, and others ye slay!"

Jeremiah 23:28-32, "28 Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD. 29 "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? 30 "Therefore," declares the LORD, "I am against the prophets who steal from one another words supposedly from me. 31 Yes," declares the LORD, "I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and yet declare, 'The LORD declares.' 32 Indeed, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," declares the LORD. "They tell them and lead my people astray with their reckless lies, yet I did not send or appoint them. They do not benefit these people in the least," declares the LORD."

Jeremiah, a prophet of Israel, lived in a time when false prophets arose and claimed to have dreams, visions, and new revelations from God. However, these revelations were not from God but rather were lies designed to lead the people away from the true God and unto false gods and evil behavior. Some of these false prophets were even deceived by lying spirits sent from God because they had rejected the truth so much [1 Kings 22:23]. But the Lord declared to His messenger Jeremiah that no matter what people said they saw in their dreams or heard in visions, He wanted His messengers to speak His Word faithfully. This section of the book is written to confront the revelations of Mohamed that he supposedly received from Allah with the living powerful fiery crushing Word of the LORD!!

Because Islam and Christianity have many points of contention I will not choose to go into detail on every issue, but instead I will focus on the four most important doctrines that both Muslims and Christians believe determine whether a person goes to heaven or hell, namely:

1. The Bible vs. The Qur'an
2. The Doctrine of the Trinity vs. Allah's Singular Nature
3. Jesus, God in the Flesh vs. Jesus the Prophet
4. Salvation Through Jesus' Death, Burial, and Resurrection vs. Islam's Good Deeds

As you now begin to read these sections please do not just get new “ammo” to shoot down the arguments of the “enemy”, but rather ask God to give you a heart for the lost and deceived Muslim who is your friend. Ask God in prayer for a spirit of humility to share these truths in light of their strong beliefs. And remember, you can win an argument and still lose a soul. Desire to win a soul, not just an argument.

Review:

1. Explain why it is important to learn what the Bible teaches about Islam.
2. Pray for wisdom to learn the truth about Islam.

Chapter 9

The Bible vs. The Qur'an

Sura 5:47, "Let the people of the gospel judge by what Allah hath revealed therein. If any do fail to judge by (the light of) what Allah hath revealed, they are (no better than) those who rebel."

2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness"

The Bible and the Qur'an both claim they are the only perfect and infallible guideline for faith in God, but which one is right? The Bible. Why? Here are two excellent proofs that show the Bible to be the only perfect and infallible guideline for faith: (1) The Bible's Priority (2) The Bible Text's Superiority

(1) The Bible's Priority

First, the Bible is greater than the Qur'an because of its priority, the Bible came over five hundred years before the Qur'an and therefore is the better record of past Biblical events both shared by the Qur'an and the Bible. The word "priority" means, "precedence in data or superior in rank". Because the Bible comes first in the line of data shared between it and the Qur'an the Bible is ranked superior in its information.

Take for example if your best friend died and you decided to write a book about his life to remember him by and you interviewed all of his remaining family and friends and put all of their information in one book, do you think someone five hundred years later who never met your friend, never lived in his country, never spoke his language or even knew his family could write a more knowledgeable book on your friend's life than you? Do you think it would be even close? Of course not, and this is the problem with the stories that Mohamed tells about Jesus and the other persons that are first told in the Bible. Mohamed came much after the Biblical events and the people's lives he writes about. Therefore, his writings are inferior to the Bible's because the Bible came first through

first hand accounts and thus it is precedent and superior in its information.

Mohamed claims to know what Jesus, Abraham and other Bible persons said even though he wasn't there (Sura 2:126). Then Mohamed in the Qur'an commands the Christians to take his word over the Bible, which was written by eyewitness hundreds of years earlier. However, Mohamed would not want Muslims today to take Joseph Smith's words of the nineteenth century over his words found in the seventh century.⁴⁷ Why? Because Mohamed claimed to be the "seal" or the last of the prophets and what he said about religion and the faith of Jesus and Abraham was final.

Sura 33:40, "Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but [he is] the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets: and Allah has full knowledge of all things."

And yet, when the Christian holds the priority of the Bible over the Qur'an, the very same thing Mohamed commands with his teachings, he threatens the Christian with hell fire because of their unbelief.

Sura 4:115, "If anyone contends with the Messenger even after guidance has been plainly conveyed to him, and follows a path other than that becoming to men of Faith, We shall leave him in the path he has chosen, and land him in hell,- what an evil refuge!"

Now with that in mind consider what Mohamed, a "prophet" five hundred years after Jesus, claimed that Jesus said in the following sura.

Sura 61:6, "And remember, Jesus, the son of Mary, said: "O Children of Israel! I am the apostle of Allah (sent) to you, confirming the Law (which came) before me, and giving Glad Tidings of an Messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad." But when he came to them with Clear Signs, they said, "this is evident sorcery!"

According to Mohamed Jesus claimed He was just an "apostle", which means the same as a "prophet", and said that a messenger named "Ahmad" was coming after him. This is a

⁴⁷ Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon Church, claimed to have meet Jesus in the late nineteenth century and was told by Jesus he was to be a prophet and restore the true teachings of the Bible.

perfect example of where the open minded reader can easily see that the Qur'an is far less dependable in its claim to truth compared to the priority of the Bible. Mohamed wants the reader to actually believe that Jesus talked about himself while on earth. However, the Bible, which was written by eyewitnesses, never recorded this verse from Jesus. Which book is more reliable, the Bible which came over five hundred years earlier by eyewitnesses or the Qur'an that was written by "Ahmed" and claims that Jesus said "Ahmad" was coming after him? Of course the Bible is more accurate. Why? Because the writers of the New Testament were there with Jesus, they actually heard what He said. Mohamed, five hundred years later simply claims to have a vision of what Jesus said.

Please consider what Mohamed was actually doing in the Qur'an by inserting words into the mouth of Jesus. Imagine if someone came up to a bank teller and said someone's name that he knew had an account with the bank. Now Imagine the man saying to the bank teller, "I know Gary and He told me to tell you, that someone named Mike, which happens to be me, would be coming after him to get his money, so will you please give Me [Mike], Gary's money?" Do you think the bank teller would say, "Sure, I believe you, here is Gary's money?" No! The bank teller would probably laugh and say, "Ya, right!! Seriously what can I do for you?" None would believe him even if he had a dream written on a piece of paper.

Now imagine this happening over a period of more than five hundred years! Think what would happen if someone today in 2008 went to the place where the past Queens of England kept their crowns with a note that said Queen Elizabeth 1 of 1558 said the person holding the note could get her old crown. Do you think the Museum would say, "Great, here you go, I believe you?" Of course not, no one would ever take this person seriously no matter how many dreams and visions the person claimed to have.

The truth is Mohamed had no idea who Jesus was personally or what Jesus had said throughout His ministry. Plus, Mohamed couldn't even read the Bible that recorded the

Words of Jesus because he was illiterate.⁴⁸ And yet despite all of the obvious problems and impossibilities to know what Jesus actually said, he then claims to have known exactly what Jesus said five hundred years earlier and these words just happen to have his name in them stating that he is the next prophet in line. This is utter heresy and no truly open-minded reader should ever believe it.

Now consider how Mohamed claimed to know what Abraham said over 2,000 before his time about the city of Mecca.

Sura 2:126, "And remember Abraham said: "My Lord, make this a City of Peace, and feed its people with fruits,-such of them as believe in Allah and the Last Day." He said: "{Yea}, and such as reject Faith,-for a while will I grant them their pleasure, but will soon drive them to the torment of Fire,- an evil destination (indeed)!"

(**Note**: Also, just to clarify what Mohamed meant in this verse Muslim scholar Abdullah Yusuf Ali writes, "When the day of Jerusalem passed [see Sura 134 or 141]. Mecca became the "New Jerusalem" – or rather the old and original "City of Peace" restored and made universal.⁴⁹)

First, the Bible does not speak about Abraham ever praying a blessing for a city, let alone a city in Saudi Arabia. And second, God told Abraham the land of Canaan would be his promise land and Mecca is nowhere near Canaan. Please read the following Biblical verses about Abraham's promised land.

Genesis 12:5-6, "5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the **land of Canaan**, and they arrived there. 6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

Genesis 17:7-8, "7 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. 8 The **whole land of Canaan**, where you

⁴⁸ Geisler & Saleeb, 106.

⁴⁹ Ali, 53.

are now an alien, I will give as an **everlasting possession** to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

Also note God's promise even after the judgment of Israel to always dwell in Jerusalem,

Joel 3:16-21, " 16 The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. 17 "Then you will know that I, the LORD your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill. Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade her. 18 "In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water. A fountain will flow out of the LORD's house and will water the valley of acacias. 19 But Egypt will be desolate, Edom a desert waste, because of violence done to the people of Judah, in whose land they shed innocent blood. 20 Judah will be inhabited forever and Jerusalem through all generations. 21 Their bloodguilt, which I have not pardoned, I will pardon." The LORD dwells in Zion!"

It is clear from reading the Bible, which records the words and events of Abraham, that God promised the land of Canaan and Jerusalem to Abraham and his descendants as an "everlasting covenant". The land of Saudi Arabia is never mentioned; let alone the city of Mecca. It is clear that Mohamed inserted these words into Abraham's mouth so that he could make Mecca his capitol city.

So why did Mohamed choose Mecca? Because it was already the home a popular religious cult called the Ka'ba cult. Muslim scholar and historian Frederick Mathewson Denny Mecca writes that Mecca was the home of the Ka'ba cult because they built a sanctuary there to house their 360 gods and gathered there to worship "Allah" their "high god" (he was the god of all the other gods).

In Mecca at the Ka'ba the Ka'ba cult would gather from all the surrounding areas at different times of the years and circle around the Ka'ba sanctuary and pray and perform religious acts. Denny also writes specially that, "...several pre-Islamic practices, especially those connected with the Ka'ba cult in Mecca, were continued by Mohamed."⁵⁰ Therefore, Mohamed was trying to establish his new religion by using parts of the biggest religions around him, namely;

⁵⁰ Denny, 38.

Judaism, Christianity, and the Ka'ba cult. And so to gather more followers Mohamed said that Abraham, the founder of Jewish faith, said to pray and face the new "City of Peace", which was Mecca, the center of the Ka'ba cult (and he also inserted words into Jesus' mouth, as stated above, to show the Christians he was their next prophet).

So should the seeker of truth follow the words and events of Abraham recorded over 2,000 years before Mohamed, or should they trust the new "prophet" of a religion where he claims that Abraham said the pagan city of Mecca is the new "City of Peace" in the last days? Its obvious, they should follow the Bible because it has priority over the Qur'an and superior data compared to the deviously claims of Mohamed.

However, after studying the above examples the Muslim may say, "But Mohamed had a vision from God! And God told him what to write down!" But if visions are what they are following, then why don't Muslims follow Joseph Smith's visions of the 1800's and Henry Kinley's visions in the 1930's? Why? Because Muslims claim the Qur'an's priority over all visions that came afterwards and if the new visions and dreams disagree with Mohamed's truths, than the Qur'an stands as the superior book.

Therefore, the Muslim must understand what Paul said, who came five hundred years before Mohamed, about new visions and angelic visitations, that if they contradict the old truths of Scriptures than they are of a devilish nature and should be rejected. Otherwise, everyone who has a dream or vision can create a new religion in place of the olds one.

However, the Lord said in Jeremiah that when a person has the Word of God and another has a new vision or dream that differs with the older Word of God, the Lord said the Word of God would burn the falsehoods of the vision like fire devours straw and that the truth of God would break into pieces, like a sludge hammer to a rock, the lies of the dream. So the true messenger of God must always be faithful to preach the Word of God that came before him.

Please read what Paul said in Galatians about supposed "new" Gospels.

Galatians 1:6-9, “6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!”

Therefore, a person cannot come five hundred years later and claim to have a new Gospel. And that is exactly what Mohamed did, he come hundreds of years later and changed what Jesus and the disciples had said (along with other Bible persons that came thousands of years before him). When a open minded person begins to study the Bible first and then looks to the Qur’an to see if agrees with the teachings found in the Bible, the reader will clearly see that the Qur’an disagrees with the Bible in many ways, therefore the Qur’an must be wrong because of its inferior data.

Otherwise, God is using deceptive ways with His people. Meaning He speaks one thing to a people living at one time and a totally different thing to another people living in a different time. And therefore, following that line of thought than one could say to the Muslim, well if Mohamed could receive a “greater” revelation from God that overturns the Bible, than Joseph Smith from the Mormon church can overturn Mohamed and the Qur’an, and then Dr. Kinley can overturn Joseph Smith, and so on for eternity.

One can easily see that if God were like that then He would be the author of confusion and a deceiver. However, God is not a God of confusion, but His is a God of truth and order [1 Corinthians 14:33]. In conclusion, the Qur’an itself claims that the Bible (Torah, Psalms, and the Gospel) is useful for teaching, but the Bible speaks nothing of the Qur’an (Sura 3:3, 5:47). The Qur’an quotes from the Bible and even makes mention of twenty-two of its persons and uses them as prophets, yet not one of them mentions Mohamed. Therefore, the Bible has superior rank and precedence over the Qur’an based on priority.

(2) The Bible Text's Superiority

When the Christian faith began in the first century the writings of the apostles, known as the New Testament, were copied and sent all across the known world in many different languages. The job of the historian is to find all these manuscripts and determine the exact wording and meaning of the New Testament. The science of "textual criticism" is used to gather and study all the manuscripts and determine the original meaning.

The Bible is the best book for the textual critic to study because it has the most amounts of manuscripts that are closest to the original author's writings. Great New Testament Scholar Bruce Metzger said, "The works of several ancient authors are preserved to us by the thinnest possible thread of transmission... In contrast... the textual critic of the New Testament is embarrassed by the wealth of his material".⁵¹ The New Testament has been persevered by over 24,000 manuscripts, whereas the closet book in line is Homer's "Iliad" with only around 600 manuscripts.

But despite this fact, today it is a common claim of both Muslim and Atheist alike to say that the Bible is unreliable because of its textual variants. Variants are differences between words found in the 24,000 New Testament manuscripts. Though it is true that there are over 300,000 variants found between the manuscripts, but this is only true because there are so many manuscripts. Whereas if the Bible only had one intact manuscript there would be no variants to try to solve, but at the same time it would be impossible to ever know if the one remaining manuscript was a perfect copy because there would be nothing to compare it too.

Therefore, the Bible is superior to the Qur'an because the Bible has more manuscripts than any other work of antiquity. Thus, the large amounts of manuscripts of the Bible prove its superiority over the Qur'an with fewer manuscripts. Second,

⁵¹ Josh McDowell, *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999), 42.

the vast number of manuscripts actually preserves the originality and authenticity of the Bible because of the many variants. Meaning, the exact wording is very unlikely to have been lost because within all the vast amounts of manuscripts the exact wording can most easily be found.

To make this point clear we will stick with the New Testament, because if the Christian can prove to the Muslim that the New Testament is more reliable than the Qur'an and superior in its original meaning, then everything found in the New Testament must be true. There are two easy ways to prove that New Testament is more superior to the Qur'an: (a) The Qur'an Proves the Superiority of the New Testament (b) The Vast Amount of New Testament Manuscripts Proves The Bible's Superiority Over the Qur'an

(a) The Qur'an Proves the Superiority of the New Testament

The Qur'an calls upon the Bible many times to be a reference for what Mohamed was reciting. This shows that the Bible is superior to the Qur'an. When someone is writing a research paper and they need a source to refer to because the author personally does not know the information well enough, they use a book of superior knowledge to be a reference. This reference is superior in comparison to the paper itself because it has the greater knowledge of information. For example, if a student is doing a research paper on the subject of birds in South America and he does not know the details of each bird he will read another's persons book on the subject of "Birds in South America" and learn the information. Then when he is writing the new learned information in the research paper he will cite the information he had gained by reading the book and therefore the book is now called a "reference book". Thus, the reference book on birds is superior to the research paper because the writer had to use it as a source of information.

The same is true with the Qur'an, even though Mohamed could not read; he obviously had heard the stories of the Bible because he makes reference to over fifty people found in the Bible. But he does not tell the full story of each of these

characters because he assumes the reader already knows who they are; he simply makes references to them and then makes his “Islamic” point.⁵²

Therefore, this proves that the Bible is superior to the Qur’an when it pertains to the subject and persons found both in the Qur’an and the Bible, because the Bible is the expert source of information referred to by the Qur’an. For example, if there was no Bible that tells the complete story of Abraham, the person reading the Qur’an would have no idea of who he was, let alone his family genealogy, which is found in the Bible (Genesis 11). This is true with all of the twenty-two prophets of Islam that are found in the Bible, the Bible is superior in its information of each person.

Here are some verses from the Qur’an that recognize the Bible as a reference for the Qur’an.

Sura 3:3-4, “3 It is He Who sent down to thee [step by step], in truth, the Book, **confirming what went before it**; and He sent down the Law [of Moses] and the Gospel [of Jesus]. 4 Before this, as a guide to mankind, and He sent down **the criterion** [of judgment between right and wrong]. Then those who reject Faith in the Signs of Allah will suffer the severest penalty, and Allah is Exalted in Might, Lord of Retribution.

Comment: If the Qur’an is supposed to “confirm” the books that came before it, would not the books that came before it, be superior? Of course, the books that are referenced by another book on a particular subject are the more superior books. Once again, remember it is the Qur’an that calls upon the Bible as a reference and the Bible makes no mention of the Qur’an or the need of “another book”.

Sura 10:94, “If thou wert in doubt as to what We have revealed unto thee, **then ask those who have been reading the Book from before thee**: the Truth hath indeed come to thee from thy Lord: so be in no wise of those in doubt.”

Comment: Here Mohamed is actually telling the people that if they want proof about the Qur’an that they should ask the people of the Bible, or the “Book”, to confirm it to them. Mohamed really

⁵² Gerald Hawting, interviewed for *The Religion Report*, Radio National (Australia), June 26, 2002.

believed that the Bible was the reference for being a prophet. However, it did not, if he only could have it personally, he would have seen this to be true.

Sura 6:154, “Moreover, We gave Moses the Book, completing (Our favour) to those who would do right, and **explaining all things in detail**,- and a guide and a mercy, that they might believe in the meeting with their Lord.”

Comment: Notice how Mohamed says that the Book of Moses was given by Allah to “explain all things in detail”. That clearly proves that the Bible is the clear and superior book of all the Muslim prophets that are found in the Bible, because the Qur’an does not explain all things in detail concerning their lives and events, but the Bible does.

Therefore, the Qur’an itself shows that the Bible is superior because it uses the Bible as a reference. How would the Muslim know the life of John the Baptist, if not for the Bible? How would Islam teach the stories of Elijah if they didn’t use the Bible? And for that matter how would anyone know who Adam and Eve all the way to Jesus were, except for the Bible? The Bible is the superior book based on the Qur’an’s dependence on it.

(b) The Vast Amount of New Testament Manuscripts Proves The Bible’s Superiority Over the Qur’an

The Qur’an today is not the same Qur’an as the one Mohamed cited. Why? Because Uthman, the third caliph (leader) of Islam, burned all the copies of the Qur’an that differed from the one he chose to be the official version. Instead of doing what the Bible scholars of the past had done and keep the various manuscripts and begin to search and study the differences to find the exact meaning, Uthman simply destroyed all the different Qur’ans. Therefore, by Uthman burning all the copies of the original Qur’an except for the one he chose, proves the following: (1) That the Qur’an had been corrupted and most probably still is (2) It is

impossible to ever know what the original words of Mohamed were.⁵³

Therefore, the Bible is greatly superior compared to the Qur'an because of its vast number of manuscripts. These manuscripts are the copies of the original New Testament documents written by the apostles. Today there are over 24,000 manuscripts of the New Testament. And out of the 24,000 manuscripts they're over 5,000 manuscripts in the original language of the New Testament (Greek). Plus, some of those 5,000 Greek manuscripts have portions of the New Testament that date back as close to just 30 years of last living apostle.⁵⁴ This proves undoubtedly to the reader that they can know for sure what the original New Testament said. Thus, the Bible is far more superior to the Qur'an based upon the vast amount of ancient manuscripts.

Here is a chart from Josh McDowell's book, "Evidence that Demands A Verdict"⁵⁵, that shows the vast amount of manuscripts of the Bible compared to other ancient books.⁵⁶

Author	Book	Date Written	Earliest Copies	Time Gap	Number of Copies
Homer	Iliad	800 B.C.	c. 400 B.C.	c. 400 yrs.	643
Caesar	Galic Wars	144 B.C.	c. 900 A.D.	c. 900 yrs.	10
Pliny	History	113 A.D.	c. 850 A.D.	c. 750 yrs.	7
Tacitus	Annals	100 A.D.	c. 1100 A.D.	c. 1000 yrs.	20
New Test.	Matt-Rev.	90 A.D.	c. 350 A.D.	c. 260 yrs.	5,745

After looking at this chart it is easy to see why the New Testament Bible is the most attested book of the ancient world. The vast amount of manuscripts ensures that reader that can know what the original writers of the New Testament wrote. However, because the Qur'an's many manuscripts were burned and only one was chosen, the read can never know what exactly Mohamed said and was the original Qur'an.

⁵³ Geisler & Saleeb, 196-197.

⁵⁴ Manuscript "P52" is dated around 130 A.D. and contains a portion of John and manuscript "P75" is dated around A.D. 150 and contains all of Luke and John.

⁵⁵ McDowell, 38.

⁵⁶ Remember that this comparison cannot be done with the Qur'an because of the all the manuscripts that Uthman burned to make just one "official copy" of the Qur'an.

(Note: If the Muslim tries to suggest that because of the vast amount of manuscripts the Bible has far too many variants, differences between each manuscript, that the reader can never know what the exact meaning is, remind them of what New Testament Scholar Daniel Wallace said in his book, "Reinventing Jesus", that none of the variants affect the doctrines of the Christian church and the vast amount are just spelling errors.⁵⁷ However, it is impossible to ever know what the original Qur'an was because Uthman burned the other differing copies and chose just one. So if the Christian burned all the other manuscripts of the Bible except for the "Codex Sinaiticus" they could claim the same thing and still be superior because Qur'an's dependence upon it.⁵⁸)

Review:

1. How does the Quran rely on the Bible?
2. Which book is older, the Bible or the Quran?
3. Why should the Bible be trusted above the Quran?

⁵⁷ Komoszewski, Sawyer, & Wallace, 63.

⁵⁸ The "Codex Sinaiticus" is the oldest complete Greek New Testament manuscript dated at 350 A.D.

Chapter 10

The Doctrine of the Trinity vs. Allah's Singular Nature

Sura 4:171, "Say not "trinity": desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is one Allah."

Matthew 28:19, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The doctrine of the Trinity is the most debated subject between Islam and Christianity. The informed Muslim likes to strongly point out his opinion that Abraham and his descendants worshipped just one God and that Christians came many years later and changed the worship of One True God to the pagan worship of three gods. But this is not what the Bible or the Christian teaches. Both believe that God has always been the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Qur'an is filled with many verses that condemn the belief in the Trinity. However, because the Trinity is the true Biblical view of God's nature, it must be properly taught and explained to the Muslim so that he can truly understand and worship the One True God of Abraham. And to better do this I will be giving Biblical answers to the most common Muslim objections to the Trinity.

This section will answer the following Muslim objections to the Trinity: (1) "How can God be three in one, since $1+1+1=3$, not 1?" (2) "Since the Bible teaches there is only One God, why do you now say there is three?" (3) "If the Trinity is right than why didn't Abraham and Isaac and the other Old Testament prophets worship God that way?"⁵⁹

(1) "How can God be three in one, since $1+1+1=3$, not 1?"

Sura 4:171, "Say not "trinity": desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is one Allah."

⁵⁹ The deity of Christ, which is one of the biggest objections to the trinity, will be discussed in-depth in the next section.

The first problem that Muslims have with understanding the Trinity is their lack of comprehending the complex mysterious nature of God. Many Muslims claim that it is impossible for something to be three and one at the same time. They will say that it is the same as believing in a circle that is a square. They will use earthly examples and say things like "How can a father and a son be the same person?" The Muslim simply does not believe that God could be one and three persons at the same time.

Therefore, it is the first priority of the Christian to teach the Muslim what the Bible says about God, namely His divine attributes. God is all-knowing (omniscient), God is ever-present (omnipresent), and God is all-powerful (omnipotent). Can a human truly understand how God knows everything, meaning there has never been a time when God didn't know something? Can a human really understand and grasp that? Can a human truly understand how God is always present in every place at every time throughout eternity? Can a person really grasp how God never moves, but yet is always present? And lastly can a person really understand how God created matter, space, and time with a spoken Word? And how all power, all energy, all light comes from Him and He controls it all like turning a light switch on and off? No, man cannot understand the greatness of God, God is far above man's mind and understanding.

David said it best in the 89th Psalm,

Psalm 89:5-8, "5 The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones. 6 For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD? Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings? 7 In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him. 8 O LORD God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you."

The great lesson that David is teaching in this Psalm is "who is like the Lord?" And the answer is simple, no one. God is God because He is in a category all by Himself. God could be a bird, a mouse, and man all at the same time and then become a mountain. Why? Because God can do whatever He wants,

He can be whatever He wants, and He does not have to compare Himself to anything else or explain Himself to His creation. God is God whether man understand Him or not.

Therefore, the right question isn't, "Can God be three in one"? Why? Of course God can be three in one. He already defies every thing in the natural world because He created the natural world. He is above matter, space, and time; He is not limited in anything. The better question to ask is, "What does the Scriptures reveal who God is"? Why? Because whatever the Scriptures say He is, He is. Whether it makes sense to man's cantaloupe size brain or not, God is who He said He is whether or not we understand it. It is the job of all people to study what He says about Himself and worship Him that way He has commanded.

Listen to what men who knew God said about His glorious and mysterious nature,

Exodus 15:11, "Who among the gods is like you, O LORD ? Who is like you— majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?"

Comment: Moses said that among the gods there was none like the Lord. He declared that none is as awesome as God. Moses truly understood that God was beyond his understanding. It is the pride of man's heart that tries to explain everything about God and if he cannot then he says God is illogical. Man is here to know and worship God as He reveals Himself to man, not as man wants Him to be and as man wants to worship Him.

Psalms 113:4-6, "4 The LORD is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. 5 Who is like the LORD our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, 6 who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?"

Comment: Here David says it again that none is like God. He gives the illustration that God is greater to man than the heavens are to the earth. He declares that God's glory is even above the heavens. Maybe a few prophets can say they have been to the heavens, but who can say they have been ABOVE the heavens? None but God, therefore it is only God that can speak about Himself and describe who He is.

Ezekiel 1:4-6, 15-18,25-28, “4 I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal, 5 and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was that of a man, 6 but each of them had four faces and four wings...15 As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground beside each creature with its four faces. 16 This was the appearance and structure of the wheels: They sparkled like chrysolite, and all four looked alike. Each appeared to be made like a wheel intersecting a wheel. 17 As they moved, they would go in any one of the four directions the creatures faced; the wheels did not turn about as the creatures went. 18 Their rims were high and awesome, and all four rims were full of eyes all around.

25 Then there came a voice from above the expanse over their heads as they stood with lowered wings. 26 Above the expanse over their heads was what looked like a throne of sapphire, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man. 27 I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him. 28 Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking.”

Comment: Ezekiel saw a vision of the Lord's glory like none had ever seen. He also saw creatures he had never seen before or even heard of, he saw objects and movements of these objects that defy imagination and human understanding, and lastly and most importantly He sees God in the appearance of a man like a rainbow on a rainy day. Did Ezekiel understand God in this way before the vision? Of course not, God defied all the laws of nature and logic, God showed Ezekiel that He could do and be whoever He wants to be and do whatever He wants to do. If God looked and acted within Ezekiel's understanding, Ezekiel wouldn't have fallen on his face, the whole point of the supernatural power of God is that it is SUPERNATURAL!!

God showed him things he had never even seen or heard before, that is why it is called a “revelation”. God did not come and try to explain everything to Him, God simply showed up and showed Ezekiel His glory. Muslims and Christians alike need to humble themselves to God and let Him show Himself in whatever ways He chooses and then worship Him for who He is, not who we think He should be.

So to answer the question, “How can God be three in one, since $1+1+1=3$, not 1?” How? Because He is God and he can be whatever or whomever He chooses to be. Paul said it

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best in 1 Timothy 3:16, "Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great!" It is not our job to put God in a box, like a frog in science class and explain Him to everyone so it makes to their carnal mind, rather is our job to take our mind out of the box of human limitation and let God reveal through His Word who He is and grasp it with our spirits and worship Him in faith and love.

(2) "Since the Bible teaches there is only One God, why do you now say there is three?"

Sura 5:73, "They do blaspheme who say: Allah is one of three in a trinity: for there is no god except One Allah. If they desist not from their word [of blasphemy], verily a grievous penalty will befall the blasphemers among them."

Deuteronomy 6:4, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one."

The second problem that Muslims have with understanding the Trinity is the very definition of it, the creed that best describes the Trinity is called the Athanasian Creed and it says,

"...we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, Neither confounding the Persons nor dividing the Substance. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is all one; the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate, and the Holy Ghost uncreate.

The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible. The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three Eternals, but one Eternal. As there are not three Uncreated nor three Incomprehensibles, but one Uncreated and one Incomprehensible. So likewise the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Ghost almighty. And yet they are not three Almighty, but one Almighty. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, and the Holy Ghost Lord. And yet not three Lords, but one Lord.

For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by Himself to be God and Lord, So are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say, There be three Gods or three Lords. The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone, not made nor created, but begotten. The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son,

neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts. And in this Trinity none is before or after other; none is greater or less than another; But the whole three Persons are coeternal together and coequal, so that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshiped.

He, therefore, that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity.

Therefore, it is easy to see that the Christian is not claiming that there are now “three gods”, the Christian is a monotheist, which means we believe in the worship of only One God. At the same time the Christian believes that the whole Bible teaches that God is known in three distinct persons. It is can be easily understood in the following statement, “God is what He is, and the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is who he is.” Or “God is the “what” and the Father, Son, and Holy is the “who”. Also, Dr. James White a Christian Scholar defines the Trinity by saying, “Within the one Being that is God, there exists eternally three coequal and coeternal persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”⁶⁰

So it is clear by most attacks on the Trinity by Muslims that they simply do not understand or state correctly what the Christian is saying. The Christian is not claiming the there are three gods in the Godhead or that there is One Person that is called God that is the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. But simply the Christian is saying that there is One True God revealed in three distinct persons that are coequal and coeternal.

Therefore, because of the following misunderstandings the Christian must first build a bridge of understanding between the Muslim and the Trinity to help them truly understand what it means to be Monotheist that believes in the Trinity. Here is a helpful chart to show how Christians are both Monotheists because we worship only One God but we are also Trinitarian because we worship three distinct persons who are God.⁶¹

⁶⁰ James R. White, *The Forgotten Trinity* (Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1998), 26.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, 28.

Foundation One:	Monotheism: The Is Only One God
Foundation Two:	There Are Three Divine Persons
Foundation Three:	The Persons Are Coequal and Coeternal

Foundation One:
Monotheism: There is only One God

(a) Deuteronomy 6:4, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”

Moses taught the people of Israel this prayer that is called the “Shema”, it declares like the Islamic “Shahadah” that there is only One God who is Lord and the Lord is One. However, the Christian agrees completely with this and declares that the Father is Lord, Jesus is Lord, and the Holy Spirit is Lord, yet there are not three Lords, but One and the Same Lord.

The Father is Lord: Isaiah 63:16, “But you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us or Israel acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.”

The Son is Lord: 1 Corinthians 1:9, “God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.”

The Holy Spirit is Lord: 2 Corinthians 3:17, “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

(b) Isaiah 43:10, “10 "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.

The prophet Isaiah teaches that there is only One God. There has been no God before Him, nor will there be another God after Him. The Christian believes this because the Trinity states that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have always been God.

(i) The Father Has Always Been God: **John 17:5**, “And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”

(ii) Jesus Has Always Been God: **John 1:1**, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

(iii) The Holy Spirit Has Always Been God: **Hebrews 9:14**, "How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!"

Foundation Two & Three:

There Are Three Divine Persons That Are Coeternal and Coequal

(a) Matthew 28:19, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

This is one of the most powerful verses that teach the equality of the Trinity; Jesus says to baptize new believers in the ONE name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus did not say, "names", but rather "name", thus proving that God or Lord (Yahweh or Jehovah) is the One name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. They share the same nature. Just like there is ONE human race, but many different persons, there is ONE God race or being, but three different persons and there are all equal.

(b) Galatians 4:6, "Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

This is a clear picture how each person, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, each are equal in their work of salvation as God. Meaning, God the Father sends the Spirit of God, from Jesus the Son of God into the hearts of the children of God so that new believers can cry out to God the Father.

(c) Attributes that all three share Together As God

- i. Work of Creation
 1. Father: Isaiah 40:28, 43:15
 2. Son: John 1:2-3 & Colossians 1:16

3. Holy Spirit: Job 33:4
- ii. Work of Salvation
 1. Father: Isaiah 43:11 & 1 Timothy 2:3
 2. Son: John 4:42 & Titus 2:13
 3. Holy Spirit: 1 Peter 1:2, 22 & Romans 8:14
- iii. Work of Holy Scripture
 1. Father: Exodus 34:1
 2. Son: Matthew 22:37
 3. Holy Spirit: 1 Timothy 4:1 & Revelation 2:7

Therefore, when an open-minded reader studies the Bible in its entirety it is easy to see that God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Whether it is in the Old Testament descriptions of what God does or the New Testament doctrinal creeds that the early church would sing as worship songs to God, it is clear that there is One God being that is revealed in three distinct persons, namely the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

(3) "If the Trinity is right than why didn't Abraham and Isaac and the other Old Testament prophets worship God that way?"

Sura 2:136, "Say ye: "We believe in Allah, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to [all] prophets from their Lord: We make no difference between one and another of them: And we bow to Allah [in Islam]."

Daniel 7:13-14, "13 In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

The third problem that Muslims have with believing the Trinity is that they believe and teach that the belief in the Trinity is a deviation from the true religion of Abraham, Isaac, and the prophets, including Jesus. However this is not true when a true seeker reads through the Bible open to whatever God speaks through it. True, the patriarchs may not have had a perfect understanding of the revelation of the Trinity, but neither did they have a perfect understanding of the coming of the Messiah, the Final Judgment of God in the Last Days, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

But to say that these saints of the past worshipped a different God than the God of the Christians or that the Christians have changed the true Abrahamic worship of God to a pagan form is absolutely false. This section will look at four Old Testament saints and show that they were given the revelation of the One True God revealed in the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. We will examine (a) Abraham's Visitor (b) Daniel's Vision (c) Isaiah's Prophecies

(a) Abraham's Visitor

The Bible records that the Lord and two angels visited Abraham on the Plains of Mamre. The Lord appeared to him in the form of a man. The Bible says that Abraham washed the Lord's feet and that he even feed the Lord food.

Genesis 18:1-5, "1 The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. 2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground." 3 He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. 4 Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. 5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

Who was this visitor? Moses heard the Lord say in Exodus 33:20, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." So how could Abraham see His face, wash His feet, and have a meal with Him? Why because it was the pre-incarnate Jesus, the Son of God, the Lord of Lords. Even though Abraham might not have understood the Trinity to the same extent that the disciples did, he certainly knew that His visitor was God, and though God was not supposed to appear to Him as a man, there in his tent was the Lord.

But the story doesn't stop there, soon after the meal the Lord says to Abraham that later in the year he will come to back to him and give him a child through Isaac.

Genesis 18:10, "Then the LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

However, the Bible never says that the Lord comes back to Abraham in the form of a man. But rather the Bible refers to the Holy Spirit, who is also Lord, came back to Abraham and gave Sarah Isaac, the child of promise.

Galatians 4:28-29, "Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now."

So it is clear from the above verses that Abraham was given the beginnings of the revelation of who God was. Abraham knew the voice of the Father who came spoke to Him from heaven (Genesis 15:1), he knew the Son of God who eat and visited with him in his tent, and he knew the Holy Spirit that gave him the child of promise. Therefore, even though Abraham might not have recognized the term "trinity", if you would have asked him, "Whom do you worship?" He would have said, "The Lord". And if you would have then asked, "Who is the Lord?" He probably would have said, "The Lord is the Voice from heaven, the Man who I ate with, and the Spirit that gave me a child!!"

(b) Daniel's Vision

When the Israelites were taken captive by the Babylonians they were forced to move from Israel and live in Babylon. There in Babylon the best men were picked to work for the king. One of those young men's names was Daniel. Daniel a very special Israelite because God gave him dreams and visions and spoke to him about the future of Israel and the "Last Days". During of Daniel's visions the Bible records that he sees the Ancient of Days who he knows to be the Lord, however, what happens next was at the time very troubling to him because he did not know who the the next person he saw was. He described one like the "Son of Man" came to Ancient of Days on clouds and was given all authority and power over the earth from the Ancient of Days and then everyone in heaven and earth began to worship Him. This was a shocking revelation to Daniel, but nonetheless, He understood that both

persons he was seeing were God, because only God is worthy of worship.

Plus, he saw a “river of fire” flowing from the Ancient of Days, this fire was the actual presence of the Lord. Though he might have know this to be the Holy Spirit, it was a sure thing that the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit were giving this very special prophet a deeper revelation of who they are. Please now read Daniel’s vision.

Daniel 7:9-14, “ 9 "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. 10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

11 "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. 12 (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.) 13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Just like with all dreams and visions of the prophets sometimes the full understanding is not always grasped, but people latter read their writings and come to a more full understanding of the revelation. Here are some verses that clearly reveal what Daniel was seeing.

Ancient of Days on a Throne with the Son of Man Being Worshipped:

Acts 7:55, “But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.”

Acts 2:23-23, “29 Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his

body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand 35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

Revelation 5:6-12, " 6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." 11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Fire Being Associated with the Holy Spirit

Matthew 3:11, "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

Acts 2:1-4, "1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

So did Daniel fully understand the vision, no, how do we know? Because right after the vision he says in Daniel 7:15, "I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me." Why was Daniel troubled? Probably one of the best reasons was because he just saw another person other than the Ancient of Days receive worship. This is a good

example of how God changed a prophet's perspective of who He was. From then on if you would have asked Daniel who does he worship he most likely would have said, "I worship the Ancient of Days and the Son of Man!!"

(c) Isaiah's Prophecies

One of Israel's greatest prophets was Isaiah, he had personally saw the Lord (Isaiah 6) and He was called by God to go to Israel and warn them hundreds of years ahead of time that if they did not stop sinning God would judge them and send them into exile. Even though Israel did not obey his message God gave him a great understanding of who He was.

Some of Isaiah's prophecies are the most important and descriptive verses for the coming of Jesus, the Jewish Messiah. Whether or not Isaiah understood the full depth of his revelations is unsure, but one thing is sure, that God showed Him a glimpse of His triune nature. Here is a list of some of messages God gave to Isaiah concerning Jesus hundreds of years before He was even born.

A Child Will Be Called God

Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him *Immanuel*."

Isaiah 9:6-7, "6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

A Son of David Will Have the Fullness of the Holy Spirit

Isaiah 7:14, " 1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. 2 The *Spirit of the LORD will rest on him*— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD"

Isaiah 42:1-7, “1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; *I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations...* 4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope... 6 “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and *will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,* 7 to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.”

Therefore, although Isaiah may not have totally understood who the “Mighty God” was or how “Immanuel”, which means, “God with us”, was going to come in the physical line of David, but he certainly was given a chance to see God for who He really is. This shows that God has always been the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, but He has only chosen certain people to reveal Himself wholly too. And Isaiah was one of those prophets that were given a deeper revelation of the nature of God in the Old Testament was Isaiah.

I can guess that if you would have asked him, “Whom do you worship?” He would have said, “The Lord God Almighty!” And then if you would have asked him, “Who is the Lord God Almighty?” He might have said, “The God who promised me that He would come in the flesh and be our earthly King!!”

Matthew 13:17, “For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”

1 Peter 1:10-12, “ 10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

Review:

1. Explain the Biblical view of God.
2. How can God be three in one? Use the Bible to explain your answer.

3. What Old Testament prophets spoke about the triune nature of God?
4. Pray and ask God to show Himself to you.

Chapter 11

Jesus, God in the Flesh vs. Jesus the Prophet

Sura 4:171, "... Say not "Trinity" : desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is one Allah. Glory be to Him: (far exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth. And enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs."

Acts 2:36-37, "36 Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

The debate between Muslims and Christians stems around this central issue more than anything else, Was Jesus God or Just a Prophet? Everything hinges on this subject. First, if Jesus is God, than the Qur'an is false and the Trinity must be true because it is the only way to describe how the Father and Jesus can both be equally God. However, if Jesus is not God than the Christian faith is leading people astray and will be in danger of hell fire because the church has been worshipping a mere man as God and teaching others to do so.

Second, if Jesus is God, then salvation is only found in His death, burial, and resurrection. However, if Jesus is not God, than the only way to be saved is through good works because no other religion including Islam offers another way to be saved, all other religions believe in a "works" method of salvation.

And lastly, if Jesus is God then what He said about His second return is true and He in fact will be the One who judges the whole world and all those who have reelected Him as Lord and God will be punished in the eternal lake of fire. But if Jesus is not God, than according to Islam, those who have been worshipping Him as God have committed "shirk", which is the worst form of idolatry, because it blasphemes God by making a man equal to God.

Therefore, this next section will teach the Biblical truth that Jesus is in fact God and equal to the Father and that Muslims who reject Him will be punished in the eternal lake of fire. Because this is so important I ask that you would pray and ask

God for strength to understand the true nature of Jesus and for boldness to preach this truth to Muslims all around the even under the pains of death. For the Bible declares that at the feet of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:11)

Here are the proofs that I will give to show beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus is God in the flesh: (1) The Witness of Jesus Himself (2) The Witness of the Disciples (3) The Witness of the Church Fathers (4) The Witness of Non-Christian Historians

(1) The Witness of Jesus Himself

Sura 4:171, "... Say not "Trinity" : desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is one Allah. Glory be to Him: (far exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth. And enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs."

Matthew 26:63-64, "...The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." 64 "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

The idea that somehow the "false followers" of Jesus hijacked Christianity and took Jesus' words out of context and made Him a god whereas He had just taught that He was only a prophet is utterly false. First, the manuscripts that say Jesus is God are some of the oldest and most preserved manuscripts. For example, the book of John was thought to be a book written by someone using the name of John in the late second century trying to make Jesus a God and deceive people, however P52 and P66 are both copies of portions of John that date back as close to 130 A.D. and therefore if they are a copy this proves that John who wrote the original probably did so in the late 90's A.D.⁶²

Second, though there are variants or differences between the vast manuscripts, they never change the meaning of a verse that deals with Jesus' divinity, therefore since the Bible is preserved and the original meaning is sure, the reader can be positive that Jesus certainly made claims to be God.

⁶² McDowell, 39.

Here are the claims Jesus made about His divinity:

Jesus Called Himself the Son of God

John 5:24-26, “24 I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. 25 I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the *Son of God* and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.

John 10:35-37, “35 If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken— 36 what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? 37 Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does.

Luke 22:70, “They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied, "You are right in saying I am."

It is obvious that Jesus believed that He was the Son of God, that meant He had existed for all eternity in heaven as God and came in the flesh to be a man, therefore Jesus was 100% God and 100%, He was and it the Son of God.

Jesus Did Things Only God Could Do

Jesus Forgave Sins: **Mark 2:5**, “When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Jesus Said He Was the Judge of Mankind: **John 5:21-23**, “21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. 22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.”

Jesus Said He was the Son of Man Who Daniel Saw at the Right Hand of God Receiving Worship from All Creation and Commanding the Angels of God: **Mark 14:61-63**, “...Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" 62 "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty

One and coming on the clouds of heaven." 63 The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked."

Jesus Received Worship and Exaltation as God

Matthew 14:33, "Then *those who were in the boat worshiped him*, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 28:16-18, "16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, *they worshiped him*; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

John 20:27-29, "27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "*My Lord and my God!*" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

There is no doubt that Jesus was worshipped while He was on earth, if He would have been just a prophet this would have been blasphemy, but since He was and is the Son of God, equal to the Father, He was and will always be worthy of worship and adoration.

(2) The Witness of the Disciples

Sura 3:55, "Behold! Allah said: "O Jesus! I will take thee and raise thee to Myself and clear thee (of the falsehoods) of those who blaspheme; I will make those who follow thee superior to those who reject faith, to the Day of Resurrection: Then shall ye all return unto me, and I will judge between you of the matters wherein ye dispute."

Acts 2:36, "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

There is little doubt to whether the disciples taught that Jesus was God, however with all this evidence the Muslim still tries to convince the Bible reader that either the Bible is claiming that Jesus is God but it is corrupt and so its witness is worthless or that Jesus' disciples did not believe Jesus was God, but Paul was a deceiver and made others to believe that Jesus was God, therefore, Jesus' divinity is a doctrine that Paul devised, but it is not the true belief of Christians.

Both of these assumptions are false. First, the Bible as shown before is not corrupt, therefore it stands to as a witness to what the disciples taught and believed. Second, Paul was no a rogue disciples teaching heresy but was rather a great apostle of the early church recognized by Peter and James, Jesus brother (2 Peter 3:14-16 & Acts 15).

Therefore, we will now examine the truth of the Scripture as it speaks for itself in context as a witness to what the first disciples of Jesus believed concerning His nature.

Jesus is Called God

John 1:1-2,14,18, “1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the *Word was God*. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the *One and Only*, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 18 No one has ever seen God, *but God the One and Only*, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

Titus 2:13, “...while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of *our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ*”

Philippians 2:5-6, “5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God...”

1 John 5:20, “We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.”

Romans 9:5, “Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.”

These references show beyond a shadow of a doubt that the early disciples believed Jesus was God. They called Him God, they placed His name along side of God, and they attributed to Him Honor and Glory only deserving of God Himself.

Jesus is Made Equal to The Father and The Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 13:14, "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

Colossians 1:15-17, "15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

Hebrews 1:5-6, " 5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? 6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

1 Corinthians 6:11, "And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

The disciples 100% beyond any doubt believed with all their hearts that Jesus was God, equal to the Father and the Holy Spirit and they worshipped and adored Him as their Lord and Savior.

(3) The Witness of the Church Fathers

Sura 3:55, "Behold! Allah said: "O Jesus! I will take thee and raise thee to Myself and clear thee (of the falsehoods) of those who blaspheme; I will make those who follow thee superior to those who reject faith, to the Day of Resurrection: Then shall ye all return unto me, and I will judge between you of the matters wherein ye dispute."

2 Timothy 2:1-2, "1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."

Most people, both Muslim and Christians, do not realize how valuable the Church Fathers are to the formation of Christian doctrine and the canon of the New Testament. For example, if the New Testament was totally lost, the quotes alone from the

Church Fathers could reproduce almost the entire New Testament. The Church Fathers quoted the New Testament over a 1 million times in their various writings.⁶³

The Church Fathers were the disciples of the first disciples. They lived from the time of late first century all the way to the time of the fourth century, basically 60 A.D.-400 A.D. During this time they continued to write just like the disciples before them to the various churches and Christians. Though they did not always agree it can be easily seen through the light of the New Testament and the sound doctrine of the true Fathers that the truths of the Christian faith were adequately handled, preserved, and passed down with the greatest of care.

Though many Muslims like to accuse these zealous fathers of “high jacking” Christianity and making Jesus into something He wasn’t, they are truly the best reference to the Bible other than the Bible itself. These men were often times killed and persecuted just like their mentors simply because they refused to believe anything other than Jesus was resurrected from the dead, salvation was only in His name, and He was equal to the Father, thus He was God in the flesh.

Here are some great quotes from the Church Fathers in regards to the divinity of Jesus:

Clement of Rome, disciple of Paul – Philipians 4:3 (100 A.D.): *Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Scepter of the majesty of God, did not come in the pomp of pride or arrogance (though he could have!), but in a humble state, just as the Holy Spirit had spoken concerning Him (Corinthians 16).*⁶⁴

Ignatius of Antioch, disciple of John (107 A.D.): “...by the will of the Father *and Jesus Christ, our God*, to the church which is in Ephesus of Asia.. [Ephesians 1:4]” “...*For our God, Jesus the Christ*, was conceived by Mary according to a dispensation of God... [Ephesians 18]” “...the ancient kingdom was utterly destroyed *when God appeared in the likeness of man* unto newness of everlasting life. [Ephesians 19] “For our God Jesus Christ, being in the Father, is more plainly seen...[Romans 3]”.⁶⁵

Melito of Sardis, friend of Polycarp who was a disciple of John (180 A.D.): “...For the deeds done by Christ after His baptism, and

⁶³ McDowell, 43.

⁶⁴ White, 180.

⁶⁵ White, 181-182.

especially His miracles, gave indication and assurance to the world of the Deity hidden in His flesh. For, being at once both God and perfect man likewise, He gave us sure indications of His two natures: of His Deity, by His miracles during the three years that elapsed after His baptism; of His humanity, during the thirty similar periods which preceded His baptism, in which, by reason of His low estate as regards the flesh, He concealed the signs of His Deity, although He was the true God existing before all ages..."⁶⁶

The Nicene Creed, the most popular creed that confirmed the unanimous support of the Trinitarian belief by the Church Fathers, (325 A.D.): "We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

The disciples of the disciples believed that Jesus was God and equal to the Father. It was because of these beliefs that Nicene Creed was formed and made the official doctrine of the Church. The Church Fathers were simply preserving the Apostolic Faith of the first disciples.

(4) The Witness of the Non-Christian Historians

Sura 3:55, "Behold! Allah said: "O Jesus! I will take thee and raise thee to Myself and clear thee (of the falsehoods) of those who blaspheme; I will make those who follow thee superior to those who reject faith, to the Day of Resurrection: Then shall ye all return unto me, and I will judge between you of the matters wherein ye dispute."

⁶⁶ Roberts and Donaldson, *Ante-Nicene Father, "On the Nature of Christ"* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1999), 760.

2 Timothy 2:1-2, "1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."

Historians have always been around reporting history and popular events of their time and times past. The same is true during the time of Jesus and after His ministry. These non-Christian historians serve as a source of unbiased information that can help the seeker gain truth about how people thought of Jesus. Though the historians themselves were not Christians, they report what the Christians of their day taught and believed.

They serve as a great witness to the Muslim because they prove that true and original Christianity always held Jesus to be a God, not just a prophet. These historians prove that Christians worshipped Jesus as God and believed that He was coming back in their lifetimes to judge both the living and the dead. Though these historians serve merely as bystanders and reporters, they are important because they give a good picture of what Christianity looked like in the first three hundreds after Christ.

Here are some of the non-Christian historian's writings about Jesus' divinity:

Josephus ben Mattathias, A Jewish Historian who worked for the Roman Government (80 A.D.): "Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works... for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets has foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians so named from are not extinct at this day."⁶⁷

Pliny the Younger, Governor of Bithynia in Asia Minor (112 A.D.): "...when they sang in alternate verse a hymn to Christ as to a god, and bound themselves to a solemn oath..."⁶⁸

Lucian of Samosata, A Greek Satirist, (170 A.D.): "The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day- the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account..."⁶⁹

⁶⁷ McDowell, 125. Josephus, *Antiquities*, XVIII, 33.

⁶⁸ McDowell, 122. Pliny, *Epistles* X, 96.

⁶⁹ McDowell, 121. Lucian, *The Death of Peregrine*, 11-13.

Though the references are not as many, the non-Christian historians do serve as a great witness to the fact that Jesus was not just a prophet, but God in the Flesh, the Second Person of Trinity. The true Christians have always been worshippers of Jesus. The Qur'an which came over 500 years later can never change that, JESUS IS GOD!!!

Review:

1. Explain the Biblical view of Jesus.
2. How does the Muslim view differ with the Biblical view of Jesus?
3. What did the early Christians believe about Jesus?
4. Pray that you may be able to understand who Jesus truly is.

Chapter 12

Salvation Through Jesus' Death, Burial, and Resurrection vs. Islam's Good Works

Sura 3:30, "On the Day when every soul will be confronted with all the good it has done, and all the evil it has done, it will wish there were a great distance between it and its evil. But Allah cautions you [to fear] Him. And Allah is full of kindness to those that serve Him."

Acts 2:36-39, "36 Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Now that you have learned the supremacy of the Bible, the triune nature of God, and the deity of Jesus you will now be able to see the vast difference between Christianity's plan of salvation verses the plan that Islam offers. The basic fundamental difference is that Christianity teaches man is saved by grace through faith and Islam teaches that a person may be saved after they have died if they have done more good works than bad.

Salvation in the Islamic faith is basically like a test at the end of life, if a person has done good, then they will pass the test and be saved, however, if they fail the test they will be lost forever [Sura 3:140-142]. Whereas with the Christian faith salvation can never be earned thus it is a free gift from God [Ephesians 2:1-10]. And one does not have to wait until Judgment Day to know if they are saved or not, they can have assurance of salvation now.

To help convey the differences of the plan of salvation between Islam and Christianity the following chart was made, please read and discover what the Bible and Jesus taught hundreds of years before Mohamed about salvation verses what Mohamed later claimed was the truth.

	The Bible	The Qur'an
Nature of Man	Man is born a sinner (Romans 3:9-26)	Man is born good (Sura 30:30)
Sin	Sin is breaking God's Law (1 John 3:4)	Sin is straying from Allah (Sura 54:47)
Forgiveness	Repent of sin and receive forgiveness (Acts 2:38)	Repent of sin and do good works to be forgiven (Sura 2:58)
Salvation	Being born again by the Spirit in this life (John 3:3-16)	After death if a person's life is more good than bad they are saved (Sura 6:16)

The chart above clearly shows that Christianity believes in a salvation of grace not of works. Below is a list of Scriptures to contrast with the Qur'an and Bible on the true meaning of salvation.

(1a) God Loves the Whole World:

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

(1b) Allah Only Loves Those Who Do Good:

Sura 2:276, "Allah will deprive usury of all blessing, but will give increase for deeds of charity: For He loveth not creatures ungrateful and wicked."

(2a) All Born Again Believers Are Guaranteed Salvation:

Romans 10:9-11, "9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

(2b) Muslims Must Be Judged By Their Works to Be Saved by Allah:

Sura 3:30, “On the Day when every soul will be confronted with all the good it has done, and all the evil it has done, it will wish there were a great distance between it and its evil. But Allah cautions you [to fear] Him. And Allah is full of kindness to those that serve Him.”

(3a) No Christian Will Suffer Wrath on Judgment Day:

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10, “9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.”

(3b) Even Muslims will Pass Through Hell:

Sura 19:70-72, “Then We shall pluck forth from every party whichever of them was the most hardened in disdain of the All-merciful; then We shall know very well those most deserving to burn there. Not one of you there is, but he shall go down to it [wariduha]; that for thy Lord is a thing decreed, determined. Then We shall deliver those that were godfearing; and the evildoers We shall leave there, hobbling on their knees.”⁷⁰

The Cross of Jesus Christ

What separates Islam’s works method of salvation verses Christianity’s free gift of salvation? The cross of Jesus Christ [Philippians 2:8]. God taught in the Old Testament that people needed to make animal sacrifices for the atonement of sin [Exodus 29:36]. Noah, Abraham, and Moses were all commanded by God to make sacrifices unto Him for the forgiveness of sin [Hebrews 9:22]. Therefore, when Jesus came to earth He was the final sacrifice for the sins of mankind [Matthew 1:21 & Revelations 13:8].

The Prophet Isaiah prophesied hundreds of years earlier in Isaiah 53 that one day God the Father would lay all of mankind’s sins on a person and because of the suffering of that person, forgiveness would be given to all the world. Please prayerfully read this powerful message in Isaiah,

⁷⁰ Ali, 782. Ali believes that this most likely means every Muslim will pass through hell.

Isaiah 53:4-6,10, “4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

10 Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

Therefore, as John 3:16 states Jesus was sent to die for the sins of the world because God loved the world and through the Father giving Jesus as a sacrifice for man's sin the world could be saved. However, Muslims do not believe that Jesus died on the cross but rather He was simply just taken up to heaven. Also, Muslims believe that the story of crucifixion was made up the Jews and false followers of Jesus.

Sura 4:157, “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 a surety they killed him not”

But for the Muslim to believe this they must deny the Word of God both in the Old Testament, which predicts a suffering Savior, and all the passages in the New Testament that teaches Jesus came to die on the cross for man's sin. But as we have learned in the past sections the Word of God is true in the Bible and thus what the disciples recorded five hundred years before Mohamed is more trust worthy than the message of Mohamed which came not from God, but an angel.

But when discussing the subject with Muslims they tend to bring up different arguments against the cross of Jesus and His resurrection from the dead. Therefore, I will answer some of these objections with the Bible, Church history, and Non-Christian History. The Muslims main objections to the cross of Jesus Christ are as follows (a) If Jesus were God how could He die? (b) What is the proof that Jesus rose from the dead? Let us know examine these two points.

(a) If Jesus were God how could He die?

This objection appeals to the logic in the natural world (1 Corinthians 1:18). Meaning, can something be a dog and a bird at the same or can a circle be a square? No. And therefore the Muslim claims that Jesus cannot be both a human that can die and at the same time be the all-powerful God of the universe that has always existed and always will exist.

However, the question comes from a simple misunderstanding of the Bible's teaching on who and what Jesus was. In turn, the Muslim does not understand the dual nature of Jesus. But the Bible states that Jesus was and is both 100% and 100% God. And this is exactly what Jesus said of Himself and what the first disciples believed, that is why they worshipped Him and called Him.

So in fact Jesus never died in the sense of His God divine nature, just like how both Muslims and Christians both believe that the soul of man is eternal and physical death is really not the end of existence, the same is true with Jesus, when His earthly body died, His soul-His inner divine essence did not die, He simply continued to live in the spirit. Therefore, God did not die, but rather the flesh of Jesus died.

Here are some verses from the Bible and quotes from Church Fathers that state the dual nature of Jesus.

Romans 1:3-4, "3 regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, 4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord."

John 1:1,14, "1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

1 Timothy 3:16, "Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory."

Ignatius - Smyrneans, 1 (Church Father, 100 A.D.), "He is truly of the race of David according to the flesh, but the Son of God by the Divine will and power"

Melito of Sardis – Prayer in Praise of Christ (Church Father, 180 A.D.), "Born as a son, led forth as a lamb, sacrificed as a sheep, buried as a man, he rose from the dead as a God, for he was by nature God and man."

Therefore, the answer is simple to the Muslim objection, "How could Jesus die if He was God?" Because Jesus' flesh died and His divine nature remained the same, just how when man's flesh dies his soul remains the same and lives on, so it was with Jesus. He was God the Son from all eternity and He willingly took on flesh so that in the flesh He might suffer and die and rise again by the power of the Spirit so that He could purchase for mankind the gift of salvation and bare in His own flesh the wrath of God. Thus, there is no more need for animal sacrifice because Jesus' death in the flesh is the once and for all sacrifice for mankind's salvation and the remission of his sins.

Hebrews 9:14-15, "14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! 15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant."

(b) What is the proof that Jesus rose from the dead?

The Muslim community at large has no idea what happened to Jesus. Because their admittance that Jesus was crucified and then raised from the dead would disprove their entire faith, Islam would rather be in doubt over this issue than except the certainty of the Bible's accounts. Since most Muslims do not know what happened to Jesus Islamic scholars and commentators have created many myths to try to claim what really happened.

Some Muslims believe Jesus was never really killed on the cross but simply passed out on the cross, was buried, resuscitated and then ascended to heaven, this is called the

“Swoon Theory”. Others believe Judas was crucified in Jesus’ place and thus Jesus was able to escape the Romans and Jews and be brought to heaven, this is called the “Substitute Theory”.⁷¹ Though Muslims do not know what happened to Jesus, all of their stories still affirm His ascension into heaven and His promised return. Therefore, Islam’s uncertainty is an obvious sign to the seeker of truth that the Bible’s evidence is for more compelling and trustworthy.

Here are some facts prove that Jesus was raised from the dead after being crucified:

FACT #1: THE BIBLE AND HISTORY STATES JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED

Bible References: Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19

Non-Christian Historians:

Cornelius Tacitus (c. 55-120 A.D.), *Annals XV*, 44: “...Christus the founder...was put to death by Pontius Pilate...”

Lucian of Samosata (c. 125-180 A.D.), *The Death of Peregrine*, 11-13: “The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day- the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account...”

Mara Bar-Serapion (c. 70 A.D.): “What advantage did the Jews gain from executing their wise king? It was just after that that their kingdom was abolished.”⁷² Therefore, this is no other real valid explanation to what happened to Jesus other than what the Bible and history states, Jesus was in fact crucified on the cross as a criminal by the Romans.

FACT #2: ROMAN EXECUTIONERS WERE PROFESSIONAL KILLERS

The Roman guards would not have allowed a man to live the cross unless he was totally dead. These men killed people on the cross for a living and they would have been severely punished if they did not do their job well (John 19:32). Therefore, when Jesus was on the cross He died. The Romans would have never let Him down unless He was truly 100% dead.

⁷¹ Geisler & Saleeb, 285-293.

⁷² McDowell, 120-123.

FACT #3: THE BROKEN ROMAN SEAL

No one would have dared brake the Roman Seal placed over the grave stone. The FBI and CIA of the Roman Empire would have been called into action to find the man or men who were responsible. If they were apprehended, it meant automatic execution by crucifixion upside down. People feared the breaking of the Roman Seal (Matthew 27:66). Therefore, the broken seal proves God raised Jesus from the dead because his disciples who earlier were too scared to confess him publicly would never have challenged Roman guards and broke the Roman Seal.

FACT #4: THE EMPTY TOMB

The disciples of Christ did not go off to Athens or Rome to preach that Christ was raised from the dead. Rather, they went right back to the city of Jerusalem, where, if what they were teaching was false, the falsity would be evident. The empty tomb was "too notorious to be denied." Paul Althaus states that the resurrection "could have not been maintained in Jerusalem for a single day, for a single hour, if the emptiness of the tomb had not been established as a fact for all concerned." Therefore, the only answer to the empty tomb was that Jesus was raised from the dead (Luke 24:3).

FACT #5: THE ROMAN GUARD FLEES

The Roman guards fled. They left their place of responsibility. The fear of their superiors' wrath and the possibility of death meant that they paid close attention to the minutest details of their jobs. One way a guard was put to death was by being stripped of his clothes and then burned alive in a fire started with his garments. Therefore, these guards would never have left their post unless something supernatural like seeing angels would have truly happened (Matthew 28:4).

FACT #6: OVER 500 WITNESSES

One of the earliest records of Christ's appearing after the resurrection is by Paul. The apostle appealed to his audience's knowledge of the fact that Christ had been seen by more than 500 people at one time. Paul reminded them that the majority of those people were still alive and could be questioned. Dr. Edwin M. Yamauchi, associate professor of history at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, emphasizes: "What gives a special authority to the list [of witnesses] as historical evidence is the reference to most of the five hundred brethren being still alive. St. Paul says in effect, 'If you do not believe me, you can ask them.' Such a statement in an admittedly genuine letter written within thirty years of the

event is almost as strong evidence as one could hope to get for something that happened nearly two thousand years ago." Let's take the more than 500 witnesses who saw Jesus alive after His death and burial, and place them in a courtroom.

Do you realize that if each of those 500 people were to testify for only six minutes, including cross-examination, you would have an amazing 50 hours of firsthand testimony? Add to this the testimony of many other eyewitnesses and you would well have the largest and most lopsided trial in history. Therefore, there is no other answer to the claim that 500 people saw the resurrected Lord and Savior, other than the obvious fact that the testimony of Paul and the New Testament writers were true (Acts 1:1-3).

FACT #7: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

The Christian Church was established upon the testimony of the fact that Jesus was both crucified and raised from the dead. Both Jews and Romans killed the early Christians because of their uncompromising claim that Jesus had rose from the dead and that there were still living witnesses that could verify and support their claims. Therefore, based upon the establishment of a new religion totally focused on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, there is no other theory that can be true other than the fact that JESUS WAS BOTH CRUCIFIED AND RAISED FROM THE DEAD AND IS BOTH LORD AND SAVIOR OF THE WORLD (Acts 2:36)!!!⁷³

Therefore, because of the above facts there is no doubt that Jesus was both crucified and raised from the dead as the Bible claims. And because of these facts there is no other way to the Father except through Jesus Christ (John 14:6). There is no other name, by which a person can be saved, except by the name of Jesus (Acts 4:12). And there is no work that a sinner can do to appease the wrath and judgment of a holy God, in turn, the only means of salvation is through faith in the once crucified and now RISEN SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST!!!

Acts 2:36-39, "36 Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the

⁷³ McDowell, 201-284. This is a summary of his very in-depth study of the crucified and resurrected Savior.

forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Review:

1. Explain the Biblical view of salvation as it concerns the cross.
2. Why is the cross the only Biblical perspective concerning Jesus' work of salvation? Meaning why don't the writers of the Gospels share the beliefs of Islam concerning the cross?
3. Explain why the cross is offensive to the Islamic belief of Jesus.
4. According to the Bible what did Jesus do after His death on the cross?

Section IV: Reaching Muslims In America

This fourth section brings to light the growth of Islam in the West and the response of the Christian church.



Chapter 13

Why Islam is Growing So Fast in the West?

"Islam's race to win the world was detoured for about four hundred years, but now it is back on track to achieve our goal-the setting up of a worldwide (community of Islam)." - Muslim Leader in Europe

Psalms 2:1-4, " 1 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One. 3 "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." 4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, 6 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

Today Islam is the second largest religion in the world with over 1 billion followers and accounts for about 1/5 of the world's population. This once small pagan influenced religious tribe of Mecca has now become a world dominating force. In over 40 nations Muslims form a majority of the population, in the top 25 super cities of the world (more than 10 million people each), six are predominantly Muslim: Cairo, Egypt; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Istanbul, Turkey; Jakarta, Indonesia; Karachi, Pakistan and Teheran, Iran.⁷⁴

It is estimated that there around 17 million Muslims living in Europe and Islam has become North America's fastest growing religion with over 6 million Muslims. In London the number of Mosques have gone from 2 to over 400 in just the last 25 years. And the number of Mosques in America doubled from 600 in 1988 to over 1,200 in 2000. Also, Washington DC, the capitol of America, has over 39 mosques alone.⁷⁵

Despite the fact that in the last twenty years 19 of the 28 major conflicts with the Western world were with Islamic nations, the affects of global Islamic terrorism and 9-11, Islam is converting new believers from Christian backgrounds to the tune of around 50,000 a year just in America. And the

⁷⁴ Stuart Robinson, *Mosques & Miracles* (Australia: City Harvest Publications, 2004), 3.

⁷⁵ *Ibid*, 3,41.

majority of these converts are African Americans, accounting for about 70% of all American born convert to Islam.

With Islam on the move and goal to win the world to Allah by force or by conversion, the Christian living in the West, specifically in America is left asking the question, How could this happen? Here is some of the reason why Islam is growing so quickly in West, specifically in America. (1) Islam has made a concentrated effort to come to America to make new converts. (2) The largest group of America converts, the African Americans, are more prone to Islam because of their plight in American history and the doctrinally weak African America church. (3) America has a high rate of immigrants coming to America with strong religious beliefs.

I will now describe these reasons for Islamic growth in America:

(1) Islam has made a concentrated effort to come to America to make new converts

Islam only knows of two major ways to make converts, first through war (jihad) or second through missions work (Da'wah). As it was with Mohamed in the first years of Mecca, Da'wah is used when Islam is a minority, but as with Mohamed in Medina, Jihad and war is used when Islam is a majority.

The word for missions in Arabic is "Da'wah", this word means, "come", in regards to Islam; it means "to extend in invitation to come to close fellowship with Allah through Islam". Da'wah is the means by which Muslims bring new people to Islam. The word for missionary in Arabic is "daa'i", this word means "witness", a daa'i in Islam has six responsibilities, and they are

1. To oneself
2. To one's family
3. To one's neighbors
4. To one's fellow citizens
5. To one's countrymen
6. To one's fellow human beings⁷⁶

⁷⁶ Wagner, 41.

Today many of the mosques in America are heavily financed by Saudi sources for the purpose of drawing new people in America to come to Islam. Many of these missionaries are trained overseas and then are sent to be Imams in the American mosques specifically with the goal of making new converts in America. The main missions organization for Islam is called the “Muslim World League”. This group joins together many different Muslim communities from around the world with the purpose of discovering new ways to reach people, especially in the West with the message of Islam.

Here is a list and brief description of the missions focus in America by the Muslims:

(a) Da’wah In the Academic World

Islam has made American universities and colleges prime targets of Islam. Their main goal is to promote Islamic education in the schools. Because of the interest by most Americans in Islam since 9-11, these outreaches are very successful in gathering in new people to hear the “peaceful” side of Islam.

Therefore, Islamic clubs are set up in most major colleges and lectures are held where people can ask questions and get more familiar with Islam. Plus, many foreign students that were not committed Muslims in their country now missing parts of their home are drawn to Islam as a result of cultural identity. And those who never were able to here a well-versed presentation if Islam, such as those from places where Islam is scarce like China and Japan, Islam can become intriguing to their newly awakened religious senses.⁷⁷

(b) Da’wah In Prisons

Since Muslims have seen such a high response rate from the African American community because they are disenfranchised with America and the church, Muslims seek the prisons to find the most highly populated prison group,

⁷⁷ Ibid, 46.

young African American males. Here in prison the Muslim Chaplin many times relates the struggles the young black man is facing to the problems with America and the “white Jesus”. Since the average African American in jail does not have an education and understands very little theologically about the Bible he becomes prone to the new and disciplined teachings of Islam that promises him a new life and new religion without the “political hang-ups” of “white Christianity”.⁷⁸

(c) Da’wah In The Building of Community

Because Americans are becoming more and more distant from community, the Muslim counter cultural built upon the Mosque provides a great diversion from the downward spiral of western isolationism. Since the Muslim is taught to pray five times a day, the Mosque is always open for both prayer and fellowship. In the mosque families are always seen together and events are planned in which outsiders are always welcomed such as classes, meals, and sporting clubs. Also, since many of the Muslims come from non-western countries things such as “family time” and “civil responsibility” are generally high in comparison to the generally self-centered American that spends more time in front of the TV than in meaningful relationships.⁷⁹

(2) The largest group of America converts, the African Americans, are more prone to Islam because of their plight in American history and the doctrinally weak African America church.

Another reason why Islam is growing so fast in American is because their number one target and highest rate of conversion are among the most oppressed group known to America, the African American. African Americans account for about 2 million of the total 6 million Muslims living in American and they account for over 85% of the number of

⁷⁸ Ibid, 50.

⁷⁹ Ibid, 51.

American born converts to Islam and at least 80% were raised in the Christian church.⁸⁰

Why is Islam growing so fast among the African Americans? The answer is - racial oppression and superficial Christianity. First, African Americans have seen first hand the horrors of oppression and bigotry done because of racism in the name of God especially the God of the Christians. And because of the 400 years of slavery and oppression in America the African American is the largest population group found in the inner cities of America's troubled neighborhoods, the largest people group in jail, the number one American group for violence, crime, drug use and addiction, fatherless homes, and lack of education.^{81 82} ,

Second, the many of the churches in the African American community have become a superficial form of religion to many of the African Americans in the community because of the lavish living of the pastors and the far to emotional messages without sound doctrine from the pulpit. All one has to do is drive down a major street in Chicago, Atlanta, or New York and one can easily see that there vast numbers of churches on every street. Therefore, one would think because of this great amount of churches in these neighborhoods that the African Americans would remain Christian, but the opposite is true. Many of these churches often times cause more problems to the African American because of the lack of true doctrinal teaching and Christian integrity and thus leave the African America open to a more "pure" and "simple" form of religion.

Nation of Islam

The Islamic sect, "The Nation of Islam" has served to meet this very need in the African American culture by reaching out to

⁸⁰ Bruce A. McDowell & Anees Zaka, *Muslims and Christians at the Table* (Phillipsburg, New Jersey: P & R Publishing, 1999), 6.

⁸¹ US Census, *Sociological Comparisons Between Whites and Blacks* (1999), <http://www.runet.edu/~junnever/bw.htm> [Accessed October 23, 2008]

⁸² Bill Maxwell, *On Campus, Grim Statistics For African American Males*, (St. Petersburg Times, Jan. 4, 2004), http://www.sptimes.com/2004/01/04/Columns/On_campus__grim_statist.shtml [Accessed October 23, 2008]

the black man claiming that the black race or “so called Negro” race is the lineage of all the prophets and is superior to the white race. Some of the most notable members of the organization are Mohamed Ali and the rapper Busta Rhymes.

Wallace D. Fard founded the Nation of Islam in 1930 and was believed to be the second Messiah known as “Mahdi” or “god in the flesh”. Ward’s teachings were primarily based on the Qur’an but he also introduced some new teaching with the Nation that primary dealt with the black man and his role on the earth. Along with his new claims he also taught that he was God in the flesh, and that all black men and women where gods. Ward disappeared in 1934 and was believed by his followers to be taken up to heaven.

Elijah Mohamed became the Nation’s next leader and he helped establish the Nation as a powerful political religion in the 1950’s and 60’s. During this time of racial tensions in America the Nation served as a strong voice for equality and honor for the African American people. The famous orator and activist Malcolm X was converted to the Nation while in jail and soon became the face of the Nation in America at this time.

However, because of jealousy and bitter rivalry in the Nation Malcolm X was assassinated and eventually Luis Farrakhan become the next in line to take Elijah Mohamed’s place as leader. Today Luis Farrakhan oversees about a dozen centers with around 10,000 active members worldwide. This, though not recognized by most fundamental Muslims and “true Islam”, serves a purpose for Islam “stepping stone” to traditional Islam. Since many of its members, including Elijah Mohamed’s son and Malcolm X, become disappointed by the “black centered” racism and “extra” beliefs, such as Ward was God in the flesh and that men are gods, they turn to the more trusted and authentic form of Islam. Therefore, the Nation of Islam is still good for Islam overall in America.

Mosques in the Cities of America

The mission strategy of Islam to the African American also involves traditional Islam setting up its Mosques and cultural

centers in the black communities of major cities. For example in Chicago, New York, and Washington D.C. there is a large number of African American Muslims who attend a Mosque close to the troubled areas of the cities. Here the Muslim mosque serves as a beacon of hope in a community troubled with drugs and violence.

The Mosque offers a clean and safe environment for the African American family to come and learn traditional family and cultural values seen in the Middle East. The women are taught in Islam to be covered with the hijab and respected as queens; this is a far cry from the “hip-hop” portrayal of women in the urban world. Also, the men are taught to work and provide for their families and the prayers and study of the Qur’an help build a discipline in the African American’s life that leads him off the streets and corners to pursue education and a profitable career.

Also, the teaching from the Imam offers clear understanding to the problems facing the people in the urban areas. The Qur’an teaches to follow Allah’s commands and to be in total submission to Allah’s will, this help bring the African American a sense of moral dignity and pride because the area in which he lives is full of moral evils and human degradation. And because Islam at times seems much simpler in its approach to theology than Christianity, the newly converted Muslim feels a sense of spiritual fulfillment because can fully understand God and his place in life.

(3) America has a high rate of immigrants coming to America with strong religious beliefs.

The third reason for such a large growth rate of Islam in America is because of the mass migration of Muslims from other countries moving to America. It is estimated that over 145,000 Muslims relocate to America each year. Though many of these Muslims are seeking a safer place to live because of issues involving Islam in their own country, most they still remain true to Islam once in America.

One of the highest growth rates in Islam as a result of migration is among American born women who convert to

Islam in order to be married to their Muslim boyfriend. Some even suspect that this is an intentional missionary strategy for Islam. To allow Muslim men to date and fall in love with woman from America and a different religion and then when it is time to get married, convince the girl to become a Muslim so the family can bless them.

Today because of Islamic martial laws over 7,000 interracial marriages take place each year in America where the woman is required to convert to Islam and live as a Muslim. These marriages and new families are then based upon the Qur'an and the Muslim religion. It is often very difficult for an American women to divorce a Muslim immigrant and have full custody of her children, thus the family remains in the Islamic religion.⁸³

Lastly, the growth of Islam among the Muslim immigrants is high because of the high birth rates among Islamic families. Most Muslims do not practice birth control nor believe in it. For many Muslim men it is a great honor to have many children, especially boys. Therefore, it is common for Muslim families to have over 4-5 children, whereas most American has only 1-2 children on average.⁸⁴

Review:

1. Name some reasons why Islam is growing so fast in the West.
2. Why are African Americans so attracted to Islam?
3. Does Islam's growth in the West prove its validity? Explain your answer.

⁸³ Robinson, 42.

⁸⁴ Ibid, 44.

Chapter 14

How to Reach Muslims In America

2 Corinthians 10:3-5, "3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Today America has the most culturally diverse population of Muslims in the world aside from the annual time of the Hajj in Mecca.⁸⁵ America has literally millions of Muslims from all over the world living in the freedom of America. In the 40 plus countries where Muslims are the majority religion peer pressure and Sharia law make converting from Islam to Christianity very difficult, whereas in America, a non-Muslim country, the social pressure is far less meaningful and the consequences of conversion can be much less severe.

One Christian scholar on Islam commented, "Being 'lost' in America is like falling off the back of a sailboat in Lake Michigan 100 yards off Chicago's Navy Pier on July 4th at noon. Being 'lost' almost anywhere in the Muslim world is like falling off the back of an ore freighter in the middle of Lake Michigan in a raging gale at midnight. In both of those scenarios, you could drown. But the probability of your being saved (hearing and having opportunity to respond to the Gospel) is vastly different in each case."⁸⁶

Therefore, the Christian must take full advantage of the great opportunity he has been given and reach out to the lost Muslim people and prayerfully bring them to the saving faith only found in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Just as Philip was led to the Ethiopian Eunuch while he was searching the Scripture and showed him the truth of Jesus, today many Muslims are searching the Qur'an to find meaning in life, but

⁸⁵ Dr. Hausfeld, *Islam in America* (Springfield, Missouri: Assembly of God Theological Seminar), 19.

⁸⁶ *Ibid*, 75-76.

cannot see the light unless someone shows them the way through Jesus Christ [Acts 8:26-40].

Today the majority of Muslims in America are not the fundamental Muslims that Mohamed commended them to be. Though the population of Muslims is great in America and many Muslims have plans to reach the “infidel” with the message of Mohamed, still for more Muslims are not living the lifestyle of a slave to Allah, but rather most are getting lost in the American dream and have hardly any spiritual discernment.

Reverend Adam Simnowitz, a Christian Missionary to the Muslims in Michigan said, “Most Muslims in America are not devoted followers of Mohamed praying faithfully five times a day towards Mecca, but rather most are just paying “lip service” to Islam so they don’t get disowned by their family or suffer in hell, but in their heart they are very non-religious, enjoying all the temptations of the American life, just like anyone else born in the U.S.”⁸⁷

This is also echoed in the very lives of the Muslims that one can find in any given park or store in America. One Muslim cell phone storeowner, while smoking a cigarette, commented about his religion, “I’m Muslim because my parents were Muslim, I’ve never really studied it or given it much thought personally, all my family has always been Muslim.” Then when asked if he went to the Mosque every Friday for prayer or if he prayed five times a day he replied, “No, I don’t go like I should, I’m too busy with work and other things, I go when I can, and I fast during Ramadan, that is what I do.”⁸⁸

The Christian today is able to reach to Muslims old and young alike. One young seventeen-year-old Muslim girl named Sally was brought over from Jordan to America as a newly married wife to a Muslim man from her country. Sally did not know much about Christianity before she came to America but as she was in Chicago some classmates began to share with her the love of Jesus. While at the same time she was being

⁸⁷ Reverend Adam Simnowitz, Assembly of God Home Missionary in Michigan, 2008. Interviewed by the author, September 2008, Chicago, IL, mp3 recording.

⁸⁸ Hasum, Muslim Store Owner from Pakistan, 2008, Interviewed by the author, September 2008, Chicago, IL, oral interview.

verbally and physically abused by her Muslim husband and step Mother, she began to question her religion that allowed such cruelty (Sura 4:34).

Sally even went to her local Mosque to talk with the Imam about the abuse in her home, but Muslim leader commanded her to stay married to her abusive husband. Desperate for help and now living in a free country, Sally chose to visit the church of her friends. In church she began to hear clearly about the love of Jesus and His death on the cross. Over time she became a follower of Jesus and converted to Christianity.

She eventually went to her husband and shared about her conversion, but he was even angrier with her and threatened her all the more, so in fear for her life she moved out of her home and stayed with her new Christian friends and began to serve God. Currently, Sally is happily raising her children and falling more and more in love with Jesus everyday. She has been divorced from her husband and is seeking citizenship in America. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, brought Sally to Himself and has given her great peace and joy!⁸⁹

This situation with Sally could have been drastically different in a Muslim country ruled by Sharia Law. Sally could have been tortured and even killed because of her conversion to Christianity and her rejection of Mohamed as a prophet. But because she was in America she was able to both convert to Christianity and find great freedom from the oppression of Islam.

Today there are literally millions of people like Sally in America that need to be reached with the love and power of Jesus Christ. Just like how Jesus went out of His way to meet the Samaritan woman so that He could bring her the good news, Christians must be willing to go out of their way and find the lost and hurting Muslim and bring them freedom that can only be found in a loving relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (John 4).

⁸⁹ Sally, A Christian Convert from Islam, 2008, public testimony given in a church in Naperville, IL September 2008, Chicago, IL.

Here are some of the ways that Christians today can reach out to their Muslim friends and begin to share with the message of salvation with them through the cross of Jesus Christ: (a) Prayer (b) Friendship (c) Discussion (d) Power Encounters

Prayer

Jesus said that prayer can move mountains, and through prayer Christians can move the mountain of Islam from the lives of Muslims [Matthew 21:21]. Dr. Hausfeld, a Missionary to Pakistan and former Pastor in Chicago with Muslim converts, said that deep intercessor prayer was and is the most important of all of his ministries with Muslims both in the US and abroad, and of all the strategies he has seen used with Muslims, prayer is the strongest tool the Christian has.⁹⁰

The Christian must take spiritual authority over the lies and deception of Islam in prayer to see the veil of Satan lifted from Muslims hearts. Paul teaches in the New Testament that the war of men's souls is not fought in a Jihad Muslim way, but in a spiritual way against the devil. Please read what Paul said about "spiritual warfare" in the following verses.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5, "3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Comment: This passage teaches that God gives us "weapons" to tear down the "strongholds" of the devil. These weapons can be seen as the Word of God and prayer [Ephesians 6:17-18]. And the strongholds are the lies of the devil and his arguments against the truth of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:17-18, "17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."

⁹⁰ Hausfeld, 70-71. And repeated in personal interview done by author September 2008 by phone in Chicago and Springfield Missouri, recorded on mp3.

2 Corinthians 4:4-6, "4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

Comment: Paul declares that it is the devil that blinds the minds of the unbelievers, it is not just a work of the flesh, but the devil himself fights against those who are lost so that can remain blind and die in their sins. But it is through the preaching of God's Word that light can come and break through the darkness, therefore, the preaching must pray first that the light of God's Word will shine through him.

Here are some things to pray for:

1. Pray for the Spirit to open the mind of the Muslim so they can see the Light of God's Word
2. Pray for open doors to share the Gospel
3. Pray for boldness to speak God's Word
4. Pray against the workings of the devil and false religion

Remember when praying for Muslims to come to Jesus do not to get discouraged by the lack of immediate change in the Muslim's lives you are praying for. From past stories of Muslim converts it can be said the majority of Muslim conversions came over a period of years. Very seldom is it instantaneous, though can change a Muslims heart in one day, many times it is a continual searching and seeking that brings the Muslim to Jesus.

One such story comes from Simnowitz in Michigan who states that Ali was a devote Muslim in his Islamic faith since birth, but friends kept praying for him and gathering others to join them in prayer for his salvation, and then finally one day Ali come to a Bible study and heard the Word of God. However, he did not get saved that day so the Christians continued to pray for Ali until one day he came to them and shared that he had accepted Jesus into His life while home alone in his basement.⁹¹

⁹¹ Simnowitz, Interview.

Therefore, be sure to cover the Muslim in prayer and fight for their soul in Spirit and do not give up until you see them get mightily saved!

Friendship

Jesus said that he considered His followers His friends (John 15:14-15). Abraham is also called a “friend of God” (James 2:23). This is a strong contrast to the “slave-master” Allah has with Muslims. Therefore, one of the most easiest and most powerful ways to reach Muslims with the Gospel is to be their friend.

True friendship does not come with strings attached or hidden motives. Do not be a Muslim’s friend just to see him convert to Christianity, but rather genuinely be their friend whether they ever convert or not. Also, do not use “bait and switch” methods when reaching out to Muslims. For example how would you like if it someone at work said they wanted to be your friend and invited you and your wife over to their house for dinner and then planned to “sell you an idea”? Imagine if after the dinner they came to the kitchen with a poster board presentation of a new “get rich fast scheme”, how would you feel? What if they kept you there for two hours trying to convince you to join the “business” and pay them just two easy payments of \$59.99 for the next two months and you than could be a millionaire like the salesman on TV? How would you feel? Hurt. Why? Because you were used and abused.

The same is true when you are reaching out to Muslims in friendship. Do not call them over for dinner and then plan to “spring” a Bible study on them. Either invite them over for dinner and let it come up naturally or let them know that you want them to come to dinner and afterwards do a Bible. But either way do not “bait and switch”, Jesus taught to “do unto others as you would want people to do unto you” (Luke 6:31).

Here are some helpful hints in being a good friend to a Muslim:

1. Find Muslims that are close to you and engage in them discussion on subjects that are mutually relevant to both you and them and see if they want to be friends
2. Invite Muslims to your house for meals and fellowship
3. Be a good listener, hear the things that are important to them and learn who they are, because Muslims are simply just people before they are a Muslim
4. Give gifts to them that express your heart of love towards them, feel free to give Christian gifts if they are valuable to you
5. Do acts of kindness and servant hood for them, this shows your love

Here are some things to remember when befriending a Muslim:

1. Most Muslims keep the traditional Islamic diet, remember to ask first before preparing a meal what they can and cannot eat and how they need it prepared
2. In most Middle Eastern cultures it is wrong for man to speak to a woman and to touch her, even it is just to shake her hand and it is wrong for a woman to speak to a man or shake his hand, be sure to know what they consider appropriate
3. During certain times of the day your Muslim friend may choose to pray, be respectful of this act of worship and support their choice to do so
4. Often times they will greet each other in traditional greeting, try to know this greeting to respond back
 - a. First person says, "Al-salamu 'alaykum", which means, "May peace be upon you"
 - b. The other person will then say back to the first person, "Wa 'alaykumu'l-Salam", which means, "And may peace be on you also".
5. Try to always be respectful and know the boundaries of humor or jesting because some things do not translate well to other cultures, and yet other things do very easily

Simnowitz tells the story about Muslim that suffers from depression and did not have any friends. So the Christians began to befriend him and show him attention, after a time the Muslim man accepted Jesus into his life because the

Christians had displayed friendship to him and He was drawn to Jesus, man's best friend.

Also, Hausfeld relates stories from the South Asian Friendship Center in Chicago that offers free coffee and fellowship for the Muslims living in the Islamic part of Chicago. Here at the center Hausfeld states that Muslims can enjoy their favorite drinks from their home country watch their favorite sports and be around others that remind them of home. The Center also offers classes and other tools that Muslim immigrants can use to make their life better in America. This all happens in a place that is run by Christians. Bible studies and the like are offered, but it is always noted when the events arise so that the Muslim will now that he has not been tricked into hearing the Gospel.⁹²

Discussion

Open discussion is another way to reach Muslims with the truth about Jesus. Open discussions can be as simple as asking your Muslim friend if he or she would like to talk about each other's religion and see what the similarities and differences are. And discussions can become as big and complex as holding a public debate between Muslims and Christians with various groups from both sides that come together to discuss where the truth is between their two religions.

Though public debates are good for getting both sides to talk to each other and come together for an exciting event, the best chance of seeing individual Muslims saved is going to be done one-on-one. During these intimate discussions remember that the point is not to "win" an argument, but rather to share the truth so that they might be saved. The Bible teaches that Paul and Jesus both debated and discussed their truth with those who had differing opinions and though they did not intentionally want to offend people, at times their message offended people. Therefore, when you are discussing the issues of Mohamed and the Qur'an be bold and speak the truth and at the same time do all that you can

⁹² Hausfeld, 70-75.

to not offend in the “flesh”, meaning try to avoid unnecessary name-calling or demeaning words. But rather speak the Word of God boldly using the terms and language that Jesus used.

Here are some verses that show the need for discussion:

Acts 9:28-30, “28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him. 30 When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.”

Comment: Here the Bible shows that because Paul debated with the Jews they wanted to kill him. Sometimes people will hate you for what you say because it exposes their sins, do not be afraid to speak the truth in love and if you suffer persecution, rejoice because you share in the suffering of Jesus and His apostles.

Acts 18:27-28, “27 When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. 28 For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.”

Comment: Apollos was one of Paul’s disciples and knew how to show the way of Christ to the Jewish people. He was used by God to “prove to the by Scripture that Jesus was the Christ”, pray that you may have this same gift when discussing the Christian faith with Muslims.

Jude 1:3, “Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.”

Comment: Jude commanded the Christians to be able to contend and fight with the truth to preserve the faith that had been entrusted to them. Remember, many of the Mosques also teach Muslims how to defend their faith attacking the Bible and the testimony about Jesus, be prepared to contend with them and show them the Gospel truth.

Here are some things to remember when discussing your faith with a Muslim:

1. Try to remain focused on who Jesus is, do not get distracted by other less important subjects, the main ones are the Bible and Jesus
2. Do not allow yourself to be angry or to be aggressive towards the person, simply attack the lie with the truth
3. Be humble, because you will also learn a lot, take turns speaking, do not interrupt, and ask them to do them same
4. Try not to stereotype, ask them what they believe, many people today, including Muslims pick and choose various practices from different religions and roll all up into on thing they call, "god"
5. Let them know heaven and hell are at stake
6. Set up multiple times to meet, meet until either they get saved or the discussions are no longer fruitful
7. Invite them to church in exchange for going to the Mosque
8. Have reading exchanges where they read something you recommend and you do the same, and then you both come back and discuss it

Discussions both public and private are great ways to reach out to Muslims with the Gospel. Remember to always do it in love, never make it about winning. Be sure to come prayed up and have others praying for you when you go to discuss the truth of Jesus with a Muslim. Pray and fast specifically for the walls of the devil's lies to come down, so that the Holy with the Word of God will do the work. And lastly, remember humility, how you want someone to tell you all you have known and believed in was wrong and because of that you and everyone you knew was going to hell for eternity.

Let them see your love before they see your point,
Let them hear your heart, before they hear your voice.
Let them walk with you for miles, before you ask them to walk away from
everything they know, and let them know Jesus, before they know your
religion.

Power Encounters

According to a survey done among 600 people who had converted to Christianity from Islam the number reason was because of SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTERS.⁹³ When Jesus

⁹³ Robinson, 263.

sent out His disciples He sent them out with the power to heal the sick, cast out demons, and even raise the dead (Matthew 10:1). Today the greatest way to see Muslims come to Christ is to bring into a power encounter with the living God.

Hausfeld, while a missionary in Pakistan, relates the story that when a Muslim government official was hooked on drugs they sent him to their Christian rehab called, "Teen Challenge". There at the center the man was totally and instantaneously saved and delivered from drugs. After the man had finished his time in the program he went back to work at the government building a saw a Muslim man that was deaf in both of his ears, he asked if he could pray for man and the man gave him permission. The new believer simply placed his hands on the ears of the Muslim and commanded the ears to be open in the name of Jesus, all of a sudden, the man began to hear the fan and noises in the background and within moments he had his hearing restored and began to run around the building shouting and praising God. Hausfeld states this man who was once on drugs is now a traveling preaching seeing miracles wherever he goes.⁹⁴

Another pastor reports 24 Bulgarian Muslim mullahs (leaders) who were all in different part of Bulgaria all had the same the same vision of Jesus saying that He was the Messiah. Then each one of the individually went and found a churches in their area and reported the vision to the fellow Christians who confirmed it was vision from Jesus Himself. Then all 24 Muslims leaders all got glorious saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. After a few days the stories began to spread about what happened to them and then they began to hear about each other and they soon realized that Jesus had visited all 24 of them around the same time. As a result of this powerful encounter they put crosses in each of their 24 mosques and God began to bring revival to the Bulgarian people in a mighty way.⁹⁵

⁹⁴ Rev. Mark Hausfeld, Professor at the Assembly of God Seminary, 2008, In personal interview done by author the September 2008 by phone in Chicago and Springfield Missouri, recorded on mp3.

⁹⁵ Robinson, 263.

America needs to see and experience the power of God. Christians need to pray that God will open the eyes of the Muslims and show them His great and awesome power!! Just like in the days of Paul Jesus showed up and blinded him and knocked him off his horse and then showed Paul the truth, we need to pray that Muslims see the wonderful presence and person of Jesus Christ (Acts 9). Remember, Mohamed established Islam because an evil spirit in the form of an angel visited him, how much more will a Muslim become a Christian if he has a visitation from God Himself.

The Bible is full of stories of those who doubted and they were given signs from heaven. Though God's chosen method of salvation is through the preaching of the Gospel by men, but visions, dreams, and miracles all draw the Muslims into a place where his heart is soft and is ready to hear the Gospel.

Here are some verses that will encourage you to pray for Muslims to have dreams and visions and to also inspire you operate in the power of God with signs and wonders so that Muslims will be saved:

Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 3:3-10, "3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. 6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. 9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him."

Acts 4:29-31, "29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

Acts 8:4-8, “ 4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.”

Luke 10:18-20, “ 18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

We serve a living God who is able to answer prayers and do mighty works upon the earth (2 Chronicles 16:9). Jesus told His disciples that the same things they saw Him do they could also do and even greater (John 14:12). Today the Muslim world is following a false prophet, ask God to use you to show them the true and living God. Seek God not just for the signs and the power but for souls to be saved because they have seen the signs and wonders. God never intended His gospel to be preached without the power, today bring the Muslims in America into a power encounter with Jesus!!

Review:

1. What are some powerful ways to reach Muslims with the Gospel?
2. How are many Muslims coming to Jesus today?
3. What will you do to see Muslims come to Christ?

Final Words

Will You Go For God?

Isaiah 6:6-7, " Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

God asked the Prophet Isaiah thousands of years of ago concerning the need for a messenger to the sinful people of Israel, "Who will go for us?" And Isaiah passionately answered, "Here am I. Send me!" This book has been written so that you the Christian could have the tools necessary to go out and reach the Muslim world for Jesus. Woe unto you if you only have head knowledge but no experience. I challenge you today to say to God, "Here I am, send me!"

Do not let an opportunity pass you by. When you see a Muslim reach out to them and show them the love of Christ. Reach out to them with the truth that you have learned in this book. Begin to become their friend and learn their name so that you can pray for them. Invite them to your home and let them see your family and show them that the true followers of Jesus are followers of the Bible and the truth is proclaimed.

And when you see them sick or in trouble offer your prayers for them and believe that God can use to do signs and wonders and when they asked about the source of your power teach them the truth about Jesus, the divine God revealed in the flesh. Ask the Muslim if they have assurance of their salvation and when they say no, teach them the cross and how Jesus died and rose again from the dead for them.

When you see the Muslim, be sensitive their culture and religious customs, but show them no man is justified by following the Law of Moses nor the Laws of the Qur'an and Hadith, but that rather justification is by faith in Jesus. And that salvation is a free gift given by the grace of God and once they believe out their trust in Jesus they can have "blessed assurance" that are saved and Jesus is their personal Lord and Savior.

And lastly, when you a Muslim lost in this world by false religion, let them see Christ in Christianity, because they see Christ in you!

Review:

1. What are some of the things you have learned from this book?
2. How have your views of Islam changed?
3. Do you believe in the Jesus of Christianity or Islam? And how do those beliefs shape your life?

What We Believe

Here are the main 16 fundamental truths that we believe as Christians.

1. **The Scriptures are inspired by God** and declare His design and plan for mankind from Genesis to Revelation (2 Timothy 3:15-17)
2. **There is only one True God**, revealed in three persons...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, commonly known as the Trinity (1 John 1:3-4)
3. **The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ**. As God's son, Jesus was both human and divine (Matthew 1:23 & 1 Peter 2:22)
4. **Though originally good, man willingly fell into sin**, ushering evil and death, both physical and spiritual, into the world (Romans 5:12-19)
5. **Every person can have restored fellowship with God through salvation**; accepting Christ's offer of forgiveness for sin through repentance and faith is the only way to be saved (Romans 10:13-15)
6. **The practice of two ordinances**: (1) Water baptism by immersion after repenting of one's sins and receiving Christ's gift of salvation, and (2) Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's suffering and death for our salvation. (Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:26)
7. **The Baptism in the Holy Spirit** is a special experience following salvation that empowers believers for witnessing and effective service, just as it did in New Testament times (Acts 1:4,8)
8. **The initial physical evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is 'Speaking in Tongues,'** as experienced on the Day of Pentecost and referenced throughout Acts and the Epistles (Acts 2:4)
9. **Sanctification initially occurs at salvation** and is not only a declaration that a believer is holy, but also a progressive lifelong process of separating from evil as believers continually draw closer to God and become more Christ-like (Romans 12:1-2)
10. **The Church has a mission to seek and to save all who are lost in sin**. We believe 'the Church' is the Body of Christ and consists of the people who, throughout time, have accepted God's offer of redemption (regardless of religious denomination) through the sacrificial death of His Son Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:22)
11. **A divinely called and scripturally ordained leadership** ministry serves the Church. The Bible teaches that each of us, under

leadership, must commit ourselves to reach others for Christ, to worship Him with other believers, and to build up or edify the body of believers, the Church. (Mark 16:15-20; John 4:23-24; Ephesians 4:11-16)

12. **Divine healing of the sick** is a privilege for Christians today and is provided for in Christ's atonement, His sacrificial death on the cross for our sins (James 5:14-16)
13. **In "The Blessed Hope"**: When Jesus raptures His church prior to His return to earth (the second coming). At this future moment in time, all believers who have died will rise from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air, and Christians who are alive will be caught up with them, to be with the Lord forever (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 & 1 Corinthians 15:51-52)
14. **In The millennial reign of Christ** when Jesus returns with His saints at His second coming and begins His benevolent rule over earth for 1,000 years. At that time, many in the nation of Israel will recognize and accept Him as the Messiah, the Savior who died for them and all mankind (Revelation 19:11-14)
15. **A final judgment** will take place for those who have rejected Christ. They will be judged for their sin and consigned to eternal punishment in a literal lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15, 21:8)
16. **We look forward to the perfect New Heavens and a New Earth** that Christ is preparing for all people, of all time, who have accepted Him. We will live and dwell with Him there forever following His millennial reign on earth. 'And so shall we forever be with the Lord!' (2 Peter 3:13 & Revelation 21-22)

Resources

Here are some great online resources to get you started in your new walk with Jesus.

Online Bibles

- www.biblegateway.com
- www.onlinebible.net

Apologetics (Defense of the Faith & Questions About God)

- www.johnankerberg.org
- www.carm.org
- www.gotquestions.org

Answers to Islamic Questions & Objections

- www.answering-islam.org
- www.spotlights.org

Testimonies From Former Muslims

- www.erguncaner.com - Ergun Caner
- www.answering-islam.org/Testimonies/index.html - various people

Great Preaching

- www.heartlandfamily.com - Steve Hill
- www.god.tv - Online Christian TV
- www.worldchallenge.org - David Wilkerson
- www.metropraise.org - Joe Wyrostek

Contact & Order Information

Here is a list of books available from the author:

1. **Welcome to Your New Life:** Seven Steps to Spiritual Growth
2. **Welcome to Your New Life:** Seven Steps to Spiritual Growth (Spanish Version)
3. **Disciples That Make Disciples:** 12 Lessons in Christian Leadership
4. **Date Like a Christian:** 7 Steps to a Godly Marriage
5. **Helping Muslims See Christ in Christianity:** Understanding Islam in Light of the Bible

To find prices, place orders, and get bulk discounts call 773.870.9860 or write joeandwyro@hotmail.com for more information.

The ministry web site www.metropraise.org has free sermons, live web casts, teaching videos, and much more for your service anytime you need it.

Please let us know if this book has helped you or blessed you in any way by writing Joe Wyrstek at joeandwyro@hotmail.com and share your testimony with us! We would love to hear from you!

All financial gifts for Joe Wyrstek, Metro Praise Church, or the mission programs of Metro Praise Church can be sent to the address below and checks can be made out to "Metro Praise", which is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization:

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Thank you for enjoying our book!