

# Islam

## Key Terms

### **Arianism**

Originated in the fourth century AD and argues that Jesus does not share the same essence with God, and thus does not share in the same divine nature with eternity and authority. The Nicene, Chalcedonian, and Athanasian Creeds are primarily responses to this heresy.

### **Baha'i Faith**

Founded in 1844 in Iran. Teaches that God has revealed himself through nine "manifestations" including Adam, Moses, Krishna, Buddha, Jesus, Muhammed, and Baha'u'llah. There are an estimated 8 million baha'is in the world.

### **Hadith**

A report of a saying or behavior of Muhammed which sets a precedent for Muslim practice and becomes the basis of shari'a

### **Hajj**

The annual pilgrimage to Mecca

### **Hijrah**

Muhammed's flight from Mecca to Medina in AD 622 which marks the first year in the Islamic calendar.

### **Injil**

The "book given to Jesus," similar to the Greek word evangel, meaning "good news". Muslims do not believe that no Injil remains on earth that hasn't been corrupted. Christians often refer to the Gospels, or a single Gospel, as "the Injil" when conversing with Muslims.

### **Islamism**

Broad movement promoting the idea that full and correct implementation of Islam worldwide requires both political power and state control. Sometimes called fundamentalism or Salafism.

### **Jihad**

(holy fighting) A spiritual struggle that can either be internal (striving in one's own soul to do right) or external (an effort against the enemies of Islam).

### **Jihadism**

A radical Islamic ideology. It views Western democracy as a violation of tawheed and an offense to God, and creation of a perfect Islamic state by violent means as necessary.

### **Jinn**

(also Genie) A type of supernatural, personal being-distinct from humans and demons-said to have been made by Allah from smokeless fire. Jinn can be either helpful or harmful to mankind.

### **Kaaba (Ka'bah)**

The cube-shaped structure in Mecca toward which all Muslims must pray. Believed to have been an altar used by Abraham.

### **Mecca**

The center of idol worship in AD610 when Muhammed first challenged the people to forsake idolatry and embrace Islam. Most Meccans rejected his message, and many began to persecute the early Muslims, causing them to flee (hijra) to the town of Medina in AD 622. Located in what is now Saudi Arabia.

## **Nation of Islam**

Founded in 1930 in Detroit, Michigan by Wallace D. Fard. Currently led by Louis Farrakhan. Affirms belief in Allah and the Qu'ran, but also teaches that millions of "Allahs" have lived and died since creation, and collectively the black race is God. Master Fard is considered the Supreme Allah and Savior.

## **Qur'an** (Koran)

("recitation") Revealed to Muhammed by the angel Gabriel over a period of 22 years. In AD 632 the recitations were collected together to become the Qur'an. Considered divine in its original Arabic.

## **Salat**

A set of ritual prayer to be done five specific times everyday (sometimes combined in three sessions), memorized in Arabic, with ritual washings before each sequence. The head must be covered, the body pointed toward Mecca, and the motions and prostrations must be followed for the prayers to be valid.

## **Shahadah**

The foundational Muslim profession of faith: "There is not God but Allah, and Muhammed is his prophet.

## **Shari'a** (way, path)

Islamic religious law, based upon the Sunnah. The four schools of Sunni interpretation are named after their founders: Hanafi (d. 767), Maliki (d. 795), Shafi'i (d. 820), and Hanbali (d. 855). Shi'ia Muslims also have schools of their own.

## **Shi'a** (Shi'ite)

(from Arabic Shi'ati Ali, "party of Ali") A minority of Muslims (10% worldwide) which believes that the proper successor to Muhammed should be his blood relative, beginning with Ali, his son-in-law. The Sunni-Shi'a split happened shortly after Muhammed's death in a violent dispute about who should lead the Muslim community. Shi'a follow ten central practices which include the Five Pillars. Many believe in a series of 12 imams serving as Muhammed's spiritual and political successors. The final one will someday appear with Jesus.

## **Shirk**

(associating) Committing blasphemy by assigning partners or equals to Allah, thereby compromising his uniqueness.

## **Sira**

(from Arabic Sirah Rasul Allah, "life of the messenger of God") Biographies of Muhammed that provide interpretive insights about his life and the early history of Islam.

## **Sufism**

A mystical form of Islam, often viewed as one of its distinct branches but which has both Sunni or Shi'a followers. Emphasis is placed on experiential knowledge of God, sometimes by trances induced through chanting the names of Allah or dancing (as seen in whirling dervishes).

## **Sunnah**

Literally: the "trodden path" of Muhammed and his close companions. The Sunnah (Muhammed's examples) become the basis for Shari'a

## **Sunni**

(from Arabic Ahl as-Sunnah, "people of the tradition") The majority of Muslims (90% worldwide) identify themselves in contrast to the Shi'a. the Sunni-Shi'a split began shortly after Muhammed's death in a violent dispute about who should lead the Muslim community. Sunni hold to the Five Pillars and the Six Beliefs. Many believe that a figure from Muhammed's family, known as the Mahdi, will appear with Jesus before the final judgment.

## **Tawheed** (Tawhid)

(oneness) The central doctrine of Allah's absolute oneness and uniqueness.

## What does the Bible say?

- a. Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- b. 1 John 4:10 “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”
- c. Galatians 1:6-8 “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse!”
- d. Romans 3:20-23 “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given through faith in[a] Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”
- e. Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in[a] Christ Jesus our Lord.
- f. Psalm 110 “The Lord says to my lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying, “Rule in the midst of your enemies!” Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy splendor, your young men will come to you like dew from the morning’s womb. The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth. He will drink from a brook along the way, and so he will lift his head high.”
- g. Isaiah 45:23-25 “By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked; Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. They will say of me, ‘In the Lord alone are deliverance and strength.’ All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame. But all the descendants of Israel will find deliverance in the Lord and will make their boast in him.”

### How to approach Muslims

- a. Be knowledgeable about Islam and Christianity
- b. Draw them out
- c. Emphasize Christianity is a relationship with God
- d. Be culturally sensitive
- e. Appreciate the high cost of leaving Islam