

## Do Muslims and Christians Worship the Same God?, 2

Sunday Evening Bible Study

January 17, 2016

### Review

Beginning in 610 AD, Mohammed claimed to receive messages from God, which were later recorded in the Qur'an. The earliest messages he received in his hometown of Mecca and they often spoke of "peace." After fleeing Mecca he moved to Medina where the messages justified violence, war, and revenge against his religious enemies and building wealth by conquering non-Muslims and taking their property. When he died in 632, a power struggle ensued among his followers. His followers divided between Shi'ites (successors must be related to Mohammed) and Sunnis (successors can be non-relatives). Within 100 years, Muslim armies conquer and "convert" territory from Southern Spain to North Africa to Middle East to India. For nearly 1400 years, Islamic military conquests have continued. Therefore, the violence we are seeing today is consistent with historic Islam.

### Two Women, Two Perspectives

1. Harvard University Teaching Fellow, Ayaan Hirsi Ali: "Now, when I assert that Islam is not a religion of peace I do not mean that Islamic belief makes Muslims naturally violent. This is manifestly not the case: there are many millions of peaceful Muslims in the world. What I do say is that the call to violence and the justification for it are explicitly stated in the sacred texts of Islam."
2. Wheaton College Professor Lyricia Hawkins: "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."

### Three Kinds of Muslims

1. Medina Muslims: The dangerous minority of Muslims who focus on Mohammed's later revelations in Medina and his life example who call for *jihad* and violent force to bring about conversion to Islam and destruction of non-Muslims (14f). Of the 1.6 billion Muslims in the world, between 3% (48 million people) and 10% (160 million) are Medina Muslims (*Heretic*, 14f.).
2. Mecca Muslims: The great majority of Muslims who focus on Mohammed's early revelations in Mecca that are "peaceful." They practice less political and more private Muslim rituals, especially the Five Pillars of Faith (*Heretic*, 16f.).
3. Modifying Muslims: A fast-growing number of Muslims who are disenchanted with Islam and questioning its validity. They are either seeking to reform it into another religion from within or who leave Islam (apostates, heretics) and work to reform it as non-Muslim dissidents. Modifying Muslims like what they see in the West which has been deeply influenced by a Christian worldview (the ethics of Jesus, separation of church and state, religious freedom, respect for women) (*Heretic*, 17,75).

### Ayaan Hirsi Ali's Thesis: Islam Needs a Reformation Like Christianity Got

Martin Luther led a protestant reformation within Christianity that capitalized on 1) modern technology (printing press); 2) increased urbanization increased exchange of ideas; 3) the people were disenchanted with the hierarchy, control, violence, and corruption of the *status quo* (Roman Catholic Church). After the dust of the Protestant Reformation settled, "the Western world was utterly transformed, with the Protestant nations often leading the way in the invention of new social, political and cultural forms... the rise of modern science... the rise of capitalism and representative government with its ideals of self-governance, tolerance, freedom and equality before the law"(58). Luther had 95 Theses, Ali has 5 (74).

### Ayaan Hirsi Ali's Error and Why This Can't Be Called a Reformation

1. Luther and the Reformers practiced *ad fontes* (to the sources) and affirmed the Bible as the infallible and final authority in all matters of faith and practice. But, Ali and her colleagues are practicing a revisionism that denies the Qur'an as the infallible and final authority.

2. Luther and the reformers exalted Jesus Christ alone (*solus Christus*) as the final prophet and supreme authority and worshipped him as God. But Ali and her colleagues are demoting Mohammed to a fallible man who might have had a few good ideas, but a lot of bad ones.
3. Luther and the reformers recovered the core of Christianity (the five *solas*). But Ali and her colleagues are revising and reinventing “Islam’s core concepts”(p.3).
4. Therefore, the reformers led Christians closer to their founder’s teaching and example, while Ali is leading Muslims away from their founder’s teaching and example. And that’s a good thing!

### 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 style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">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].</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jesus was raised from the dead.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Jesus will return to 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 style="text-align: center;">Jesus will return to judge those who rejected him as God and did not trust in his sacrifice for sins.</p>