



RELIGIONS AND CULTS OF THE WORLD

WEEK 4 – ISLAM

1 Peter 3:15 says: “But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.”

- An _____ is simply (a well-reasoned, Bible-based explanation of your Christian beliefs using Scripture. Scripture is the most powerful tool in any kind of evangelism.
- _____ are those underlying beliefs that drive how we think and interpret the world around us. A Muslim’s presuppositions usually have been ingrained in them since childhood, this will color the way he or she interprets everything you say.
- Islam is the second largest religion in the world after Christianity, with about _____ Muslims worldwide.

HISTORY OF ISLAM

- The prophet Muhammad was born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia in _____.
- In _____, Muhammad traveled from Mecca to Medina with his supporters. This journey became known as the Hijra and marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar.
- Abu Bakr died about two years after he was elected and was succeeded in _____ by Caliph Umar, another father-in-law of Muhammad.
- The caliphate system lasted for centuries and eventually evolved into the **Ottoman Empire**, which controlled large regions in the middle east from about 1517 until 1917, when World War I ended the Ottoman reign.
- When Muhammad died, there was a debate over who should replace him as leader. This led to the two major sects which are the _____ and _____.
- In _____ the Islamic armies crossed the Straits of Gibraltar and quickly conquered three-fourths of Spain and Portugal. They then invaded France and took one-third of the nation.

1. _____ — due to the discovery of vast reservoirs of oil in Arab lands.
2. _____ — interpreted by Islamic clerics like Khomeini as a judgment of Allah due to Islamic stagnation and apostasy.
3. _____ — the placement during the 1990's of American troops throughout the Middle East in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

DEFINING TERMS

- Islam – This is the Arabic term for “submission”
- Muslim – Is the name given to one who adheres to the religion of Islam. Muslim is a cognate of Islam, and means “one who submits.” So the Muslim submits to the will of Allah as revealed by Muhammad.
- Allah – Is the Arabic term for God, and cannot be easily translated into English, however, one Muslim writer defined it as, “*the word means the unique god who possess all the attributes of perfection and beauty in their infinitude.*” Generally, a Muslim feels strongly that the English word, “God” does not convey the real meaning of the word Allah.
- Muhammad – He was an Arab born in the city of Mecca in 570AD and dies in 632AD. He claimed that he was not only a prophet, but that he would restore true religion and the praise of Allah throughout the world. Of note: Muhammad means “the one who is praised”
- Qur’an – Is Arabic for “the recitation” and refers to the collection of revelations supposedly given by Allah through his archangel to Muhammad and preserved as the Islamic scripture.
 - Muslims believe in the Law of Moses
 - The Psalms of David
 - The Sura, refers to the divisions within the Qur’an and contain 114 revelations and the Hadith, Arabic for the “collected traditions” is also important to Islamic literature. These are the supposed words and deeds of Muhammad and are used to provide the basis of every aspect of Islamic law and practice.
- Caliph – Is Arabic for, “deputy” and refers to the main leaders of Islam, especially the immediate successors of Muhammad.
- Ayatollah – This refers to a spiritual master or leader in Shi’ite Islam.

FUNDAMENTAL GOALS OF ISLAM

Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran who died on June 3, 1989, was the modern-day Islamic spokesman who revived Muhammad’s vision of world conquest. He taught that the re-establishment of Israel was a Satanic miracle allowed by Allah because of the lukewarmness of the Muslim masses. He called for a renewal of true Islam to accomplish three purposes:

1. To _____ the “secular” rulers of Islamic countries (like Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt), just as he had done in Iran.
2. To take back the land of _____ for Allah, exterminating Israel in the process.
3. To _____ the rest of the world for Allah.

THE GOD OF THE BIBLE VS THE GOD OF ISLAM

The God of the Bible

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16)

God never changes (James 1:17)

God is knowable (John 17:3)

God is sovereign (John 14:8-9)

God became flesh (John 1:14)

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Are One (Matthew 28:19-20)

God's love is unconditional (Romans 5:6-8)

God's word is truth (John 17:17, Hebrews 6:18)

God's Son dies on the cross to atone For the sins of the world (1 John 4:10)

The god of the Qur'an

he begets not nor is he begotten (Sura 112:3)

Allah changes as he wills (2:106)

Allah is ultimately unknowable (6:103)

Allah is a dominate master and sovereign (4:78)

Allah does not become flesh (5:72)

Allah is one in mathematical terms (5:73)

Allah's love is conditional (2:190)

Allah is the greatest deceiver (2:116)

Allah has no son (2:116)

THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

- Jesus Christ declared Himself God, John 8:58 says: ***“Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”***
- And He also declared Himself as the Son of God in Matthew 16:16-18, which says: ***“Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”***
- So, the reality is we all have two choices regarding Jesus Christ: accept His free gift of salvation and worship the King of Kings, or reject the free gift of salvation and refuse to bend the knee.
- How the Qur'an speaks of Jesus is a complete contradiction to that of the bible:
 - In the Qur'an, Jesus is the created (sura 3:47)
 - The messenger to the Children of Israel (Sura 3:49)
 - According the Qur'an, Jesus did not die on the cross but someone replaced Him (sura 4:157)
- To the Muslim, they reject any notion that Jesus is God or the Son of God (sura 19:88) so, as we can see, the rejection of the deity of Christ goes hand and hand with the rejection of the triune nature of the Lord. Simply put, Islam rejects the very nature and character of God as revealed in Scripture.

PATH TO SALVATION

- John 3:16: ***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”***
- Romans 3:23: ***“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”***
- 2 Corinthians 5:21: ***“He (God) made Him (Jesus Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”***
- John 14:6: ***“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”***
- Romans 10:9: ***“That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”***
- For Islam, Surah 35:18 states: ***“And no burdened soul can bear another’s burden, and if one heavy laden cries for help his load, naught of it will be lifted. He who grows in goodness, grows only for himself.”***
- Salvation begins with the right belief as seen in the creed, ***“there is no god but Allah and Muhammed is his messenger.”***
- There are also six other fundamentals to the faith that are also essential to salvation:
 1. Belief in god alone with no partners
 2. Belief in angels
 3. Belief in the revelations which came down, the Qur’an
 4. Belief in Allah’s prophets Adam to Muhammed
 5. Belief that Allah will judge all men and women
 6. Belief that all men and women will spend eternity in paradise or hell.

HOW CAN WE WITNESS TO MUSLIMS?

- Our witness must be both _____ and _____.
- Practical in the sense that we help them to understand what is real and applicable in real-world situations through a biblical lens, focusing on actions and results rather than just ideas or theories.
- And personal meaning sharing our personal examples that will make your communication more engaging and relatable to the person that you are dialoging with. In other words, never forget where you came from. Always remember that it was by the grace of God alone that we too were saved.
- In Acts 17:22–31 the apostle Paul built on areas of “common ground” as he prepared his listeners for the good news of the gospel. There are three main areas of common ground upon which Christians may stand with Muslims.
- Muslims are not a different species that require a fancy way of sharing the gospel. They are human beings who are sinners in need of a Savior just like you and me.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Martin, Walter. (2003). *The Kingdom of the Cult* Minneapolis, Minn: Bethany House.
- Hodge, B., & Patterson, R. T. (2015). *World religions and cults. volumes 1-3, moralistic, mythical and mysticism religions.* Master Books.