

Topic Introduction

Well it seems that almost nightly we hear of some terrorist event happening somewhere in this world, and even now several times right here within the borders of the USA (most recently Philadelphia – Jan16 and San Bernardino – Dec15), and the horrific Paris attacks in Nov15. Jihad, terrorism, in the name of Islam, Allah Akbar; what in the world is going on, why are there all these terror events, why is there all this killing, why is Iran like they are, who is ISIS, who is Hamas, who is Al Qaeda, who is Boko Harem, and why do they do what they do? Why is there this continual tension in the Middle East, why are we continually hearing about suicide bombers in Israel (to which I call them homicide bombers because they are really seeking to kill others not just themselves), why are there groups bent on destroying Israel, why would 19 men hijack 4 airplanes and fly them into 4 locations killing over 3,000 people who simply were about their daily lives? What in the world is going on, why are there all these terror events? In today's study that is what we will dig into so when we watch and read the news, we can understand what is the basis and what is behind it.

Went to the Mall 1991 – Bought a Bible

But, if I may, I would like to take you back 25 years ago (nearly to the day) and share something about my life that I think has great bearing on our topic today. It was January 1991, twenty-five years ago, I went to the mall in Merritt Island Florida, went to the bookstore in the mall, and bought a Bible (pretty much any Bible because I didn't know anything about various translations). I read that Bible for 3 hours a day, I read the Bible with no internet assistance (for there was no personal internet in 1991), I read it with no additional books (such as commentaries, dictionaries, magazines), I read it with no assistance from a pastor, teacher, or friend. I simply read the Bible from the first page to the last page. And about 30 days into my reading, I saw and believed that Jesus Christ was God, He came and died for my sins, and that He was calling me to a personal relationship with Him, and to follow Him. That Bible I bought changed my life; I believed, and still believe today, that this book was inspired by God, and is the literal Word of God. This book for 25 years has been my guide, my compass, the very voice of God in my life. Each day I awake and read it before I go and do anything. I say it not as a joke, but the answer to the question "if you could only have one thing on a deserted island what would it be?", to which my answer is immediately – my Bible! I love my Bible, it is how God speaks to me. I always find three things in this Bible:

1. Who is God?
2. What does He think of me?
3. What does He want me to do?

Went to the Mall 2016 – Bought a Koran

Well on Monday (January 11, 2016) I went to the mall at lunchtime and for \$6.99 I purchased the Koran. I did not buy a commentary, I did not go on the internet to help me understand it, I did not call a teacher of the Koran, nor did I seek out a Muslim to explain anything to me, I simply read it.

The Koran is the sacred text of Islam; the followers of Islam are called Muslims (which means submitted to Allah). The Koran is to the Muslim is what the Bible is to the Christian. The Muslims will say that the Koran was written by their (or better said by them – THE) Prophet Muhammed under direct inspiration of God (who they call Allah). The Muslim believes the Koran is the word of god. Islam began approximately 600 AD (1400 years ago) by Muhammed. Estimates are that there are around 1.6 billion people who identify themselves as Muslims, approximately 3.5 million in the USA.

So again, on Monday I went to the mall at lunch time and for \$6.99 I purchased the Koran. I did not buy a commentary, I did not go on the internet to help me understand what words meant, I did not call a teacher of the Koran, nor did I seek out a Muslim to explain anything to me, I simply read it.

Text from the Koran

Here is the opening of the Koran. And from it I am told that Allah is compassionate and merciful. He is worthy and due all praise. There is a Day of Judgement, and he will be the master/judge on that day. He is to be served, he is who to call upon in time of need, and he has a path man is to walk on and follow, he is pleased with those who stay on his path, and angry with those who go astray from his path. So to me, I would immediately say his words

(written in this book) tells me how to walk and stay on the path. Knowing that there is a Day of Judgment coming someday, I know I need to be obedient to the words of this book.

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

PRAISE be to God, Lord of the worlds!

The compassionate, the merciful!

King on the day of reckoning!

Thee only do we worship, and to Thee do we cry for help.

Guide Thou us on the straight path, 2

The path of those to whom Thou hast been gracious;--with whom thou art not angry, and who go not astray.

(Sura/Chapter 1:1-5)

Now I turn the page and become concerned immediately, for only one page later I read that if I do not believe this book, then I am what they call an "infidel", which is an unbeliever of Islam, therefore not a Muslim because I am not a true follower of Allah, I am not submitted to Allah (that is what Muslim means). I read there is a 'severe chastisement' due to me.

ELIF. LAM. MIM. No doubt is there about this Book: It is a guidance to the God-fearing,

Who believe in the unseen, who observe prayer, and out of what we have bestowed on them, expend for God;

And who believe in what hath been sent down to thee, and in what hath been sent down before thee, and full faith have they in the life to come:

These are guided by their Lord; and with these it shall be well.

As to the infidels, alike is it to them whether thou warn them or warn them not--they will not believe:

Their hearts and their ears hath God sealed up; and over their eyes is a covering. **For them, a severe chastisement!**

And some there are who say, "We believe in God, and in the latter day:" Yet are they not believers!

Fain would they deceive God and those who have believed; but they deceive themselves only, and know it not.

Diseased are their hearts! And that disease hath God increased creased to them. Their's a sore chastisement, for that they treated their prophet as a liar!

(Sura 2:1-9)

When I get to chapter 5 I read that this book says that a Muslim is not to take a Jew or a Christian as a friend, and if any Muslim does they are considered an evil doer.

O Believers! **take not the Jews or Christians as friends**. They are but one another's friends. If any one of you taketh them for his friends, he surely is one of them! God will not guide the evil doers. (Sura 5:51)

Not much further in chapter 5 if I had a doubt what this book considers and infidel, it is made very clear, and I am surely considered by them to be an infidel because I believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and I believe in the Trinity. To believe in the Trinity is an offense to Islam because it is considered "polytheism" and Islam is very strict through this Koran that God is only one, and thus monotheism is what Islam is based on. The destiny of the infidel shall be Fire (Hell).

Infidels now are they who say, "God is the Messiah, Son of Mary;" for the Messiah said, "O children of Israel! worship God, my Lord and your Lord." Whoever shall join other gods with God, God shall forbid him the Garden, **and his abode shall be the Fire**; and the wicked shall have no helpers.

They surely are Infidels who say, "God is the third of three:" for there is no God but one God: and if they refrain not from what they say, a grievous chastisement shall light on such of them as are Infidels.

(Sura 5:75)

Now chapter 8 it is very concerning to me because it is not just that I read they believe that all the infidels will be sent to hell, but that they (the Muslim) is to fight against them, and the fighter who runs will be judged by Allah.

When thy Lord spake unto the angels, "I will be with you: therefore stablish ye the faithful. **I will cast a dread into the hearts of the infidels.**" **Strike off their heads then, and strike off from them every finger-tip.**

This, because they have opposed God and his apostle: And whoso shall oppose God and his apostle. . . . Verily, God will be severe in punishment.

"This for you! Taste it then! and for the infidels is the torture of the fire!"

O ye who believe! when ye meet the marshalled hosts of the infidels, turn not your backs to them:

Whoso shall turn his back to them on that day, unless he turn aside to fight, or to rally to some other troop, shall incur wrath from God: Hell shall be his abode and wretched the journey thither!
(Sura 8:12-16)

And although I could go on, as I found close to 100 passages regarding fighting and killing the infidel, let me just end this string with a few passages in chapter 9. When we see the words like "make war" or "strive against", that correlates to what we read in the news called "jihad" which is a holy war fighting for Allah against the infidels. And when the sacred months are passed, kill those who join other gods with God wherever ye shall find them; and seize them, besiege them, and lay wait for them with every kind of ambush: but if they shall convert, and observe prayer, and pay the obligatory alms, then let them go their way, for God is Gracious, Merciful.
(Sura 9:5)

So make war on them: By your hands will God chastise them, and will put them to shame, and will give you victory over them, and will heal the bosoms of a people who believe;
(Sura 9:13)

Not only a call to war upon the Jews and Christians,
Make war upon such of those to whom the Scriptures have been given as believe not in God, or in the last day, and who forbid not that which God and His Apostle have forbidden, and who profess not the profession of the truth, until they pay tribute out of hand, and they be humbled.
The Jews say, "Ezra (Ozair) is a son of God"; and the Christians say, "The Messiah is a son of God." Such the sayings in their mouths! They resemble the saying of the Infidels of old! God do battle with them! How are they misguided!
(Sura 9:29-30)

This next passage is calling to not live for this world but the next, and if you don't Allah will punish you.
O Believers! what possessed you, that when it was said to you, "March forth on the Way of God," ye sank heavily earthwards? What! prefer ye the life of this world to the next? But the fruition of this mundane life, in respect of that which is to come, is but little.
Unless ye march forth, with a grievous chastisement will He chastise you; and He will place another people in your stead, and ye shall in no way harm Him: for over everything is God potent.
(Sura 9:41-42)

And again, it is called to contend (fight – jihad) against the infidels (whom we have read are those who don't believe in Allah and his prophet Muhammed).
O Prophet! contend against the infidels and the hypocrites, and be rigorous with them: Hell shall be their dwelling place! Wretched the journey thither!
(Sura 9:73)

And, I have to think back to something else that I read back in chapter 3, and that was that it is ok to lie to the infidel in order to protect yourselves from them, or to set them up in a false sense of friendship. To which I can't help but think of this current treaty that has been made with Iran regarding nuclear weapons.
Let not believers take infidels for their friends rather than believers: whoso shall do this hath nothing to hope from God--unless, indeed, ye fear a fear from them: But God would have you beware of Himself; for to God ye return.
SAY: Whether ye hide what is in your breasts, or whether ye publish it abroad, God knoweth it: He knoweth what is in the heavens and what is in the earth; and over all things is God potent.
(Sura 3:28)

Just went and Bought a Koran

So again, on Monday I went to the mall at lunch time and for \$6.99 I purchased the Koran. I did not buy a commentary, I did not go on the internet to help me understand it, I did not call a teacher of the Koran, nor did I seek out a Muslim to explain anything to me, I simply read it.

- It can be said that I read it out of context, to which I simply just read it, line-by-line, chapter-by-chapter.

- It can be said that I am reading a bad translation, to which I can only say there were three Koran's available at the bookstore, I picked the least expensive one; however what I did read in the cover of the one I bought was that the version I was reading was the first and therefore original English translation provided.
- It may be said that I am reading it out of context from a historical setting, but nowhere in the chapters I read to you does it say things like, "it was the time of King so-and-so", or something like "and then Egypt made war against Persia", it simply makes sayings of what Allah told Muhammed.

Fundamental versus Secular

I am what in Biblical Christianity calls a Fundamentalist. I am defined as such by Webster's Dictionary

FUNDAMENTALISM

- 1a: a movement in 20th century Protestantism emphasizing the literally interpreted Bible as fundamental to Christian life and teaching
- 1b: the beliefs of this movement
- 1c: adherence to such beliefs
- 2a: a movement or attitude stressing strict and literal adherence to a set of basic principles <Islamic fundamentalism> <political fundamentalism>

Although I don't like to be labeled, I will agree, that I absolutely believe in the literal interpretation of the Bible. That is says what it says – literally. You need only to read it to understand it. It has been determined that the Bible is written on a 3rd grade level; thus you don't need a PhD, a Masters, nor a Bachelor's degree, nor even a high school diploma, you need only the ability to read and understand the words.

So as I read this Bible, and I take it literally. For 25 years I have not changed:

- It says to tithe – so I tithe.
- It says go make disciples – so I go out and try to make disciples
- It says to do the work of an evangelist – so I share the Gospel.
- It says to love your wife – so I love my wife even when I don't feel like.
- It says to not be drunk – so I quit drinking
- It says to not fornicate – so I abstained until I was married

I literally believed that the Bible is literal, and is literally the Word of God to me on how to live, and so I literally follow the words written in it.

Past 3 Days in the News

Like to read you some news blurbs:

- 23 killed by Al Qaeda gunman at hotel in Africa – 1/15/16 (Africa)
- Five suicide bombers (claimed by ISIS) attack a shopping and restaurant district, killing 7 – 1/14/16 (Indonesia)
- Two female suicide bombers detonate at a rival mosque, killing ten worshippers. – 1/13/16 (Cameroon)
- A Shahid suicide bomber kills 15 people at a polio clinic. – 1/13/16 (Pakistan)
- Two journalists are shot to death by terrorists. – 1/12/16 (Iraq)
- ISIS suicide bomber exploded in centre of Istanbul and killed 10 and injuries 15 tourists – 1/12/16 (Istanbul)
- Two dozen Iraqis are killed by well-placed bombs at a crowded coffee shop. – 1/11/16 (Iraq)

What makes these news blurbs so alarming is that all I have read you are the last 3 days here in this world. All these stories were all done in the name of Islam.

Recent Report of last 30 days counts:

- Attacks – 158
- Killed – 1545

- Injured – 1293
- Suicide Bombs – 35
- Countries - 26

One such incident happened on New Year's Day in Africa when ISIS rounded up 300 West African Migrants in Libya and shot them in the name of Islam.

Why did they do it? Because they all believe what we just read in this Koran, they are responding to what they believe they are called and told to do based on their Koran.

- They are told to kill unbelievers – so they kill unbelievers
- They are told to make war against the infidels – so they make war against the infidels
- They are told to hate the Jew and the Christian – so they hate the Jew and Christian

Because they are Fundamental Muslims.

Philadelphia Police Ambush

On January 7th 2016 a man in Philadelphia ambushed a police officer and shot him 7 times. The officer miraculously survived. When arrested the man said:

- He did it for Islam, and that police need to be killed because they bend laws that are contrary to the teachings of the Quran.

The Mayor of Philadelphia said this in his press conference, which was also stated by the Police Chief earlier:

- The Muslim man who said Islam motivated him to shoot a police officer does not represent the teachings of Islam, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney stated in a press conference on Friday afternoon, following an attempted execution by a man who had reportedly pledged to the Islamic State.

Mayor Statement / Governing Stance / But – Read It and see it says what it says

The mayor's statement reflects the statements that is continual stated by governing officials in the United States of America. For \$6.99, I walked into an American mall, bought the book, read the book, and have two choices to make, believe it literally, or cast it off as not literal. But no matter what a person decides, it clearly says what we just read, there is no denying that for whoever is willing to spend the \$6.99 and read it.

Resultant shapes Doctrine/Theology

See, I love my Bible, it is how God speaks to me. I always find three things in this Bible:

1. Who is God?
2. What does He think of me?
3. What does He want me to do?

The Bible shapes my doctrine and theology. Theology, the study of God; who He is. Doctrine, what I believe and why. My doctrine and theology shapes my life on how I live.

For the Fundamental Muslim, who literally believes the Koran is the literal word of god; the Koran shapes their doctrine and theology which shapes their life and how they live.

But, here is an interesting about Professing Christians:

- In recent survey 78% of Americans identify themselves as Christian.
- In a recent survey 53% of the people surveyed who identified themselves as evangelical Christians say there are other ways to heaven, and Jesus is not the only way, even though Jesus said He is the only way (John 14:6).
- Recent Gallup Survey (June 2014) finds that only 28% of Americans believe the Bible is the Word of God and should be taken literally.
- The Bible in American Life," conducted by the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture,
 - 50% of Americans read the Bible in the past year,

- 80% read it at least once a month,
- and 9% of Americans say they read the Bible daily.

So, what you have are Fundamental Christians, and Secular Christians. The Fundamental Christian believes the Bible is Word of God, Jesus is the only way to salvation, and they live according to the Word of God. But the Secular Christian (which also I call worldly Christians), they pick and choose what they like and don't like about the Bible. They say yea it says that, but it is not what it really means, therefore I can live any way I like, because God is love, and He knows my heart, and those Fundamental Christians they are just judgmental, critical, hate mongers, and fanatical. For the most part, the secular Christian just want to go about life having a nice day, enjoying family, going to work, going to church when it is convenient to them, applying the word of God when it fits their needs. The secular (worldly Christians) who go to church and get a happy thought on, sing a few songs (about God's blessing to them – not them blessing God with a committed life), ask God to do a few things for them, and then leave and never apply anything they have read or heard. They do few good deeds when time permits and doesn't interfere with their personal lives, and if they have season tickets they will see you in the spring. But then there are those (many such as you here today) who believe the Bible is truly the Word of God, and it shapes every aspect of your lives. It leads you in your marriage, child rearing, giving, serving, witnessing, and sacrifice. Simply put.....Jesus first!

A recent survey amongst Muslims, 80% say they don't read the Koran.

Secular Muslim vs Fundamental Muslim

So if we have secular and fundamental Christians, then Islam is the same (and all other religions too), in that you have Secular Muslims and Fundamental Muslims. You see Muslims that just want to go about life and have a nice day. They go to their Mosque, they have their time of worship, and then they go home and focus on their jobs, fixing up their home, enjoying their recreation and their family life. They simply just want to live their faith within their bubble, and not bother or be bothered by others. They just want peace, and mean nobody any harm. And I have met many of them, and they are truly just nice people, and very enjoyable to be with, and very gracious and hospitable I have found also.

But Doesn't Change – Koran Still says what it Says

But the Secular Muslim who hardly reads their Koran, and when they read troubling passages they do what the secular Christian does, they say it really doesn't mean that,.....but it doesn't change the fact that the Koran says what it says, and that the Fundamental Muslim believes it to be literal, and lives their lives accordingly. Just like a Fundamental Christian lives according to the Bible.

Inside the Koran I Bought – 911

Inside the Koran I bought, I wrote in the cover:

- 19 men believed this book – the proof of that was September 11th, 2001

Doctrine of Last Days

So let me summarize the doctrine and theology of the Fundamental Muslim regarding that you read on the news each day, so you can understand why they do what they do.

- The Caliphate – the Fundamentalist believe the Caliphate as woven through the Koran, and then taught as doctrine by their leaders, the Caliphate (which is Allah's Kingdom on Earth) is where Islam is the religion of that area.
- The ultimate goal is a world-wide Caliphate where Islam is the only religion:
 - And the infidels shall be gathered together into Hell, That God may separate the bad from the good, and put the bad one upon the other, and heap them all up and put them into Hell! These are they who shall be lost. SAY to the infidels: If they desist from their unbelief, what is now past shall be forgiven them; but if they return to it, they have already before them the doom of the ancients! Fight then against them till strife be at an end, and the religion be all of it God's. If they desist, verily God beholdeth what they do: (Sura 8:39)

- He it is who hath sent His Apostle with the Guidance and a religion of the truth, that He may make it victorious over every other religion, albeit they who assign partners to God be averse from it. (Sura 9:33)
- And, like any doctrine and theology, there are many varying camps regarding the last-last days, but for a summary the Fundamental Muslims are waiting for their Messiah to come who will redeem them, he is called the “Mahdi”, some say the 12th Imam. The camps are divided, but there are those who say before the Mahdi comes all the infidels must be driven out of the Middle East, and then the other camps believe it has to be a worldwide Caliphate, and most all in the two camps believe that the Mahdi will come when there is mass chaos. So whether that be chaos in the Middle east, or chaos in the world (where that be violence across the globe (such as Paris attacks) or better yet nuclear war across the globe), that will hasten the Mahdi to come.

No Matter How You Look at It – Violence is the Catalyst / Based on Koran

So no matter how you look at it, violence is the catalyst, and their doctrine and theology (what they believe and why – and how it directs them to live) is all based on their literal interpretation of the Koran.

How do we Respond to this Information?

So how do we respond as Christians to what we just reviewed?

First - We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and power:

Ephesians 6:11–12 (NKJV) ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Our flesh and blood schemes will not stop this, we need as individuals and a nation to call upon the name of the Lord. The inference of this verse is that “we wrestle”, the Fundamental Christian wrestles! The worldly Christian doesn’t, because wrestling is hard and tiring. We must be a people who wrestle!

Second - We as individuals and as a Nation need to repent before our God. The USA is broken, only God can heal this land and protect this land.

2 Chronicles 7:13–15 (NKJV) ¹³ When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. ¹⁵ Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.

Our country is broken; morally and spiritually. I urge you to pray for a spiritual revival in America – Franklin Graham – January 2016

Parents if not for ourselves, at least for our children, what does their future look like in all this violence?

Third - We need to pray for our governing authorities and leaders that they will be filled with wisdom from above to make the right decisions based on the true information, not what sounds and seems politically correct. Pray for the people who protect this Country (FBI, NSA, Police), pray God leads them and guides them and skills them in the work God has given them to do

1 Timothy 2:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

Fourth – Ask God to give you the heart of an evangelist, and the heart of a missionary. A heart like that is not taught, it is given from above, for it is the heart of God Himself, and when we have His heart the Gospel will be on our lips continually because from the mouth proceeds the condition of the heart, and as we share the Gospel to our nation and everyone, not only will we be changed, but our Country will be changed, and America will be the Nation it once was, and it burn bright again and its light will be the light of the whole world.

2 Timothy 4:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For

the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Luke 6:45 (NKJV)⁴⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Fifth – God Loves You – He sees You – His eye is upon you, you can and must live that He is sovereign over your life, and that He cares for you. Rest in Him even when the world has so much unrest. God loves you, and He cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7 (NKJV)⁷ *casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

Psalm 37:7 (NKJV)⁷ *Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.*

To the Muslim Hearer

And to the Muslim who hears this message, I have 3 questions for you:

1. Does Allah love you?
2. Can Allah change you?
3. If you died today would you go to heaven?

I know all three of those questions are hard for you to answer, because you do not have absolute assuredly based on what you read in your Koran

And the three other questions for you would be:

1. Who is Jesus Christ?
2. What does He think of You?
3. What does He want you to do?

I ask you those questions because Jesus is revered as a prophet in the religion of Islam, and He is mentioned 93 times in the Koran. Why did Muhammed record Jesus 93 times in the Koran? Why does Islam demand He be honored as a Prophet? Is it not important to know more about this Prophet who is mention 93 times in the Koran?

God loves you, and God's name is Jesus Christ.

You can email us any questions you have about Jesus, and we will gladly answer you them.

GotQuestions@ccaac.org

mail@ccaac.org