

WEEK 3

II. ISLAM

- Their religion
 - Key people, words, titles and locations
 - *Abraham* - The Quran teaches that Abraham is the FIRST Muslim and that ALL of his followers were Muslim. They trace their roots back to Abraham through Ishmael (Abraham's son by Hagar, Sarah's Egyptian handmaid).
 - *Allah* - This is the name Moslems use to refer to GOD. They are Monotheists. They believe he is the one true God and one in the same as the Judeo-Christian God, Jehovah. Allah is a form of Mohammad's father's name (Abdallah, which means "the servant of Allah"). Allah was a name used by pagan Arab idol worshipers in Mecca at the Kabah before the birth of Mohammad. The idol that was worshiped was that of the MOON god. The pagan Arabs believed he was the most powerful of their gods. It is assumed that Mohammad's father was a pagan worshiper of this moon god called "Allah."
 - *Ahl al-kitab* – "*People of the book*". The Quranic term for people, such as Jews or Christians, who adhere to the "earlier" scriptures.
 - *Ayatollah* - The title of a Shiite Moslem religious teacher of the highest rank, especially in IRAN.
 - *Caliph* - A successor of Mohammad. The former title given to the religious and political head of State in a Moslem country.
 - *Dome of the Rock* - The SECOND most sacred location of Islam located on the Jewish Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Tradition claims that this is the rock from which Mohammad was carried to heaven to stand before God.
 - *Fatwah* - A formal legal opinion or decision of a religious scholar on a matter of Islamic law.
 - *Hadith* - Also called A hadith. Documented traditions and interpretations of the Sunnah concerning the teachings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad, which were not in the Quran, but which were recorded for posterity by his close companions and by the members of his family.
- KEY** – They develop more than one standard! (Like the Jews did...Talmud)
- *Hajj* - The pilgrimage to MECCA.
 - *Imam* - The local religious leader or Moslem cleric. His responsibilities include the five daily calls to prayer and a sermon during the Friday service at the Mosque.
 - *Ishmael* - Muslims trace their roots back to Abraham through Ishmael, the son of Hagar, Sarah's Egyptian handmaid.
 - Genesis 16:11-12, 17:20; Psalm 83
 - *Islam* – "**SURRENDER**" ... to the will of Allah.

- *Jesus Christ* - Islam teaches that Jesus Christ is a prophet of God, but NOT God in human flesh. They do NOT believe in the trinity. They **REJECT** His virgin birth, His death on the cross, and His resurrection from the dead.
 - **KEY POINT: 1 John 2:18, 21-22; 4:1-3**
- *Jihad* - The term has a twofold meaning and must be understood properly by the context of its use. To STRUGGLE, an effort; which can refer to the internal effort to reform bad habits in the Islamic community or within the individual Muslim. It is used more specifically to denote a **WAR** waged in the service of Islamic religion.
- *Kaaba* - Also spelled Kabah, Ka'ba, Caaba. The cube shaped shrine in the Holy City of Mecca, which Muhammad dedicated to God and made the most sacred place in the Islamic world. It was allegedly built by Abraham and Ishmael. It was formerly a temple for a variety of Arabic idols before Mohammad captured Mecca.
- *Mecca* - The sacred city of Islam located in Saudi Arabia. Also referred to as a place that one longs to visit.
- *Mohammad* - Muhammad Ibn Abd Allah, the Founder of Islam. He is called, the "Last Prophet" and "Messenger of God," by Moslems.
- *Moslem* - Also called Muslem, Muslim, Mussulman. A follower of Mohammad... believer in Islam, the religion founded by him. It is estimated that there are **2 BILLION** Moslems worldwide.
- *Mufti* - A Moslem official who assists a judge by formal exposition of religious law.
- *Mulla* - Also spelled Mullah. A title of respect in Islam given to a person who is learned in or teaches the sacred Islamic law.
- *Mosque* - A place of public worship for Moslems. It is as much a place of rest and refuge as place of prayer... homeless Arab may take shelter there by night or day.
- *Quran* - Also spelled Qur'an or Koran. The **SACRED** book of the Moslems. It consists of revelations of Allah given to the prophet Mohammad and is the standard by which Moslems regulate their lives. The book was written into Arabic after Mohammad's death as he was illiterate!
- *Rashidun* - The four "Caliphs" who were companions and immediate successors of the Prophet Mohammad.
- *Salat* - The compulsory ritual prayers which Muslims make FIVE times daily.
- *Sunnah* - The acts and religious practices of Mohammad, which were recorded by his companions and family and are regarded as the ideal Islamic norm. They have been enshrined in Islamic law.
- *Umrah* - The ritual circumambulating by Moslems around the Kaaba.

KEY NOTES

- ✓ The fastest growing religion in the world is the Moslem religion.
- ✓ More than 25% of the world's population are Moslems.

Remember...things that are different are NOT the same!

- Islamic Sects

- There are over 150 sects within Islam, with different names for each. (Taliban, Druze, etc.)
- The largest sect is that of the **Sunni**. Also known as Sunni Islam with the followers referred to as Sunni's. They comprise about 90% of the Moslem world and ascribe to the authority of the Rashidun and Sunnah.
- The next largest sect is the **Shii** Muslims. Also known as **Shiah** with the followers referred to as Shiite. They are found chiefly in **IRAN** and parts of Iraq. They do not recognize the Sunnah as authoritative, nor do they revere all four members of the Rashidun.

- A brief history of Islam

- Muhammad Ibn Abd Allah was born around 570 AD in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. He was orphaned as a child and raised by his uncle, Abu Talib. He was acquainted with Jewish and Christian beliefs. At the approximate age of 35-40, he had a vision of the angel Gabriel who seized him and ordered him to recite a short sentence. Upon completion of this task, Gabriel released him and as Muhammad fled Gabriel shouted, "Oh, Muhammad, you are the Messenger of God, and I am Gabriel." These visions continued over the next 20 years of his life. He appeared to have epileptic fits when receiving his revelations and visions. In fact, when his first vision occurred, he was convinced that either he was insane, or **DEMON** possessed. He ultimately married his first wife, Kadijah. She was a wealthy Arabic merchant who persuaded Muhammad that his experiences with Gabriel were from God and encouraged him to preach his message.
- His preaching career began in 610 AD in Mecca. His teachings were so close to Judaism and Christianity that most people perceived it as a reiteration of the truths associated with those religions. After the death of his wife and his uncle in 619 AD, his grief was comforted when Gabriel allegedly carried him to Jerusalem where he was lifted from a prominent **ROCK** to heaven. At this time, it is said that he met Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and other prophets and eventually he stood before God.
- He began to be persecuted, so he fled to Medina in 622 AD. This flight is referred to as "Hijrah" and marks the beginning of the Muslim lunar calendar. While in Medina, Muhammad amassed a following and returned to capture Mecca in 630 AD. At Mecca, he entered the pagan temple called the Kaaba, placed his hand upon a sacred black stone and shouted, "Allah Akbar," which means, "God is most great." The Kaaba became the **CENTRAL** sanctuary of Islam.
- Muhammad **DIED** in 632 AD. His successor was a man named Abu Bakr, one of the four 'Rashidun' Caliph's who declared "jihad" or "Holy War" with all unbelievers. Within 100 years the Islamic empire spread from northern Spain to India. The **VIOLENT** Islamic advancement toward Western Europe was halted at the Battle of Tours in 732 AD.

- What does a Muslim believe?
 - The word Islam means “to surrender,” therefore, salvation occurs when one surrenders to two tenants:
 - Allah is One, not a trinity.
 - Muhammad is the last true prophet of Allah.
 - Islam teaches that on the Day of Judgment those who have lived a righteous life will **ENTER** Paradise, a place filled with sensual pleasures for its citizens (Wine and women). For the unrighteous and unbelieving a place called barzakh (similar to the Catholic purgatory) is prepared where one may be purified from sin and eventually enters Paradise. The Day of Judgment follows the Day of Great Rising which is the resurrection of the dead. Islam also teaches that there will be a new heaven and earth.

KEY POINT: There are only 2 religions in the whole world:

1. Christ alone (salvation through Christ’s work on the cross) – John 1:12-14; Acts 2:21, 4:12, 8:36-38; Rom 6, 8, 10:9-10,17; 1 John 1:9, 2:2, 4:9-10
2. Salvation by man’s work – Gen 11:1-5

- There are many, many things Islam teaches about heaven, hell, angels, etc. However, a Muslim **MUST** keep the following five pillars of faith:
 - The declaration of faith (Shahada) that there is NO God but Allah, and that Mohammad is Allah’s messenger.
 - To observe the FIVE compulsory, ritual, daily prayers in the direction of Mecca.
 - To make a welfare contribution (zakat). This is a compulsory payment to assist in meeting community needs, care for the poor.
 - To keep a daylight FAST (Sawm) during the ninth lunar holy month of Ramadan (the celebration of the revelation of the Quran).
 - To make a pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca. This is the pinnacle of achievement in a Muslim’s life and must be done at least **ONCE** in his lifetime (hajj).
- A good Muslim must follow the five pillars of faith and earn a place in Paradise in the presence of God. Muslims are **NOT** evangelistic; their arena for “reaching the world” is international politics and jihad.
- Because Islam believes it is the one true religion, it therefore assumes the role of world reformer. This is to be done through assumption of political power in order to implement the principles of Islam through public institutions. Islamic states are to be ruled **ONLY** by Muslims with the Quran as its constitution. According to Islamic theologians, non-Muslims are permitted to live peaceably in the Islamic state and even to practice their religion so long as it does not violate the Quranic rule of the state. While

this may be true in the minds of theologians, it is certainly NOT practically true as evidenced by the laws and mandates of past and present-day Muslim governments. Jihad, which means “holy war,” is the Islamic justification for **TERRORISM** and warfare. The Quran clearly teaches that when Islam is threatened Muslims must fight to protect it. Like Catholicism, Islam is tied directly to world politics. Any time a nation makes a favorable move toward **ISRAEL** it is viewed as a direct attack on Allah, therefore “jihad” is declared and carried out through whatever means necessary.

- There are different levels of faithfulness among Muslims. Some adhere strictly to the tenants of Islam while others are nominally Muslim. Just like other LOST religious people, you will find some who don’t know anything about Islam. They are Muslim because their family is Muslim. When a Muslim converts it is viewed as turning your back on your family. In many parts of the Muslim world converted people are severely persecuted and **KILLED** (as commanded in the Quran).

NOTE: No Muslim knows for sure if he will go to heaven...unless he dies in Jihad and even then, it is still a MAYBE.

- General Islamic information
 - The financing of Islam is certainly supported by the general offerings given by the Muslim faithful. However, because Islam is directly linked to government, it is financially supported by the Islamic STATE economies (Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, etc.; It is fiscally similar to communism as it is supported in Russia and China).
 - Islamic doctrine is political and completely intolerant. Islam claims to be the mother of ALL religions: “Islam is, therefore, an all-comprehensive religion within which are included all the religions of the world.” It is interesting to note that the seeds for unity among all religions are present in the teachings of Islam.

NOTE: The Anti-Christ will capitalize on this fact as he pulls all the world’s religions together into one as he sits on a throne on the temple mount!
 - The atmosphere Islam creates is **LEGALISTIC**, oppressive, and religious. Muslims wash themselves before each of the five prayer times. In stringently Islamic states women are second class citizens, not permitted to reveal any skin in public. Although they are very legalistic, Muslims are known for having very strong family bonds and promote the common good in their communities. Most would say that Muslims are “good people.”

REMEMBER THE LORD DESIRES ALL TO COME TO REPENTANCE (2 Peter 3:9)

Muslims are generally very PROUD people. They believe that they have the absolute truth and therefore, it is very difficult to witness to them. Remember that God will give you open doors with those whom he is drawing to himself. Here are some key points that you could capitalize on:

1. Ask them if they have READ the Quran. Many Muslims haven't read the Quran because they cannot understand Arabic and many do not trust English translations. Gently help them to see how ridiculous it is to believe something you have never read.
2. Ask them WHY they believe the Quran is the word of Allah. Why is the Quran the standard of truth and not Confucius, or Buddha, or the Bible? They will probably respond that all of those just mentioned are legitimate prophets of God, but Muhammad is the last prophet of God and therefore, the standard. The problem then is that the Bible and the Quran disagree on some major issues: who God is, who Jesus Christ is, what the absolute standard of truth is, etc. Two contradictory books can't both be the absolute standard of truth. Either one is right or both are wrong. Tell them WHY the Bible is God's word and the standard of truth. This argument will hinge on some key points:
 - a. Fulfilled prophecy is the greatest evidence (*Is. 42:9; 46:9, 10*). The Quran has NO fulfilled prophecy. Since the Bible is totally accurate in prophecy, its claim to be the only legitimate word of God must also be true.
 - b. God's word was completed around 90 AD, but the Quran was written more than five centuries later. See *Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Pr. 30:5, 6; Rev. 22:18, 19*.
 - c. At this point you can capitalize on the fact that Muhammad received his revelations from an angel. See *Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Co. 11:3, 4, 13-15; 2 Peter 1:16-21*. This can lead you into the gospel.
3. Use ABRAHAM as a common starting point. There are many directions you can go from here. Show them that the God of Abraham was a trinity, show them that God desired to be Ishmael's God (*Gen 17:20*), etc.

Key Point to remember: Logic will not, in and of itself, win anyone to Christ. The word of God saves people, not our intellect (*1 Co 2:1-5*). We must be sure to preach the gospel to them!!