



Islam: Submission to the Will of God

Biblical Reasons to Study Religions

And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15

FOUNDER

- ▶ Muhammad (AD 570-632)
- ▶ Main sects: **Sunni** (85-90%), **Shi'ite** (10-15%)

DATE

- ▶ About AD 610, in Mecca and Medina

LOCATION

- ▶ Centered in Mecca, Saudi Arabia

KEY WRITINGS

- ▶ *Qur'an* (Koran) was revealed to Muhammad by the Angel Gabriel
 - ▶ In principle, no translation is regarded as conveying the exact meaning of the original; although a few translations are considered acceptable, non-Arabic speaking Muslims are encouraged to learn Arabic.
- ▶ *Hadith* (Muhammad's words and deeds)
- ▶ Biblical Law of Moses, Psalms, and Gospel of Jesus (the *Injil*) are accepted by *Qur'an*, but Muslim scholars teach the Jews and Christians have corrupted these original revelations

WHO IS GOD?

- ▶ God (**Allah**) is one. The greatest sin in Islam is **shirk**, or associating anything with God.
- ▶ Many Muslims think that Christians believe in **three gods** and are therefore guilty of shirk.
- ▶ Allah has **99** names.
- ▶ **Human** attributes such as fatherhood **cannot** be associated with God.

WHO IS JESUS?

- ▶ According to Islam, **Jesus** (*Isa* in Arabic) is one of the most respected of the over 124,000 **prophets** sent by Allah.
- ▶ Jesus was **sinless**.
- ▶ Jesus was born of a **virgin**. His virgin birth is like Adam's creation.
- ▶ Jesus is **not** God, and God is **not** Jesus.
- ▶ According to Islam, Jesus was a great **miracle worker**, but not the Son of God.

- ▶ He was not **crucified** (he ascended to heaven without dying).
- ▶ He is referred to as messiah and ayatollah (*ayat Allah*, **sign of God**).
- ▶ Jesus, not Muhammad, will return for a special role before the future judgment day, perhaps turning **Christians** to **Islam**.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- ▶ Allah has or is a **spirit**.
- ▶ Muslims reject the biblical concept of the **Trinity**.

HOW TO BE SAVED

- ▶ Humans are basically **good**, but fallible and need **guidance**.
- ▶ The balance between good and bad **deeds** determines eternal destiny in paradise or hell.
- ▶ Allah's mercy may tip the balances to heaven, as his will is **supreme**.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH

- ▶ **Resurrection** of bodies.
- ▶ Fear of **eternal torment** is a prevalent theme of the Qur'an.
- ▶ Paradise includes a garden populated with **houris**, maidens designed by Allah to provide sexual pleasures to righteous men.

OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- ▶ Followers are called **Muslims**.
- ▶ Go to **mosque** for prayers, sermons, counsel.
- ▶ Holy efforts to spread Islam (**jihad**).

Five pillars of Islam:

- ▶ **Confessing** that Allah is the one true God and that Muhammad is his prophet.
- ▶ **Praying** five times daily facing Mecca.
- ▶ **Giving alms** (money).
- ▶ **Fasting** during the month of Ramadan.
- ▶ Taking a **pilgrimage** to Mecca (once in a lifetime).

Resource for Further Study:

Books

1. Nabeel Qureshi, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity*
2. Ron Rhodes, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with Muslims*
3. James White, *What Every Christian Needs to Know About the Qur'an*