

A Different Gospel

(Islam)

Announcements:

- [Glad to be back](#). Michael = great message. *Jesus likes to party* - when lost people come home.
- [Israel Trip](#) - One more chance to sign up (19 out of 30) - **BROCHURES at welcome table.**

Series: "A Different Gospel"

Normally, we teach **Book by Book, Verses by Verse** (*Expositional*) but taking a short break...

- *The Holy Spirit was stirring* in my heart as we were teaching through **2 Corinthians** recently...

Where we've been and where we're going...

- We've been looking at **some false Gospels** that present **A different Jesus**.
- For each, we've been looking at the same **10 points**: *History, Scriptures, Father, Son, Spirit, Humanity, Salvation, Afterlife, Nuances, and how to converse...*
 - **Current**: **Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, Islam**
 - **Next week** - **Book of 3 John** - (*Father's Day - Dad's come, honey drizzled bacon!*)
 - **Adding Three**: *Hinduism, Apologetics, and a Catholicism workshop (why for all 3)*
- **Booklets** - really highlight these! **From each teaching session**. *J-Dubs, Mormons, Islam...*

So, today we're looking at the *theology and practices* of **Islam** and *how they differ from the Bible*.

- **Islam** means "**submission**" and those who follow it have *submitted their lives to Allah* (which is the *name they use for God*).
- Followers of Islam are called "**Muslims**" - *we gotta be clear on the use of this word...*
- Muslim does *not mean someone from the middle east*.
- **Muslim** is a **religious title, not an ethnic one**. You can have *arab muslims, black muslims, hispanic muslims, white muslims, Chinese muslims, Antarctic muslims (J/K)*. *Muslims are followers of Islam in the same way that Christians are followers of Christianity.*

***Go back and listen to the [intro of week 1](#) for context on **why** we're doing this series and [my heart as a pastor!](#) *Unashamed, Genuine Love, Welcome (mormons last time, if muslims this time), Spiritual war.*

Let's Pray

*****Islam*****

>>> History - When, who, and how was it founded?

- Founded roughly **600 years** after Christ and the New Testament period. (*already an issue...*)
- A man named **Muhammad** was born in **570 AD** in **Mecca** "*Makkah*" (*modern-day Saudi Arabia*)
- In **610 AD** (40 yrs old) - While *in a cave*, he was visited by the **angel Gabriel** (*i.e. Daniel, Mary*)
- Ultimately, all the *visions and revelations from Gabriel* over a period of 32 yrs became the **Quran** ***Warning*** [Gal. 1:8, AMP](#) - "*Even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we originally preached to you, let him be condemned to destruction!*" Same warning given for Moroni and Joseph Smith...

- Also, in **620 AD**, Muhammad claimed the angel *Gabriel brought him to Jerusalem* on a *winged horse-like creature*. Once **in Jerusalem**, Mohammad visited with *Jesus, Abraham, Moses* and other prophets, and then **ascended to heaven** for a night...
- ****As a quick side note - 60 yrs after Muhammad's death*, muslims built the **Dome of the Rock** on the temple mount to commemorate this heavenly journey, they call *Isra*. (*photos*)
- ****Back to timeline - Due to opposition* to Muhammad's new message, in **622 AD** he and his followers fled from Mecca to **Medina** (250 miles north (*map*)). **Starting growing fast!**
- 8 years later, in **630 AD**, Muhammad and a *growing army* went back and **conquered Mecca**.
- In Mecca, Muhammad went to the *main place of worship*, **The Ka'bah**, had all idols destroyed & set up worship to Allah alone. Since then, this has become the **MOST HOLY place for muslims**.
- It's a *stone structure, covered black cloth* - visited by *millions of muslims* every year (*photo*)
- Then in **632 AD**, Muhammad *died of natural causes*. His *tomb is located in Medinah* to this date.
- *After his death*, Islam had a **big split** regarding who would succeed him as new religious leader.
 - **Sunni's** - believe the new successor should be **elected democratically**
 - **Shiites** - believe the new successor should be **related to Muhammad**
 - **Other sub groups and sects of Islam**. Many others, but main two are *Sunni* and *Shiite*.
- One other thing that still *fascinates historians* to this day is that *within only a few years* after Muhammad's death, the Islamic religious movement **seized the Holy Land**, and spread all the way to **Central Asia, North Africa, and Western Europe**.
- **Spread by the sword**. **The Quran teaches three options: Convert, Pay Tax, or Die** (still...)
- The *turning point* was in **732 AD** at the **Battle of Tours in France**, the *rapid spread of Islam was stopped*. This battle was won by a man named **Charles Martel**. **Stopped the advance...*

- ***As of today, **1.9 billion people**, 24% of the world's population are muslim (*1 out of every 4 people*)
- **Some of those stats are due to muslim families having large families with many children!*
 - But, next to Christianity, it's the **2nd largest religion in the world**. (**Growing fast in India**)
 - **World: In roughly 45 countries** = *national religion*. (*Asian islands, North Africa, Middle East*)
 - **Europe**: - *Massive growth* since **ISIS in 2014** (*Syrian and Iraqi refugees*).
 - **USA**: *Growing rapidly*. Number of *Mosques* (up to 3,000). *University campuses recently...*
 - **Border crisis** - millions flooding into the U.S. and studies showing *close to 40% are muslim*.

>>> Bible - What Scripture(s) do they read?

- Muhammad taught that **Allah has given 4 books to mankind** (*some might surprise you...!*)
- **1. (Tawrat) - The Law of Moses**
- **2. (Zabur) - The Psalms of David**
- **3. (Injil) - The Gospels of Jesus**
- **4. (Quran) - Revelations of Muhammad**
- Now for the **first three** - believe *inspired from God* (*most have never actually read them...*)
- But **Jews and Christians** have **"corrupted them"** and have been **"translated correctly"**
- **Revere many of the same Biblical prophets...** (*Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham & Lot, Ishmael & Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses & Aaron, David & Solomon, Elijah & Ezekiel, Jonah, and John the Baptist, Jesus...*)
- And since, **Muhammad was the last prophet on the scene** they listen to him *above all else*. (*supersedes all other revelations*). (*i.e. Mormon approach*) **The Quran as the final authority**
- **Quran - 114 chapters ("Surah's")** **Believed to be the word of Allah** *from the angel Gabriel*.

- The Muslims also look to another group of writings known as **The Hadith** (“haw-deet” or “haw-deeth”). Includes collections of Muhammad’s teachings & lifestyle. **Highly regarded to muslims, but not as authoritative as the Quran.** ***Sunni’s and Shia disagree over these...
- **Many muslims do not read the Quran** or any of the other scriptures mentioned... They memorize verses as little kids, but do not actively read the Quran as adults.
- They rely on their local **“Imam”** to teach them. An Imam is like **a pastor or a rabbi**.
 - ***Depending on the Imam... many different nuances of teachings (peaceful or radical)
 - **Any Religion** = Dangerous when people are not reading for themselves. (Dark ages)
 - ***Any good pastor or religious leader will encourage you to read for yourself.
- I should also mention that the **Quran does have many internal contradictions**.
 - In one place it says Noah’s whole family survived the flood, and in another it says one of Noah’s sons drowned. **Both can’t be true...**
 - In one place it says Pharaoh drowned in the Red Sea, but another verse indicates he survived. **Both can’t be true...**
- However, the **Bible rises to scrutiny time and time again**.
 - The Bible has proved to be true time and time again - on June 30th will go deep into the Bible...
 - 2 Tim. 3:16 - “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God”
 - 1 Peter 1:24-25 - “The grass withers, and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever.”
 - Hebrews 13:8 - “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

***As we now look at the **Father, Son and Holy Spirit** as our **next three points**, a couple things...

- Muslims reject the **Doctrine of the Trinity**. They believe only Allah is God. **No one else**.
- Christians believe that **Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all one God**. That there is a distinction between **WHAT God is** and **WHO He is**.
 - What HE is = is God (one God, one essence, one eternal being)
 - But WHO He is = is three persons (or representations to the world).
- I will be going deep into the “Trinity” for Apologetics message on June 30th...

>>> **God, the Father - Who is God?**

- **Lots of similarities** to the true God of the Bible (all knowing, mighty creator & sustainer, merciful, sovereign, and just)
- But, they are **NOT** the same GOD we’re worshiping.
- Allah is not viewed as a **“Loving Father”**, nor does **Allah love sinners...**
- Surah 2:276 - “Allah **does not love** any ungrateful sinner”
- Surah 3:32 - “Truly Allah **does not love** the unbelievers.”
- Surah 4:36 - “Surely Allah **does not love** him who is proud or arrogant.”
- **Bummer** for all of us who were proud, unbelieving, sinners at some point in our lives.
- The God of the Bible is very different!
- John 3:16 - “For God so **loved the world [everybody!]** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
- Romans 5:8 - “God **demonstrates His own love** toward us, in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.”
- That’s **good news for us sinners**. That’s good news for everyone walking the planet!
- **For most muslims**, Allah is viewed as a **distant God (Judge) that must be submitted to** in full obedience. It’s not about fellowship, but submission...

- **In Christianity**, while we also desire to submit to God in full obedience, He is **not distant**.
- For us who know Him, in Romans 8:15 - “[we have] received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, **“Abba, Father.”** ...When we pray, we pray... “Our _____ who are in heaven!”
- The **God of the Bible** is a loving Father who wants to have a personal relationship with you.

>>> **Christ, the Son - Who is Jesus?**

- Muslims know Jesus as Isa. Let’s talk about His: **(1) birth, (2) death, and (3) deity**
- **Regarding Jesus’ birth:**
- The Quran does teach the virgin birth, but they do not not believe Jesus the Son of God.
 - Surah 112 teaches that Allah never had any offspring.
- **Regarding Jesus’ Death:**
- The Quran teaches that Jesus did not die and was never crucified, but that he was simply carried away by Allah.
- Surah 4:157 - “...and for boasting, “We killed the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the messenger of Allah.” **But they neither killed nor crucified him**—it was only made to appear so. Even those who argue for this ‘crucifixion’ are in doubt. They have no knowledge whatsoever—only making assumptions. **They certainly did not kill him.**”
- **But the Bible teaches something very different...**
- Matthew 27:35, Mark 15:24, Luke 23:33, and John 19:18 - **“They crucified him”**
- 1 Cor. 15:3-6, NLT - “I passed on to you what was **most important... Christ died** for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. **He was buried**, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by **more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive...**”
- **Well, which is it? Is the Quran or the Bible right about Jesus?**
- I don’t know about you - But I take the New Testament written 600 years before the Quran. And **written by eyewitnesses** of these things rather than some dude who lived 800 miles away.
- **Regarding Jesus’ as God:**
- Muslims believe Jesus is a Holy Prophet from God. One of the many Holy Prophets who have come from Allah. But they **DO NOT believe Jesus is God**. This is actually a big deal to them.
- Muslims believe that any worship devoted to anyone other than Allah is considered polytheism and is a grave sin known as a **“shirk”** - **Specifically, that Jesus is not God**.
- Surah 5:72 - “Those who say, “Messiah, son of Mary is God,” have certainly fallen into disbelief. The Messiah ‘himself’ said, “O Children of Israel! Worship Allah—my Lord and your Lord.” **Whoever associates others with Allah ‘in worship’ will surely be forbidden Paradise by Allah. Their home will be the Fire.**”
- To muslims, it is a **HUGE deal to proclaim Jesus as Lord**. It’s a salvation issue to them.
- Now, I’ve already made the case for Jesus being God in the last two sessions with Mormons & Jehvah’s witnesses (go back and listen), but in a few weeks, for our final session (date?) I will go into a couple specific objections that are brought by muslims regarding Jesus’ deity...
 - John 14:28 - “My **Father is greater than I**”
 - Mark 13:32 - “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, **nor the Son, but only the Father**”
 - In addition to those two objections (which have great responses BTW) I will also show how **one of the strongest cases** for Christ’s deity is found in Mark 14:62 - “Jesus said, **‘I AM. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming**

with the clouds of heaven.” - This **verse is loaded** with context pointing to **Jesus as God!**

>>> **Holy Spirit - Who is the Holy Spirit?**

- Not much to say here. Islam doesn't really focus on or have much to say about the Holy Spirit.
- They **point more so to the Angel Gabriel** who delivers revelation from Allah (*and prophets*)
- As Christians, we of course believe the **Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity**.

>>> **Humanity & Sin - What is the nature of man?**

- Islam teaches a concept called **“Fitrah”** - which teaches humans have natural born innocence and the ability to choose between right and wrong.
- The Bible teaches that we have all sinned and fallen short and inherited sin from Adam (**Romans 5**) - **Doctrine of Original Sin** (*more in a few weeks for our final message - date?*)

>>> **Means of Salvation - How can I be saved?**

- For Muslims, salvation is not based on God's grace but on a **“scale”** of good deeds vs. bad deeds. *Surah 23:102-3* - “As for those whose **scale is heavy** [with good deeds], it is they who will be successful [attain salvation]. But those whose **scale is light**, they will have doomed themselves, staying in Hell forever.”
- That's scary for muslims, you never really know if you've done enough to tip the scale. And you have to hope Allah will be merciful when you get there...
- Salvation is not only based on doing more good deeds than bad ones and following the **Five Pillars of Islam** (*very briefly*):
 - **(1) Confession (Shahada)** - To **become a muslim**, one must confess publicly, *“There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger.”*
 - **(2) Prayer (Salah)** - Specific prayers at scheduled times multiple times a day. (*facing Mecca*)
 - **(3) Giving (Zakat)** - Almsgiving throughout their lifetime to those in need.
 - **(4) Fasting (Sawm)** - During the **month of Ramadan** (March/April) - abstain from certain food, drinks, and sexual activity. To **celebrate the visions** Muhammad received for the Quran.
 - **(5) Pilgrimage (Hajj)** - **Once-in-a-lifetime journey** to worship at the Ka'bah in Mecca (if you're able)
- If you've been coming the last few weeks, you know by now, the Bible teaches we are saved By **Grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone**. (*Eph 2:8-9*)
- God **does not weigh your good and bad deeds** on a **scale**....
- *Romans 3:23, 6:23* - **“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... [and] the wages of sin is death ...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**
- **For the closing message, I will talk about the tension between Paul & James | faith and works. Do they contradict or complement each other? Wait and see, but for now...**
- *Titus 3:5* - “[salvation] is **not by works of righteousness** which we have done, but **according to His mercy** He saved us.”

>>> **Views on the Afterlife - Where am I going?**

- Some nuances and differences, but overall, some **very similar beliefs here**.
- Islam believes in a **final judgment** with an **eternal paradise** and an **eternal hell**.
- The **Bible teaches those same things**.
- But the difference is **HOW** you end up in those two places:

- *Is it a scale of balancing good deeds and bad deeds?*
- *Or is it grace found in Jesus Christ?*
- ***We've looked at the answer there already!***

***There are also some **fascinating end-times teachings** that we don't have time to get into today

- But the Quran teaches a coming Messiah they refer to as **Mahdi**
- He is expected to be a perfect muslim who will come **riding on a horse** and **rid the world of evil** and **unite the world** under Islam). *He will bring peace through war...* He will rule for **seven years, three of which will be filled with horrible chaos.**
- They also teach that **Jesus will return** shortly after the Mahdi and set up a golden era on earth.
- *Does any of this sound familiar? - Antichrist, 7 yr Tribulation, the return of Christ, and the millennial kingdom - just all twisted up and reworked into its own version.*

>>> **Extra Nuances - Anything else I should know?**

- Muhammad had 11 confirmed wives, but the **Quran says** you can only be married to four wives (Surah 4:3) - sounds like **Joseph Smith!** - *Rules for me and not for thee! (concerning...)*
- But something else to point out, and might surprise you regarding one of Muhammad's wives. The Quran teaches that a young girl cannot get married and engage intimately until she reaches the age of puberty (Surah 4:6). That's a good thing. *Even the Bible has teachings regarding that...* But Muhammad did what he wanted and it is recorded regarding his wife Aisha, *"the Prophet married her when she was six years old and he consummated his marriage when she was nine years old"* (Sahih al-Bukhari Hadith 7.62.64). Muhammad would have been roughly 50 yrs old at the time of marrying her.
 - **That's not okay for any culture anytime, anywhere.** **To this day, in many muslim society groups, older men marry much younger women following this example...*
- Islam is more than just beliefs, it's **a way of life**. Massive betrayal and brings shame to their local community and family if you leave the faith. **Excommunication is very likely.**
- And in many areas of the world. Muslims can and will **be killed** for leaving their faith system under the **"Laws of Apostasy"**
- Even Christians have to **be careful evangelizing in certain areas. Iran & Sudan. Surah 5:33** - *"The penalty for those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger and spread mischief in the land is death, crucifixion, cutting off their hands and feet on opposite sides, or exile from the land. This 'penalty' is a disgrace for them in this world..." - pray for those who risk their lives...*
- **Sharia Law** - Derived from the Quran and the **Sunnah** (from a portion of the Hadith) - approached differently by various muslims. Interpretations, angles, crimes, and severity... (adultery, homosexuality, theft, and many others) - Pride for Palestine - they are so deceived...
- **Jihad** - "to struggle" - also means many various things to various muslim groups (from personal battle's in one's own heart to **publicly wiping out infidels** in acts of radical terror)
- **Not all of them hate America**. Many love this country and grew up here and have served in the military and believe in the concept of loving and protecting the nation that cares for you.
- Muslims believe in Allah speaking to them through dreams. They regard dreams highly. Testimonies of Jesus appearing to muslims, guess how? Dreams! (**Gary in Uganda**)

>>> **Conversation - What do I say to them?**

- If you want to get sharpened on these conversations - **Nabeel Quereshi**. *"Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus"* - watch some **YouTube videos**.

- Recognize **we have much in common** (*different from a feminist gender-confused crystal worshipping atheist*). Myself and muslims believe in *absolute truth, one God, angels, a coming resurrection and judgment, even look to some of the same prophets & scriptures...*
 - I say that to say at least **there's a starting point of commonality**.
- Encourage them to **read one of the Gospels** - *many have never!* **Luke** is a great start.
- **Treat them with love**. They believe that *Christians love Jews and hate Muslims. They think you hate them*. So, love them well. Be kind and caring.
- **Respect gender distinctions**. *Men avoid talking directly with muslim men and vice versa...*
- **Hospitality is a big deal**. If you get invited to their home. Or consider inviting them into your home (*use discernment 2 John*). But, **it's effective** for them culturally speaking (*act of love*)
 - Rarely do they get invited into a *"westerner's home"* (*dogs are unclean; alcohol, etc.*)
- **Don't be afraid** to minister to muslims. There's a fear because of *Radical extremists*. I get it. Some muslims are radical and will kill you if they get the chance. But many are peaceful and loving. *It all depends on what branch of Islam they come from and what their Imam teaches and which portions of the Quran are emphasized. (Earlier vs. later teachings of Muhammed)*. Use **wisdom and discernment**. But let me remind you of two things:
 - Remember, **Jesus prayed** for the *"violent ones"* (*thiefs, romans soldiers, even Paul!*)
 - *2 Tim. 1:7 - "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*
- **Be patient** - there's *much for them to lose* in considering the Christian faith. *It takes time...*
- Emphasis the *compassion and grace of God* as a **loving Father**. *Relationship with him!*
- The *ultimate goal is not to win arguments* but to **point them to the Living Savior!**
- **"Do you know Jesus"** is the most important question ever.
 - *If not asked*, viewed by some muslims as *you don't care, or you don't love*.
 - **(1) Care** - To many muslims, you talk about things you're **passionate about** and if you don't talk to them about Jesus, you **must not be passionate about it**
 - **(2) Love** - Or, you don't *love me enough to ask me about Jesus* so I don't go to hell.
- We should be asking people everywhere, all the time, **do you know Jesus?**

Closing:

Muslims believe **a false prophet** and have subscribed to **a false religion** and are *in need of salvation*.

- God desires that we get the gospel out to Muslim people.
- *1 Timothy 2:3-4 - "God our Savior . . . desires **all people** [including Muslims! (emphasis added)] to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

*Romans 10:9-13, ESV - "If you confess with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved**. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved... **everyone who calls on the name** of the Lord will be saved."*

[altar invitation]

Pray