

Islam.

A religion that claims to be the culmination of Judaism and Christianity. Followers of Islam believe that God gave his revelation of himself to various prophets, including Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus, and, finally, Mohammed.

A Brief Biography of Mohammed:

Mohammed was born 570 AD, into a highly regarded family, from the respected tribe of Quraysh. His father died before his birth, and his mother died when he was six years old. His uncle, Abu Talib, cared for him.

As a young man, Mohammed was exposed to the various sects of Christianity and Judaism. This may have influenced his disenchantment with the traditional, polytheistic religion of the Arabs, of his time. Mohammed later referred to Christians and Jews as "People of the Book" (In reference to the *Bible*).

At age 25, Mohammed started working for the rich widow, Khadija. They later married even though she was 15 years older than he.

At age 40, Mohammed spent much time in meditation, and proclaimed that he was selected by God to preach the true religion. Over the next 23 years, he claimed that the angel Gabriel gave him God's new Word. The book is called the Quran and it is divided in sections called "surahs".

Mohammed faced harassment and persecution from tribal chiefs, who saw the new religion as a danger to the city's principal source of revenue—pilgrimages to the pagan shrine of the Kaaba.

In the year A.D. 622, after an attempt by his opponents to murder him, Mohammed and his few followers fled to Yathrib (later named Medina). This migration is known as the Hijira.

In Medina, Mohammed's followers grew in strength and number. From Medina, he began a series of raids on the city of Mecca. Ultimately, he subjugated the city and brought all of Arabia under his control. This firmly established Islam.

Mohammed died in the year 632 AD. Disagreeing on a successor split his followers into two groups, Sunnis and Shi'ites. This schism within the Muslim world was over Islamic law and spiritual authority.

Islam has always grown through use of the sword (Jihad). Presently, Moslems claim 1/5 of the world's population, or approximately 1 billion followers worldwide (5 million in America).

What is wrong with Islam?

Islam Has a Different God

Christians and Muslims believe in one God (monotheism), the creator and Lord of the Universe. The two religions have major differences in their beliefs about God. The Christians' God is holy, loving, truthful, and just. The Koran calls Allah the best of deceivers (surah 8:14) temperamental (surah 132:13) and frightening (surah 9:13).

Christians believe that *"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son."* They believe that God exists in three persons, (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). Mohammed, incorrectly thinking they believed in Father, Son and Mary, rejected the doctrine of the Trinity.

"They do blaspheme who say God is one of three... for there is no God except one God." (surah 5:73)

The concept of God as a loving father is completely unknown in Islam: *"(Both) the Jews and the Christians say, 'We are sons of Allah and His beloved.' Say: why then doth He punish you for*

your sins? Nay, you are but men of the men He has created" (surah 5:18).

On the other hand, the concept of God being our heavenly **Father** is at the core of the Christian faith. The Lord Jesus taught His disciples to pray, saying: **"Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name..."** (Matthew 6:9)

The Moslem fears his Allah, his master. The Christian loves God, his heavenly father: *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God... Behold, now are we the sons of God."* (1 John 3:1-2)

Islam Has a Different Goal

Islam means submission. The followers of Mohammed must submit their own will to the will of Allah. The ultimate goal is worldwide submission to Islamic Law. This includes the following teachings.

Men are superior to women (surah 2:228). Women have half the rights of men: in court witness (surah 2:282) and in inheritance (surah 4:11).

A man may punish his wife by beating her (surah 4:34).

A man may marry as many as four wives, at the same time (surah 4:3).

Muslims must fight until their opponents submit to Islam (surah 9:29).

Resisting Islam is punished by death, crucifixion or cutting off the hands and feet (surah 5:33). A Muslim apostate must be killed (surah 9:12).

Fate decides everyone's eternal destination (surah 17:13).

Every Muslim will pass through Hell (surah 19:71).

In Islam, heaven is the place where a Muslim will be reclining, eating meats and delicious fruits, drinking exquisite wines, and engaging in sex with virgins (surah 55:54-56 and surah 52:17, 19).

Islam Has a Different Gospel

Mohammed taught that salvation had to be earned by practicing the five pillars:

1) Faith: This declaration of faith is called the Shahada: *"There is no god, but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger (prophet)."*

2) Prayer: Followers say prayers at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset and nightfall. These five prayers contain verses from the Quran, and followers say them in Arabic, the language of the Revelation. One can offer personal supplication in one's own language.

3) Alms Giving: Followers can purify their possessions by setting aside a proportion for those in need.

4) The Fast is a method of self-purification. Islam sets aside one month, each year, for followers to fast during the daylight hours (Ramadan).

5) Pilgrimage: Islam expects the faithful to travel to Mecca, at least once in their lifetimes.

Yet, the man who does all of the above still cannot be certain of his salvation. Even Muhammad was not sure if he was going to heaven. *"By Allah, though I am the Apostle of Allah, yet I do not know what Allah will do to me."* (Hadith vol. 5, no. 266).

Many Moslems believe that death in a Jihad (holy war) is the only sure way to gain heaven.

Christianity is based upon the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is not just one of the prophets; He is the Son of God.

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." Hebrews 1:1-3

God warns every Moslem: *"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel [the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ] unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."*
Galatians 1:8

But the gospel is good news, not only for Moslems but all of humanity. Although it is seen through out the Bible, it is summed up in one verse— **John 3:16,**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

My friend, God loves you and sent His Son to die in your place, paying the penalty for your sin. All you have to do is *"believe in Him"* and He will forgive your sins and give you *"everlasting life."*

Islam can't save you, only Jesus Christ can!

Please contact me if you would like more information: Tom@ariseministries.org

THE TRUTH ABOUT ISLAM



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—Galatians 1:8

By Tom Stiles

