

# Islam

Islam is the **second largest** religion in the world next to Christianity. In order to understand Islam, we must understand the terms they use to understand this religion.

## Definitions

**Islam**- is the Arabic term for submission

**Muslim**- means “one who submits”

**Allah**- is the Arabic term for God

**Muhammad**- was an Arab born in the city of Mecca in 570 AD, he died in 632 AD. He claimed that he was the true prophet to **restore true religion**.

**Koran**- is Arabic for recitation and refers to the collections of revelations that Muhammad received from Allah through the angel **Gabriel**. This book is considered to be the **Islamic scripture**. Muslims also believe in the law of Moses, the Psalms of David, and the Gospels. They also believe that those writings have been **superseded** by the scripture given to Muhammad. In other words, when the Bible **contradicts** something in the Koran the Bible is wrong.

**Caliph** - Arabic for deputy and refers to the main leaders of Islam.

**Caliphate** -an Islamic state under the leadership of an Islamic steward with the title of caliph.

**Ayatollah**- refers to a spiritual leader in Shiite Islam

## **Schools of Islam**

**Sunnite school**- about 90 percent of Muslims belongs to this school. They accepted the first four caliphs after Muhammad.

**Shiite school**- these Muslims followed Muhammad’s son-in-law and believed he was the heir to the leadership of Islam. This group, which is smaller than the Sunnite school of Islam, gained a lot of attention when the Ayatollah Khomeini the radical Shia leader took over Iran in 1979. Shiite Muslims have large numbers in Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

**Wahhabi**- this is the strictest group. This group was founded in the 8th century and they preach strict adherence to the Koran. Saudi Arabia’s authoritarian rule is an example of this school.

Islam is very **fragmented** and has numerous sects but these are the main three.

## History

**Muhammad** was born in Mecca around 570 AD. Muhammad was passed to different family members while growing up. At the age of twenty-five, he married a lady by the name of Khadijah and he remained with her for twenty-five years. After her death, Muhammad married a widow of a disciple and a **six-year-old** who moved in with him when she was **nine**. At the time of his death, he had twelve wives and two concubines.

Muhammad's first mystical experience was when he was attacked by two men who cut his **stomach open** in search of something. He claimed this mystical experience was about two angels cutting him open and cleansed his heart. In 610 AD he claimed to **have received** his first series of revelations of the Koran from God through the angel Gabriel.

On June 8, 632, **Muhammad** died.

His **successors conquered** Palestine and Syria 629-641. They then went on and conquered Iraq, Persia, Egypt, Tripoli, Toledo Spain, and western India.

The Ottoman Turks went far into Europe, Serbia, Greece, Bosnia, and parts of Hungary.

What stopped the advance of the Ottoman Empire into Europe in 1529?

- Siege of Vienna, (Sep-Oct 1529). In 1529 the Ottoman Empire made a determined effort to capture Vienna, the capital of the Hapsburg Austrian Empire. The failure to take Vienna marked **the end of** Turkish expansion into Europe and was followed by the diversion of Ottoman effort toward Asia and the Mediterranean.

## Beliefs

Some people will say that Christians and Muslims follow the same **God** that is not true.

### God

- The **Trinity** is blasphemous to them
- The Muslim God is **unapproachable** by sinful man
- God is distant angry--- **John 3:16** makes no sense to them
- There cannot be any personal **relationship** with God

Romans 8:14-15

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

### Jesus Christ

- Jesus Christ is **not** the son of God or a part of any **trinity**.
- Jesus Christ is one of the many **prophets** and **Muhammad** supersedes him.
- Jesus Christ did not atone for anyone's sin.
- Jesus Christ did not **die** on the cross. **Either** Christ substituted Judas Iscariot on the cross or God, through a **miracle**, delivered him from the Romans.

It is interesting to compare Jesus with Muhammad from the Koran.

- Jesus did **miracles** but Muhammad did not.
- Jesus was **sinless** but Muhammad was not.
- Jesus is called the **Messiah** and was born of **a virgin**, yet Muhammad is the greatest prophet.

### Sin and salvation

The Koran teaches that all men have sinned and every Muslim who hopes to escape judgment must **fulfill** the five pillars.

1. **Recitation**- There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the prophet of Allah.
2. **Five** daily prescribed prayers-prostrated facing Mecca
3. **Almsgiving**
4. **Fasting**- during the month of Ramadan
5. A **pilgrimage** to Mecca

On Judgment Day your **good deeds** and your wrong **deeds** will be **weighed** and if you're good outweighs your bad; you're in. Or if one is killed in battle they go straight to heaven.

John 14:16

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

**Helper** (*paracletos*) means "advocate".

Muslims say the word is *periclutos* which means "renowned" and Jesus is saying he is sending **Muhammad**.

The problem is this **word** is **never** used in the New Testament and is never found in any of the copies of the New Testament or writings of the early fathers when writing about this verse.

## The nation of Islam

This is kind of a **strange** group, but you might see the spokesman on the news or speaking; his name is Louis Abdul Farrakhan. This group started with Timothy Drew and his organization, the Moorish- American Science Temple in Newark New Jersey in 1913.

When Drew died he was succeeded by Wallace D. Farad who changed his name to Wallace Fard Muhammad. He claimed to be born in Mecca in 1877. That was not the truth, he was born in Hawaii and was released from San Quentin in 1929 for selling heroin. He **left** the group and a guy by the name of **Elijah Muhammad** took over. His number one speaker Malcolm X. He left the group because his **beliefs** changed and was murdered.

When Muhammad died his son took over (Wallace Dean Muhammed) and took the group back to more Islamic Orthodoxy.

**Farrakhan** broke away from this reform and took his followers back to the original belief system.

## What they believe

- **Allah** is Wallace Fard Muhammad
- **Since God is black** the black man is god
- Text- is the Koran and the Bible as long as the Bible is interpreted without the **white man's lies**
- They do not believe in bodily **resurrection** instead a mental resurrection.