



Islam: Religion or Imperialistic Geopolitical System? Part 2

The BIG IDEA from last week

Muslims are lost and they are part of the world that God loved and sent His Only Unique Son to die for on the cross (Jn. 3:16). As believers, we have been called to go into all the world and make disciples (Matt. 28:19-20). This means Muslim populations as well. Not only are we to love other Christians, we are also called on to love our neighbors. We should seek to understand Muslims and to lead them to their only hope in this life and the life to come, who is Jesus Christ, the resurrected Son of God.

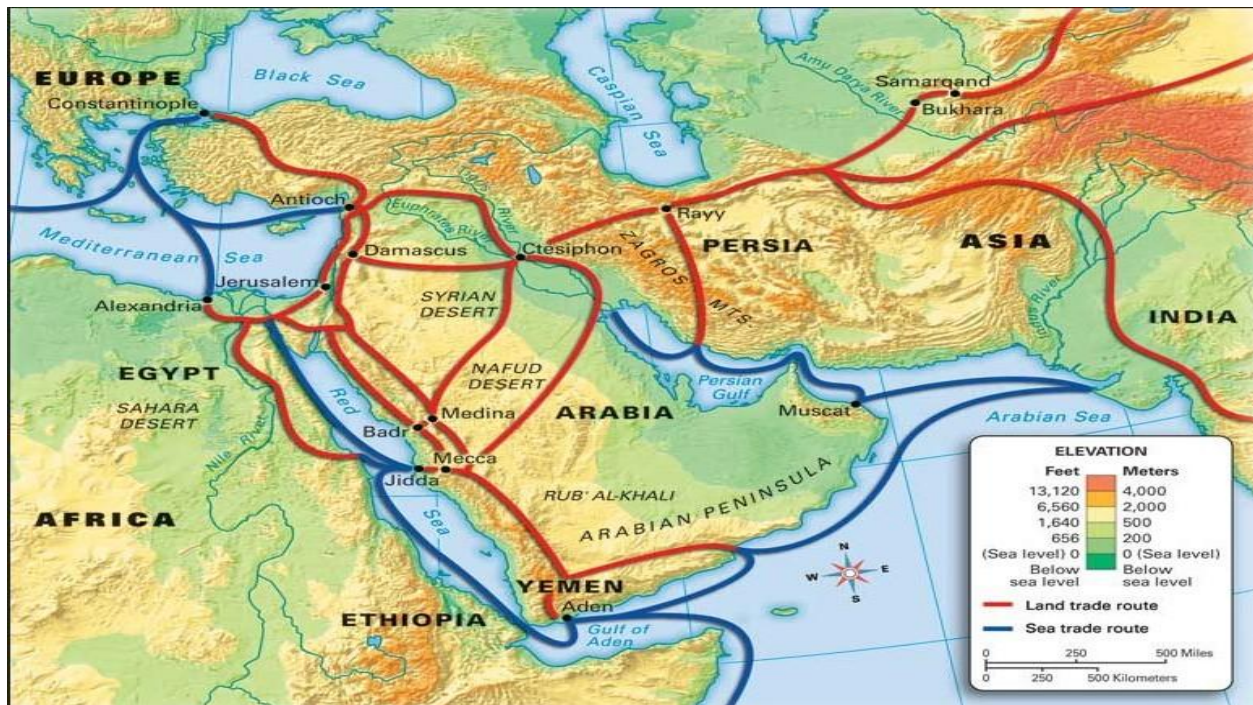
Historical Setting

Jesus was prophesied from Genesis 3:15 through the minor prophets (around 430BC). He came to earth and was born in Dec. 5BC/Jan. 4BC and died in 33AD. He was crucified, buried, and rose 3 days later appearing to his disciples for 40 days until he ascended into heaven. Rome destroyed Jerusalem and Herod's Temple completely in AD70 and the Jews were dispersed. 500 years later a man named Muhammad was born in Mecca, Arabia (570AD).

Between Jesus and Muhammad

The Byzantine Empire and the Sasanian Empire were two powerful states that frequently clashed in a series of wars known as the Byzantine-Sasanian Wars, primarily over territorial disputes in the Middle East. Their rivalry lasted for centuries, culminating in the devastating Byzantine-Sasanian War of 602-628, which significantly weakened both empires and set the stage for the rise of Islam.





3 Key Truths to Understand Muhammad/Islam

In Muhammad's life he first became:

1. A religious leader, then he become a...
2. Political leader, then he became a...
3. Military leader.

A Short History of Islam

- ✓ Muhammad, born in 570 in Mecca, Arabia
- ✓ In 610, he claimed to have received a revelation from Gabriel during what is now the month of Ramadan [became a religious leader, a prophet].

Muhammad's Divine revelation?

According to Islamic tradition, the Prophet Muhammad received the Qur'an from God (Arabic "*Allah*") through the **Angel Gabriel** (Arabic - *Jibril*) in **gradual portions** over a period of **23 years**. In 610 AD, at the age of 40, Muhammad was meditating in the Cave of Hira on Mount Jabal al-Nour near Mecca. The "Angel Gabriel" appeared and commanded Muhammad to "Read!" Muhammad replied, "I cannot read". The angel embraced him tightly and repeated the command three times before reciting the first verses of Surah Al-Alaq (Chapter 96): "*Read in the name of your Lord who created...*".

Divine Revelation?

⁶ I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;
⁷ which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ **But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!** ⁹ As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! (Gal. 1:6-9)

Muhammad's Divine revelation?

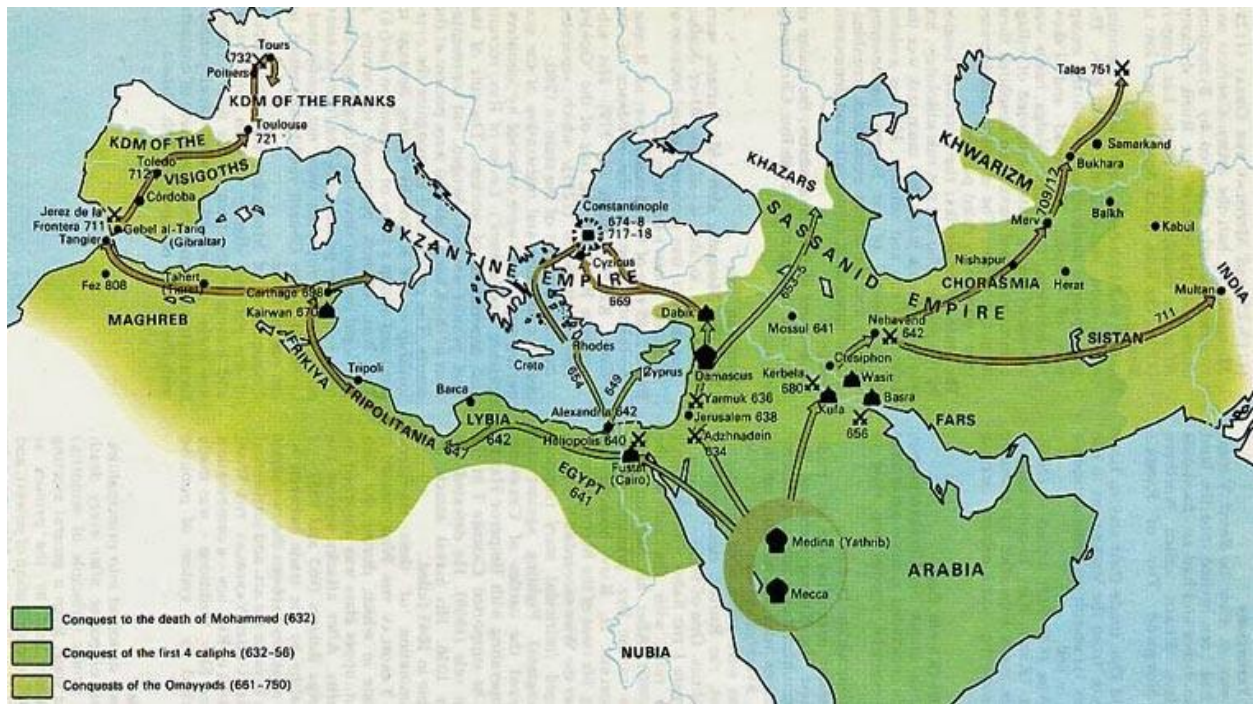
- ✓ In 622, Muhammad fled Medina
- ✓ In Medina, he organized Islam as a brotherhood of believers governed by the Muslim theocracy in which all institutions were subservient to the religion [a political leader].

A Short History of Islam

Muhammad and his followers raided caravans to financially support themselves [became a military leader]. In one battle against a Jewish tribe in Medina, they killed over 600 Jewish men (had them beheaded) and took their wives and children as booty (their property).

A Short History of Islam

- ✓ On Saturday, 13 March 624 AD, the *Battle of Badr*, was won by Muhammad although they were outnumbered 3 to 1.
- ✓ Muhammad died in 632 AD having extended his power and influence over much of Arabia.
- ✓ On the 17, July 656 Caliph Uthman was killed by his troops and these troops declared Ali to be the new Caliph. This led to a split that created two major groups: Sunni and Shiite.





The Caliphate comes to an end

The Ottoman Caliphate, the Muslim world's last widely recognized caliphate, was abolished on 3 March 1924 (R.C. 1340, A.H. 1342) by decree of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. The process was one of Atatürk's reforms following the replacement of the Ottoman Empire with the Republic of Turkey. Abdülmecid II was deposed as the last Ottoman caliph.

The Noble Qu'ran

- The Qu'ran presents itself as the final, infallible witness of Allah, and portrays the Bible as unfulfilled and corrupt.
- Caliph Abu Bakr collected the recitations of Muhammad in 652, based on the memorizations of Muhammad's companions and established the authorized version of the Qu'ran and burned all earlier conflicting versions.
- The Old and New Testaments are seen as divinely given but humanly corrupted (Sura 3:71, 78).

The Noble Qu'ran

- ✓ The Qu'ran was compiled in the years 646-50 from materials written by Muhammad before his death in 632.
- ✓ It has 114 chapters (*suras*). 86 chapters were revealed at Mecca and 28 were revealed at Medina.
- ✓ Islam teaches that the Qu'ran is an exact word-for-word copy of God's final revelation.
- ✓ Inspiration is said to have come to Muhammad in seven different ways including seizures.

