

Do Muslims and Christians Worship the Same God?

Sunday Evening Bible Study

December 10, 2016

A Brief History of Islam

- 570 Muhammed born in Mecca in Arabia. Influenced by Judaism, and heretical Christian sects, he develops belief in one true and transcendent God and calls him Allah.
- 610 Muhammed claims to receive a vision from Allah through the angel Gabriel.
- 622 Rejected in Mecca,(Islam hurt the economy!) Muhammed makes his “flight” to Medina. Rejected by Jews and Christians, turns from Jerusalem as main Islamic worship center to Mecca. Islam spreads by zealous military campaigns (*jihads*: holy war).
- 632 Muhammed dies. His successor, the first Caliph, is Abu Bakr who reigned 27 months before he died of illness. Succeeded by Ali, Muhammed’s cousin. Ali assassinated in 661. Muslims divided between those who think only Muhammed’s relatives should succeed as Caliphs (Shi’ites) and those who think non-relative Caliphs can be elected (Sunnis).
- 632 First wave of conquest begins: Mohammed’s successor, Abu Bakr called for a *Jihad* and within 100 years the Islamic empire spread from Northern Spain to India. Turned away by Charles Martel in Battle of Tours. Otherwise, Christianity would have been eradicated from Europe.
- 638 Jihad continues. After capturing Syria and Damascus, Omar captures Jerusalem and builds a small mosque on Mt. Moriah (see Gen. 22:1,2; 2 Chronicles 3:1)
- 650 The Koran first published by caliph Othman. Similarities (plagerism?) to Bible, Apocrypha, and Talmud. Teachings of Muhammed recorded by his followers
- 691 Khalif Abdul-Malik iben-Marwan, replaces the small mosque with the Dome of the Rock.
- 711 Muslims onquer N. Africa, cross the Straits of Gibraltar, capture most of southern Spain.
- 732 Jihad threatens central Europe, Muslim forces are defeated by Charles Martel at the battle of Tours. But in the areas Islam had conquered, Christianity died.
- 1099 July 15 Christian (Roman Catholic) armies conquer Jerusalem by defeating the Arab Army that defended it. This is the first of at least 8 major Crusades in which the goal of Christians was to recapture the Holy Land by force. Dome of the Rock mosque turned into a church.
- 1270 Eighth Crusade led by Louis IX of France (St. Louis) and ended in defeat. Holy Land returned to Muslim rule.
- 1451 Second wave of conquest begins: *Jihad* by Ottoman Turks conquers Balkan peninsula. (Constantinople, 1453; Serbia, 1459; Bosnia 1463; Herzogovina, 1483; Moldova, 1683; Checked at Vienna, 1683, and Poland, 1687). Conquests marked by massacres of civilians, rape, and pillaging.
- 1948 Victors of WWII establish Israel as a nation and send thousands of Jewish refugees there to build their homeland.
- 1972 Palestinian (Muslim) terrorists take hostage and kill 9 Israeli athletes at Munich Olympics. The Age of Terrorism begins.
- 1973 Syria, Jordan, Egypt attack Israel; Israel captures Syria and Suez Canal.
- 1976 Palestinian terrorists hijack Air France plane; release all but Israelis; Raid on Entebbe!
- 1990 241 Marines killed in Beiruit in Islamic jihad; “Age of the Suicide Bomber” begins.
- 1979 USSR invades Afghanistan to quell unrest; *jihad* , armed by U.S. drives them out. Osama bin Laden (a sunni muslim) emerges as a leader.
- 1990 Bin Laden, angry because presence of US troops in Gulf War violates Islamic holy soil, agitates against U.S.; exiled by Saudis goes to Sudan; train terrorists.
- 1996 Bin Laden expelled from Sudan; goes to Afghanistan; trains terrorists. “The ruling is to kill the Americans and their Allies is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it, in order to liberate the Al Aqsa mosque (Jerusalem) and the Holy Mosque (Mecca)... We call on every Muslim who believes in God and wished to be rewarded to comply with God’s order to kill the Americans and plunder their money wherever and whenever they find it.” (Bin Laden issued this “fatwa” announcing a holy war Feb. 1998)
- 2001 September 11, *jihad* rocks the United States. The United States goes to war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

- 2014 ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria) made up of Sunni Muslims clearly states its goal of establishing a Sunni Islamic State under a supreme leader (caliph) who is a direct successor to Muhammed (Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi).
- 2015 In February, ISIS beheads 21 Egyptian Christians in Libya;
- 2015 December 14 people killed in San Bernardino, California by married couple, Sunni Muslims who pledged their allegiance to al-Baghdadi and ISIS.
- 2015 In December, Wheaton College Professor Lyricia Hawkins wears *hijab* to church and proclaims “I stand in religious solidarity with Muslims because they, like me, a Christian, are people of the book,...And as Pope Francis stated last week, we worship the same God.”

The Identity of Jesus

The God of Muslims	The God of Christians
<p style="text-align: center;">Jesus is not the Son of God.</p> <p>“Oh people of the Book! Do not exaggerate your religion, nor utter anything concerning God save the truth. Verily, the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was only a messenger of God, and His Word, which He committed to Mary, and a Spirit from Him. So believe in God and His messengers, and say not “Three.” Refrain it! It is better for you. God is only one God, Glory be to Him (God forbid) that he should have a child.” Quran 4:171</p>	<p>Jesus is the Son of God, the second person of the trinity, fully man and fully God, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father, through whom all things have been made that were made.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Jesus was not crucified on a cross.</p> <p>“And for their saying, ‘We slew the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, the messenger of God’—though they did not slay him; nor did they crucify him, but it appeared so unto them.” Quran 4:157</p> <p>And they plotted and God plotted. And God is the best of plotters, when He said, “O Jesus, I shall take thee and raise thee unto Me, and purify thee of those who disbelieved, and place those who followed thee above those who disbelieved until the Day of Resurrection...And as for those who believe and perform righteous deeds, He shall pay them their rewards in full. And God loves not the wrongdoers. Quran 3:54–57</p>	<p>In pure love, Jesus voluntarily died on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for sinners.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Jesus was not raised from the dead.</p> <p>[Obvious inference: He who did not die cannot be raised from the dead. The Quran completely ignores the resurrection of Jesus.]</p>	<p>Jesus was raised from the dead.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Jesus will return to help defeat and judge the enemies of Islam and establish a global caliphate.</p> <p>“And he [Jesus] is indeed a portent of the Hour; so doubt not concerning it and follow Me. This is a straight path.” Quran 43:61</p>	<p>Jesus will return to judge those who rejected him as God and did not trust in his sacrifice for sins.</p>