

INFORMED ON
İslam
STUDY GUIDE

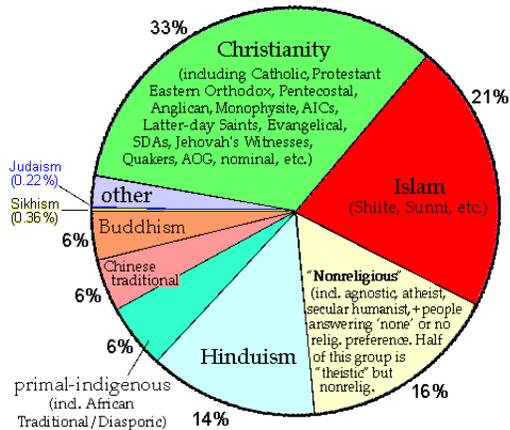
From

VOICE OF SALVATION MINISTRIES PRESENTS
**WORLD
IMPACT**
WITH BILLY WILSON

WHAT IS ISLAM

Definition: Islam is an _____ word meaning _____.

Definition: Someone who practices Islam is called a _____.

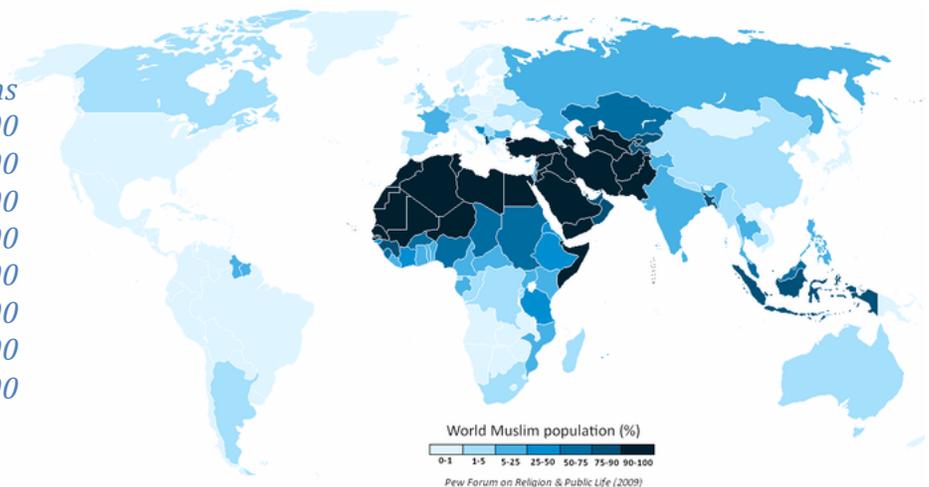


Of all the world religions, Islam is the second largest with about 21% of the world's population claiming to be Muslim. Most of the adherents are concentrated in North Africa and the Middle East where Islamic religion and culture go hand in hand.

NOTE: Total adds up to more than 100% due to rounding and because upper bound estimates were used for each group. © 2005 www.adherents.com

Largest Muslim populations

Indonesia	170,310,000
Pakistan	136,000,000
Bangladesh	106,050,000
India	103,000,000
Turkey	62,410,000
Iran	60,790,000
Egypt	53,730,000
Nigeria	47,720,000



The word for "God" is _____ in Arabic. So a Muslim is someone who seeks to practice _____ to _____. Incidentally this same word is used when the _____ is translated into Arabic.

From the tribe of Ishmael:

There are three perceived beginnings to the Islamic faith

- 1) The Hisotiran says Islam began in the _____ century with _____.
- 2) The Muslim says Islam began in the _____ with _____.
- 3) The Bible places the beginings of Islam in the tent of _____ and promises made to _____ (Genesis 16:8-10) and _____(Genesis 17:20).

Abraham's _____ son was born through an _____ named _____ . Dispised by Sarah, Hagar runs into the wilderness where she hears from an angel to name her son _____ and that he would be a _____ , who's hand will be against _____ , and who will dwell in the presence of _____ (Genesis 16-17).

Ishmael was born out of Abraham's _____ and desire to make happen by _____ means what only God could make happen. Eventually Ishmael and his mother are exiled when Ishmael mocks _____ .

Again an angel confortes Hagar and reveals a well of water (Genesis 21). This well is believed to be the well of Zamzam in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Ishmael becomes the father of the _____ .

*God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."
(Gen 21:17-18 NIV)*

So it is that the Arabic peoples come from a moment when Hagar is _____.

By the time of Muhammad's arrival in the 7th century, the Church had _____

the Arab people.

Thought Questions:

- 1) How might knowing that God promised to bless Ishmael and his descendants change the way you pray for Muslims?

- 2) Do you believe the pressures in the Middle East are connected to Genesis 16:12?

- 3) Does knowing a peoples' past help you relate to them in the present?

- 4) Are there any lessons for your own life in the story of Abraham and Hagar?

Looking Forward:

- ◆ Did Muhammad hear from God like Abraham, Moses, and Jesus did?
- ◆ Did Muhammad write the Koran?
- ◆ What does the Koran say?

THE KORAN

The Arabic word 'koran' literally means _____. The book known as the Koran is considered to be the _____ piece of Arabic literature and held by Muslims to be Allah's _____ revelation to mankind.

Muslims believe the Koran was first revealed to Muhammad by _____ in the month of _____ in the year _____ AD. The visions would continue until Muhammad's death _____ years later. Since Muhammad could not read or write, the visions were maintained by careful _____, hence the name 'the Koran.'

The text of the Koran has _____ chapters called _____. The caliph Uthman _____ the text 22 years after Muhammad's death. About 100 years later, in the 8th century, _____ and _____ were added to the text to create the version we have today.

Sura in the Koran are _____ recorded in order. In fact _____ revelations abrogate _____ ones, A tool used to help establish cronology and interpret the Quran are the _____. These massive narratives detail the life and words of _____. Many practices of Islam are taken from these texts rather than from the Quran itself.

PILLARS OF ISLAM

There are Five Pillars of Islamic Faith and Five Pillars of Islamic Practice. Together they form the core religious framework for all Muslims.

The **Five Pillars of Islamic Faith** are:

1) _____

The nature of Allah is revealed in his _____ names.

2) _____

Other than Muhammad, four prophets venerated in the Koran are:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

3) _____

What four sets of books does the Koran claim to be inspired by God?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

4) _____

5) _____

The **Five Pillars of Islam** Practice are:

1) _____

“There is no _____ but _____ and Muhammad is the
_____ of _____.”

2) _____

Muslim prayers are said in _____ and include ritual _____.
Muslims bow toward _____ to show their _____ to Allah.

3) _____

Giving _____ to _____ is seen as part of the
Muslim’s ritual _____.

4) _____

The primary fast takes place during the month of _____. During
this month, from _____ to _____ each day, every adult Muslims
refrains from three things. They are:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

5) _____

THE HAJJ

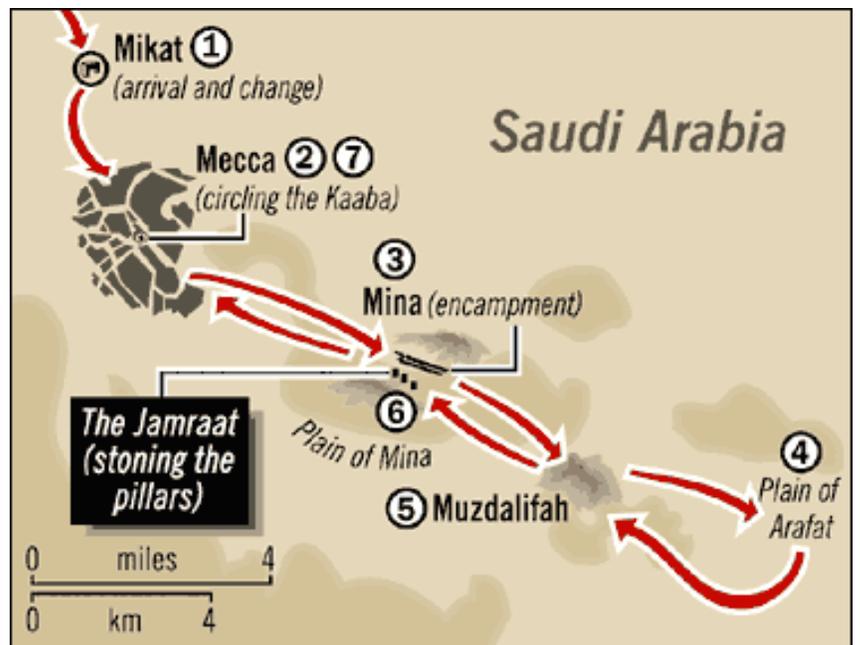
The Hajj is an _____ pilgrimage to _____ in Saudi Arabia.
Each Muslim is to complete the Hajj _____.

According to Muslim tradition, the Hajj dates to the days of _____ when God made _____ for Ishmael. The first formal Hajj was in _____ when Muhamand destroyed the _____ and cleansed the Kaaba.

The Hajj includes walking counter clockwise seven times around the _____.

Running between the _____ of Al-Safa and Al-Marwah to represent Hagar's frantic search for water before drinking from the well of _____. The ritual _____ of the Devil reinacts a time when Muslims believe Gabriel told Abraham to

throw seven stones at the Devil to end temptation and drive him away. The Hajj ends with a ritual animal _____ and a three day festival.



Thought Questions:

- 1) In the Old Testament, God repeatedly commands Israel to observe ritual feasts and sacrifices. Why did God establish these events for Israel?

- 2) Muslims say that the Hajj is an example of unity within Islam. Is there any similar practice within New Testament Christianity?

- 3) What rituals do you observe? What value do they bring to your life?

Looking Forward:

- ◆ Does Allah love everyone?
- ◆ Does the Koran teach anything about Jesus?

THE SEARCH OF ISLAM



Islamic teaching records _____ names for Allah. While one name is “The Compassionate One”, Allah is never called _____.

The 99 Names of Allah

All-Compassionate • All-Merciful • Absolute Ruler • Pure One • Source of Peace • Inspirer of Faith • Guardian • Victorious • Compeller • Greatest • Creator • Maker of Order • Shaper of Beauty • Forgiving • Subduer • Giver of All • Sustainer • Opener • Knower of All • Constrictor • Reliever • Abaser • Exalter • Bestower of Honors • Humiliator • Hearer of All • Seer of All • Judge • Just • Subtle One • All-Aware • Forebearing • Magnificent • Forgiver and Hider of Faults • Rewarder of Thankfulness • Highest • Greatest • Preserver • Nourisher • Accounter • Mighty • Generous • Watchful One • Responder to Prayer • All-Comprehending • Perfectly Wise • Loving One • Majestic One • Resurrector • Witness • Truth • Trustee • Possessor of All Strength • Forceful One • Governor • Praised One • Appraiser • Originator • Restorer • Giver of Life • Taker of Life • Ever Living One • Self-Existing One • Finder • Glorious • Only One • One • Satisfier of All Needs • All Powerful • Creator of All Power • Expediter • Delayer • First • Last • Manifest One • Hidden One • Protecting Friend • Supreme One • Doer of Good • Guide to Repentance • Avenger • Forgiver • Clement • Owner of All • Lord of Majesty and Bounty • Equitable One • Gatherer • Rich One • Enricher • Preventer of Harm • Creator of The Harmful • Creator of Good • Light • Guide • Originator • Everlasting One • Inheritor of All • Righteous Teacher • Patient One

The Koran indicates that Allah does love, but he loves _____.

The Koran also says Allah loves the _____, those who _____, and those who _____.

This is in contrast to the core Bible view that _____.

*Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love**. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.***

(1John 4:8-10 NIV)

The nature of God's love is found in His commandments concerning the treatment of enemies. Jesus said, "Love your _____ and pray for those who _____ you" (Matthew 5:43-44). Then Paul told the Romans, "If your _____ is hungry, _____; if he is thirsty, _____ (Romans 12:20).

The Koran says, "if they fight you, then _____" (Sura 2:191) for "the punishment for those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger [Muhammad]... is: _____, or _____, or the cutting off of _____, or _____ from the land: that is their disgrace" (Sura 5:33).

The Love of God for us is not _____. When you think it is, then you are consistently trying to _____ God's love. When you understand God's love as unconditional, then you are consistently wanting to _____ that love to Him. While it is impossible in our _____ to love our enemies, God puts his love in us so we can show _____.

Ishmael represents the accomplishments of _____. Trying to do God's work with _____ is never possible. Isaac represents God's ability to _____ through _____.

JESUS AND MUHAMMAD



The time and place of Muhammad:

In 610 AD, when Muhammad had his first vision, he was _____ years old. He was pinned to the ground _____ times by _____ in the cave Hira to the North East of Mecca. When he returned home he shouted “_____” because he was so afraid.

In 622 AD, Muhammad fled from Mecca to _____ to avoid intense persecution. There he had his first visions dealing with war and Jihad. Muhammad eventually returned in 630 to conquer Mecca and dedicate the Ka’ba to _____.

Muhammad died at the age of 62 from _____ administered by a Jewish slave. The slave claimed to be testing Muhammad’s claim to be a prophet by seeing if Allah would deliver him from death. During his life, Muhammad had _____ wives and a large number of _____.

Thought Question:

- 1) Environment plays a big role in the choices people make. How do you factor the time someone lived in determining if they are worthy of respect? What about someone who lives now, but someplace different from you? Are there any absolutes that transcend time and place?

Comparison between Jesus and Muhammad

Jesus	Mohammed
Never fought	Fought many times
Never killed anyone	Killed many people
Commissioned in daylight	Commissioned in dark cave
Performed many miracles	Only miracle was Koran
Fulfilled prophecy	Never fulfilled any prophecy
Never married	Married over 20 wives (one was 9 years old)
Claimed to be God and Man	Claimed to be a man
Jesus gave His life for others	Mohammed saved his life at others' expense
Owned no slaves	Owned many slaves
Born of a virgin	Not born of a virgin
Heard directly from God	Only heard through an angel
Spoke well of women	Women ½ as smart as men, majority in hell will be women
Never sinned	Sinned many times (Quran 40:55,48:1-2)

Islam teaches that Jesus was born of _____, that He was the Jewish _____, that He worked _____, and that he will _____ again. However, Muslims do not believe that Jesus was the son of _____, that He was _____ made flesh, or that He _____ on a cross.

While seeming to be embracing Jesus, Islam denies His deity, crucifixion and resurrection. This verse in the Koran says that those who claim Jesus and God are one are _____ and will _____. Ironically, the

They do blaspheme who say: "(Allah) is Christ the son of Mary." But said Christ: "O Children of Israel! worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." Whoever joins other gods with Allah,- Allah will forbid him the garden, and the Fire will be his abode. There will for the wrong-doers be no one to help.

(Sura 5.72)

Five Pillars of Islamic Faith includes a belief in Gospel writings and there are at least four voices in the Gospels that proclaim Jesus to be the Son of God.

First, _____ proclaims Jesus His Son (Matthew 3:17, Luke 9:35).

Second, _____ proclaim Jesus to be the Son of God (Matthew 8:29)

Third, _____ proclaimed Him the Son of God (Matthew 14:33, 16:15-17)

Fourth, _____ proclaimed Himself the Son of God (Luke 22:70).

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 thoes who differ therein are full of doubts, with no certain knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for a surety they killed him not.

(Sura 4:157)

While the Koran says that those who believe Jesus was crucified are _____ and follow only _____, all four Gospels say that Jesus died on Calvary. Furthermore, historians outside the Bible confirm the death of Jesus. These include the _____ writer of the Mara Bar-

Serapion, the _____ historian Tacitus, the _____ writer Lucian, and the _____ historian Josephus who wrote his chronicles around 80 AD. It is even likely that the _____ Talmud, compiled in 200 AD, refers to Jesus death. All of these voices recorded their accounts at least 400 years before Muhammad was born.

The deity of Jesus and His crucifixion are _____ of the gospel. Without his cricifixion, there is no _____ and so no _____ from sin. Without these things, there is no _____.

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

The entire _____ Sura of the Koran is focused on the fate of those who follow Allah and those who do not. At _____, a Muslim's life will be weighed to see if _____ deeds outweigh the _____.

Everyone shall taste death. And only on the Day of Resurrection shall you be paid your wages in full. And whoever is removed away from the Fire and admitted to Paradise, he indeed is successful.

(Sura 3:185)

_____ The only guaranteed entrance to paradise is through _____, which literally means to "_____".

Muslims who enter paradise will get a golden _____ in the midst of a beautiful garden. Immortal male _____ and perpetually _____ women will bring _____ and serve _____. The righteous in paradise may _____ the women. The now famous number "72" virgins brides rewarded to jihadi terrorists comes from _____, not the Koran.

Those who reject [Islamic] Faith, Allah will not forgive them nor guide them to any path except the way to Hell, to dwell therein forever. And this to Allah is easy.

(Sura 4:168)

On the other side, to _____ Islam for other faith is the worst offence possible. Those who do will descend past the seven gates of Hell and eat thorns, forever bound in a lake of burning fat.

The emphasis of Islam is on _____ to do good deeds; on ones ability to keep the Five Pillars and not turn away from Muslim faith. In contrast the Bible teaches that salvation only comes from _____. We don't _____ salvation, and we can't _____ it, but God has given it to us by _____.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

(Ephesians 2:8 NIV)

(Rom 6:23 NIV) For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 6:23 NIV)

Islam teaches that Muslims won't know if they will enter paradise until the day of judgement. Even Muhammad was not sure of his eternal salvation.

Then Muhammed said. "By Allah, though I am the apostle of Allah, yet I do not know what Allah will do to me."

(Hadith al-Bukhari 5:266)

Contrast this with the early Christian apostles like _____ who saw into heaven and asks God to forgive those stoning him (Acts 7). Even the _____ received assurance of paradise before he died (Luke 23:43).

MUSLIM VIEWS

The average Muslim around the world gets their view of Western countries like the United States comes from _____ and _____. They have been taught that the West is _____, and so Christianity must _____ of the images and values seen in the media.

Also, most Muslims are ignorant of Christian theology and incorrectly think the Virgin Mary is _____. They also believe the Bible has been _____ and have been taught that it _____ the Crusades.

Muslims are taught never to take _____ or _____ as friends.

Believers [Muslims], take neither Jews nor Christians to be your friends... Whoever of you seeks their friendship shall become one of their number

(Sura 5:51)

The Way of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace, not (the way) of those who earned Your Anger (such as the Jews), nor of those who went astray (such as the Christians).

(Sura 1:7)

Both the _____ and the _____ repeatedly establish non-Muslims as _____. Furthermore, the values of _____ and _____ championed by the West conflict with the group-centered community ideals sought by Muslims.

ENGAGING ISLAM



Some important facts to keep in mind when engaging Islam:

- ◆ All Arabs are _____ Muslim.
- ◆ All Muslims are _____ the same.
- ◆ Jesus was _____ an American.
- ◆ Jesus came to save _____, including Arabs and Americans.
- ◆ This is a heart issue, not a _____ one.

Appropriate Christian response to Islam:

- 1) Study and seek to _____ instead of merely fearing Islam.
- 2) Develop _____ with Muslims.
- 3) Reach out in _____ love.
- 4) Share Your _____.
- 5) Live Holy, with _____ and _____.

The Five Pillars of Islamic Practice are centered on displays of reverence for God.

One of the major complaints Muslims have about the West is that people live too loose – going places and saying things they should not. Christians must not _____ the holiness of God.

- 6) Pray for the _____ works of Jesus.

Muhammad did no miracles except write the Koran. So when the miracles of God are seen, Jesus is _____.

A MESSAGE FROM BILLY WILSON

The last 12 years of my life have been given to Sharing Jesus with the World through a variety of means. Throughout these years, I have given much of my time and energy to using today's media for communicating Christ. The growth of World Impact has been miraculous and has caused me to say with the Psalmist: "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes."

Thank you for taking the time to watch these episodes. I hope you are a little more informed and will prayerfully consider how you can engage Islam. It is only through the love and miraculous power of Jesus Christ that Muslims can gain an intimate relationship with God. You are God's light and salt in this world and Muslims will first see Jesus through you.

I invite you to visit our media site at www.worldimpact.tv to find episodes of World Impact on other topics and resources designed to refresh and equip you to Share Jesus with your World.



Rev. Billy Wilson

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ANSWER KEY

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ANSWER KEY

WHAT IS ISLAM

Definition: Islam is an **Arabic** word meaning **submission**.

Definition: Someone who practices Islam is called a **Muslim**.

The word for "God" is **Allah** in Arabic. So a Muslim is someone who seeks to practice **submission** to **God**. Incidentally this same word is used when the **Bible** is translated into Arabic.

From the tribe of Ishmael:

There are three perceived beginnings to the Islamic faith

- 4) The Hisotiran says Islam began in the **seventh** century with **Muhammad**.
- 5) The Muslim says Islam began in the **Garden of Eden** with **Adam**.
- 6) The Bible places the beginnings of Islam in the tent of **Abraham** and promises made to **Hagar** (Genesis 16:8-10) and **Abraham** (Genesis 17:20).

Abraham's **first** son was born through an **Egyptian** named **Hagar**. Dispersed by Sarah, Hagar runs into the wilderness where she hears from an angel to name her son **Ishmael** and that he would be a **wild man**, who's hand will be against **everyone**, and who will dwell in the presence of **his brethren** (Genesis 16-17).

Ishmael was born out of Abraham's **works** and desire to make happen by **natural** means what only God could make happen. Eventually Ishmael and his mother are exiled when Ishmael mocks **Isaac**.

Again an angel comforts Hagar and reveals a well of water (Genesis 21). This well is believed to be the well of Zamzam in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Ishmael becomes the father of the **Arab people**. So it is that the Arabic peoples come from a moment when Hagar is **rejected**. By the time of Muhammad's arrival in the 7th century, the Church had **abandoned** the Arab people.

THE KORAN

The Arabic word 'koran' literally means **recitation**. The book known as the Koran is considered to be the **finest** piece of Arabic literature and held by Muslims to be Allah's **final** revelation to mankind.

Muslims believe the Koran was first revealed to Muhammad by **the Angel Gabriel** in the month of **Ramadan** in the year **610** AD. The visions would continue until Muhammad's death **23** years later. Since Muhammad could not read or write, the visions were maintained by careful **oral recitation**, hence the name 'the Koran.'

The text of the Koran has **114** chapters called **Sura**. The caliph Uthman **standardized** the text 22 years after Muhammad's death. About 100 years later, in the 8th century, **vowels** and **punctuation** were added to the text to create the version we have today.

Sura in the Koran are **not** recorded in order. In fact **later** revelations abrogate **earlier** ones. A tool used to help establish cronology and interpret the Quran are the **Hadith**. These massive narratives detail the life and words of **Muhammad**. Many practices of Islam are taken from these texts rather than from the Quran itself.

PILLARS OF ISLAM

The Five Pillars of Islamic Faith are:

1) **In only one God**

The nature of Allah is revealed in his **99** names.

2) **In the Prophets of God**

Other than Muhammad, four prophets venerated in the Koran are:

a. **Adam** b. **Abraham** c. **Moses** d. **David** e. **Jesus**

3) **In the Books of God**

What four sets of books does the Koran claim to be inspired by God?

a. **Torah** b. **Psalms** c. **Gospels** d. **Koran**

4) **In Angels**

5) **In the Final Judgement of God**

The Five Pillars of Islam Practice are:

1) **The Shahada or Confession**

“There is no **God** but **God** and Muhammad is the **Messenger of God.**”

2) **The Salat or Prayer**

Muslim prayers are said in **Arabic** and include ritual **bowing**. Muslims bow toward **Mecca** to show their **Submission** to Allah.

3) **The Zakat or Giving of Alms**

Giving **generously** to **the poor** is seen as part of the Muslim's ritual **cleansing**.

4) **The Saum or Fasting**

The primary fast takes place during the month of **Ramadan**. During this month, from **sun up** to **sun down** each day, every adult Muslims refrains from three things. They are:

a. **Food** b. **Drink** c. **Sexual realtions**

5) **The Hajj or Pilgrimage**

THE HAJJ

The Hajj is an **annual** pilgrimage to **Mecca** in Saudi Arabia. Each Muslim is to complete the Hajj **once in their lifetime**.

According to Muslim tradition, the Hajj dates to the days of **Abraham** when God made **the well of Zamzam** for Ishmael. The first formal Hajj was in **631** when Muhammad destroyed the **idols in Mecca** and cleansed the Kaaba.

The Hajj includes walking counter clockwise seven times around the **Kaaba**. Running between the **hills** of Al-Safa and Al-Marwah to represent Hagar's frantic search for water before drinking from the well of **Zamzam**. The ritual **stoning** of the Devil reenacts a time when Muslims believe Gabriel told Abraham to throw seven stones at the Devil to end temptation and drive him away. The Hajj ends with a ritual animal **sacrifice** and a three day festival.

THE SEARCH OF ISLAM

Islamic teaching records **99** names for Allah. While one is "The Compassionate One", Allah is never called **Love**.

The Koran indicates that Allah does love, but he loves **conditionally**. The Koran also says Allah loves the **righteous**, those who **submit to him**, and those who **hate the infidels**.

This is in contrast to the core Bible view that **God is love**.

The nature of God's love is found in His commandments concerning the treatment of enemies. Jesus said, "Love your **enemies** and pray for those who **persecute or spitefully use** you" (Matthew 5:43-44). Then Paul told the Romans, "If your **enemy** is hungry, **feed him**; if he is thirsty, **give him to drink** (Romans 12:20).

The Koran says, "if they fight you, then **slay them**" (Sura 2:191) for "the punishment for those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger [Muhammad]... is **execution**, or **crucifixion**, or the cutting off of **hands and feet**, or **exile** from the land: that is their disgrace" (Sura 5:33).

The Love of God for us is not **conditional**. When you think it is, then you are consistently trying to **earn** God's love. When you understand God's love as unconditional, then you are consistently wanting to **return** that love to Him. While it is impossible in our **own ability** to love our enemies, God puts his love in us so we can show **His nature to others**.

Ishmael represents the accomplishments of **man's righteousness**. Trying to do God's work with **human ability** is never possible. Isaac represents God's ability to **do the impossible** through **faith**.

JESUS AND MUHAMMAD

The time and place of Muhammad:

In 610 AD, when Muhammad had his first vision, he was **40** years old. He was pinned to the ground **three** times by **a spirit** in the cave Hira to the North East of Mecca. When he returned home he shouted "**Cover me, cover me!**" because he was so afraid.

In 622 AD, Muhammad fled from Mecca to **Medina** to avoid intense persecution. There he had his first visions dealing with war and Jihad. Muhammad eventually returned to conquer Mecca and dedicate the Ka'ba to **Allah**.

Muhammad died at the age of 62 from **poison** administered by a Jewish slave. The slave claimed to be testing Muhammad's claim to be a prophet by seeing if Allah would deliver him from death. During his life, Muhammad had **ten** wives and a large number of **slaves**.

Comparison between Jesus and Muhammad

Islam teaches that Jesus was born of **a virgin**, that He was the Jewish **Messiah**, that He worked **miracles**, and that He will **return** again. However, Muslims do not believe that Jesus was the son of **God**, that He was **God or the Word** made flesh, or that He **died** on a cross.

While seeming to embracing Jesus, Islam denies His deity, crucifixion and resurrection. This verse in the Koran says that those who claim Jesus and God are one are **blasphemers** and will **go to Hell**. Ironically, the Five Pillars of Islamic Faith includes a belief in Gospel writings and there are at least four voices in the Gospels that proclaim Jesus to be the Son of God.

First, **God** proclaims Jesus His Son (Matthew 3:17, Luke 9:35).

Second, **demons** proclaim Jesus to be the Son of God (Matthew 8:29)

Third, **His disciples** proclaimed Him the Son of God (Matthew 14:33, 16:15-17)

Fourth, **Jesus** proclaimed Himself the Son of God (Luke 22:70).

While the Koran says that those who believe Jesus was crucified are **full of doubts** and follow only **conjecture**, all four Gospels say that Jesus died on Calvary. Furthermore, historians outside the Bible confirm the death of Jesus. These include the **Syriac** writer of the Mara Bar-Serapion, the **Roman** historian Tacitus, the **Greek** writer Lucian, and the **Jewish** historian Josephus who wrote his chronicles around 80 AD. It is even likely that the **Babylonian** Talmud, compiled in 200 AD, refers to Jesus death. All of these voices recorded their accounts at least 400 years before Muhammad was born.

The deity of Jesus and His crucifixion are **the heart** of the gospel. Without His crucifixion, there is no **resurrection** and so no **redemption or deliverance** from sin. Without these things, there is no **hope for eternity**.

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

The entire **third** Sura of the Koran is focused on the fate of those who follow Allah and those who do not. At **judgement**, a Muslim's life will be weighed to see if **good** deeds outweigh the **bad**. The only guaranteed entrance to paradise is through **Jihad**, which literally means to "**exert force for God**".

Muslims who enter paradise will get a golden **throne** in the midst of a beautiful garden. Immortal male **youths** and perpetually **virgin** women will bring **fruit** and serve **wine**. The righteous in paradise may **marry** the women. The now famous number "72" virgins brides rewarded to jihadi terrorists comes from **Hadith**, not the Koran.

On the other side, to **leave** Islam for other faith is the worst offence possible. Those who do will descend past the seven gates of Hell and eat thorns, forever bound in a lake of burning fat.

The emphasis of Islam is on **our ability** to do good deeds; on ones ability to keep the Five Pillars and not turn away from Muslim faith. In contrast the Bible teaches that salvation only comes from **what Jesus did at the cross**. We don't **deserve** salvation, and we can't **earn** it, but God has given it to us by **grace**.

Islam teaches that Muslims won't know if they will enter paradise until the day of judgement. Even Muhammad was not sure of his eternal salvation. Contrast this with the early Christian apostles like **Stephen** who saw into heaven and asks God to forgive those stoning him (Acts 7). Even the **thief on the cross** received assurance of paradise before he died (Luke 23:43).

MUSLIM VIEWS

The average Muslim around the world gets their view of Western countries like the United States comes from **TV** and **movies**. They have been taught that the West is **Christian**, and so Christianity must **approve** of the images and values seen in the media.

Also, most Muslims are ignorant of Christian theology and incorrectly think the Virgin Mary is **part of a pantheon**. They also believe the Bible has been **corrupted** and have been taught that it **endorsed** the Crusades.

Muslims are taught never to take **Christians** or **Jews** as friends.

Both the **Koran** and the **Hadith** repeatedly establish non-Muslims as **second-class citizens**. Furthermore, the values of **independence** and **freedom** championed by the West conflict with the group-centered community ideals sought by Muslims.

ENGAGING ISLAM

Some important facts to keep in mind when engaging Islam:

- ◆ All Arabs are **not** Muslim.
- ◆ All Muslims are **not** the same.
- ◆ Jesus was **not** an American.
- ◆ Jesus came to save **everyone**, including Arabs and Americans.
- ◆ This is a heart issue, not a **political** one.

Appropriate Christian response to Islam:

- 1) Study and seek to **understand** instead of merely fearing Islam.
- 2) Develop **relationships and friendships** with Muslims.
- 3) Reach out in **unconditional** love.
- 4) Share Your **testimony**.
- 5) Live Holy, with **integrity** and **piety**.

The Five Pillars of Islamic Practice are centered on displays of reverence for God. One of the major complaints Muslims have about the West is that people live too loose – going places and saying things they should not. Christians must not **maligne or mis-represent** the holiness of God.

- 6) Pray for the **miracles** works of Jesus.

Muhammad did no miracles except write the Koran. So when the miracles of God are seen, Jesus is **glorified**.

- 7) **Intercede or pray** radically

Why a Muslim should consider receiving Jesus as their personal savior:

- 1) **Intimacy** with God is possible.
- 2) Forgiveness and **Assurance** are possible.
- 3) Historical sources regarding the **crucifixion** are many and reliable.
- 4) God is **love**.
- 5) Jesus Christ has **resurrected** from the dead.