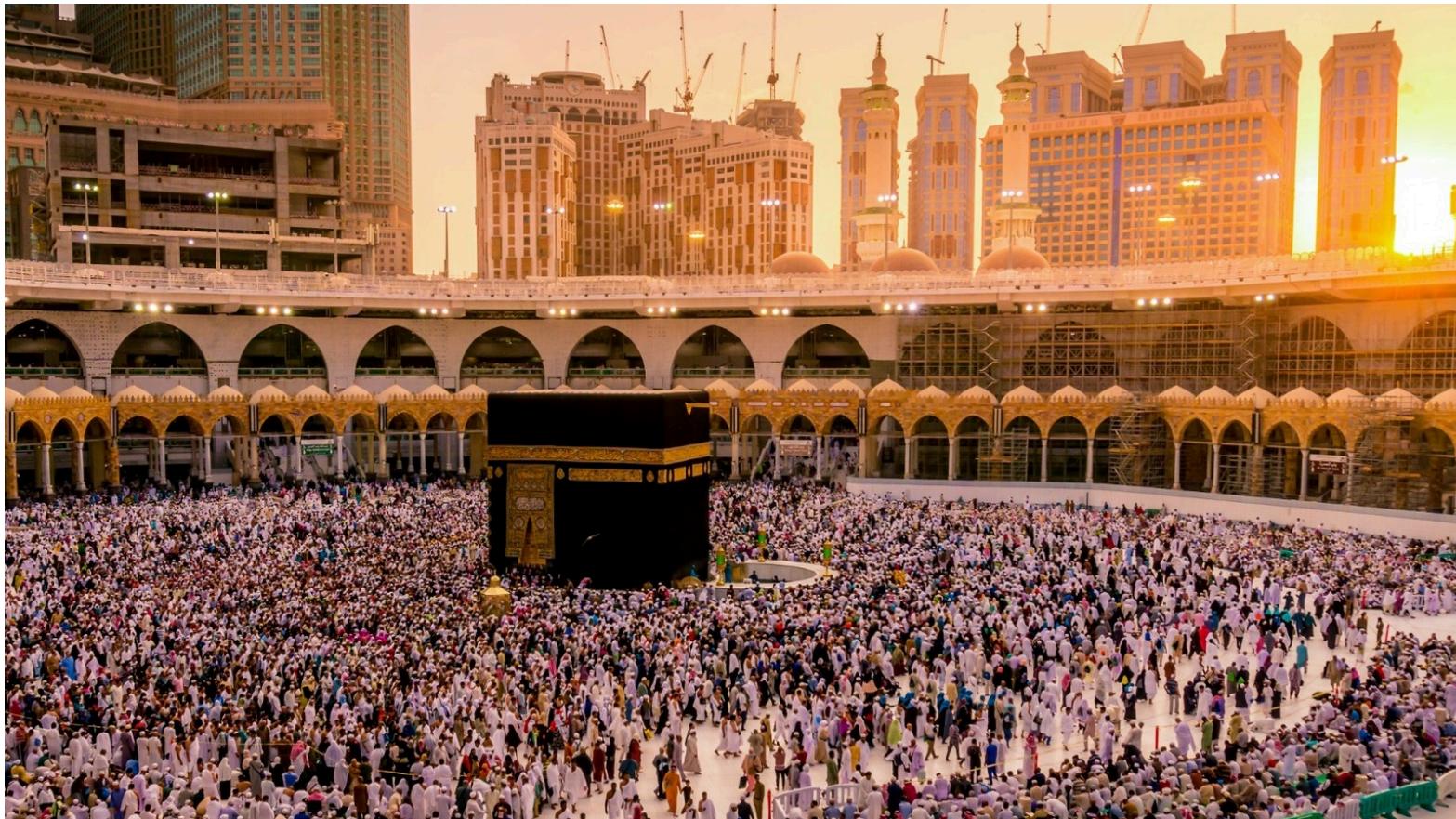


# **Religions of 2026 America**

**Chester ARP Spring 2026**

# Islam



# Islam

- 630 AD — Muhammad returns to Mecca with his army and conquers his hometown. In doing so, he destroyed the idols in the Kaaba and established his rule over the city. Mecca became the center of Islam thereafter.
- 632 AD — Muhammad died in Medina, where he returned after conquering Mecca, because Medina was the capital of the Islamic State.
  - Mecca is the religious shrine, and Medina is the throne.

# Islam

- After Muhammad died in 632 AD, his followers divided over who should succeed him.
  - Ali — Son-in-law and early convert
  - Abu Bakr — Father-in-law and close companion
  - The followers of Ali became known as Shi'ites, while those who followed Abu Bakr became Sunnis.

# Islam

- The Shi'ites are a smaller group of Muslims who primarily reside in Iran, Iraq, Yemen, and Lebanon.
  - Schismatic, Emphasis on Imams, Hierarchical
- The Sunnis dwell in Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.
- These differences are long-lasting and fundamental to the adherents' understanding of the faith.

# Islam

- Islam is a practice more than a belief system. There are five pillars or practices in the faith.
  - Confession
  - Prayer
  - Fasting
  - Almsgiving
  - Pilgrimage

# Islam

- But Muslims do hold to certain beliefs.
  - God
  - Angels/Spirits
  - Prophets
  - Books
  - Judgment
  - Decrees

# Islam

- God
  - One and Transcendent
  - Impersonal
  - Above His Creation
  - Law-Giver

# Islam

- Angels/Spirits
  - Allah and Devil
  - Angels and Demons
  - Gabriel dictated the Qur'an to Muhammad.

# Islam

- Prophets
  - Prophets are human beings who have won victory in their struggle against sin. God directed them by inspiration.
  - Prophets taught the same message — submit to Allah and the impending judgment.
  - Most are also biblical figures — Adam, Noah, Abraham, David, and Jesus.

# Islam

- Jesus
  - Muhammad had great respect for Jesus. But there were two non-notables for Muslims.
  - Jesus is 100% not God.
  - Jesus did not die on the cross.
  - He did not offer himself as a substitutionary sacrifice for sinners.

# Islam

- Books
  - Muslims join the Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians in having a holy book.
  - The Qur'an was received by Muhammad (610-632) but written down after His death (632-634, 650).
  - Respected Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians.

# Islam

- Judgment
  - Judgment would come on a day appointed by Allah.
  - The trumpet will sound, and the dead will rise to appear before Allah to answer for all they have done on earth.
  - A book of deeds will be given to each person.
  - This judgment will be based upon submission to Allah. — It is not a redemptive religion.

# Islam

- Judgment
  - The righteous will enter Heaven and the wicked Hell.
  - Heaven is understood as physical pleasure, and Hell is physical torment.
  - There is no idea of dwelling with God in eternity.

# Islam

- Decree of God
  - Allah wills all things that come to pass.
  - Logically, this has to be the case if Allah is to maintain sovereignty over all things.
  - Like Christians, Muslims desire to hold divine sovereignty and human responsibility in tension.