

ISRAEL, ISLAM, & THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

The Birth and Rise of Islam Through Muhammad

Key Points:

- The land of Israel, the Middle East, and Arabia (i.e. – the Promised Land) has been riddled with idolatry and false religion for **thousands** of years. It plagued Israel (and still does) – 2 Kings 17.
- Christ comes, dies for the sins of the world, and is rejected by His own people. However, God uses the church, comprised of mostly Gentiles, to spread the gospel to the known world. Churches are being planted and disciples are being made. The world is being evangelized. The Devil needs another plan of attack. Something that looks like the real deal but, as we saw last week, is under his influence and control - 1 John 4:3, 2:18, 22; 2 John 1:7; 2 Peter 2:1-3.

Muhammad's Early Life

- He was born around 570 AD into the Quraysh tribe of Mecca, Saudi Arabia.
- His father, Abdullah, died shortly before Muhammad was born. Muhammad's grandfather attempted to sacrifice Abdullah to the pagan god **Hubal** (from the Aramaic *hu* meaning 'spirit, god', and *bal* meaning _____). He was spared as a priestess allowed him to sacrifice 100 camels instead.
 - Hubal was worshipped as the moon god – 2 Kings 23:5.
- His mother Aminah, also of the Quraysh tribe, died when Muhammad was 6.
 - *"The womb of Aminah bint Wahb was certainly the noblest and the most honorable of all wombs because it was the womb that carried the seal of all the Prophets and the leader of the Messengers."* (from Ideal Muslim)
- Orphaned at age 6, Muhammad would be raised first by his grandfather (who died 2 years later) and afterward his uncle, Abu Talib.
 - Abu was also a practitioner of idolatry.
 - Abu had a son named Ali who would become a close companion and eventually son-in-law of Muhammad.
 - Ali was the first imam (leader) of Shiism in all its forms. The question of his right to the caliphate (the political-religious structure comprising the community of Muslims and its territories that emerged after the death of Muhammad) resulted in the only major split in Islam, into the **Sunni** and **Shiah** branches.
- At 25 he married a 40-year-old wealthy woman, Khadijah (also of Quraysh tribe). She is often considered the first person to have believed in Muhammad's message and would reassure him of the authenticity of his first revelations being from Gabriel (ultimately Allah).
- This tribe and entire area, as stated, were heavily influenced by idolatry and many pagan gods. Most were polytheists and happy to be as it brought great _____ prosperity to the region. The people would eventually drive Muhammad out as his "one-god theology" threatened their real god...money – Acts 19:25-41.

Muhammad's Later Life

- At the approximate age of 40 (610 AD), Muhammad had a vision of the angel **Gabriel** who told him to recite a short sentence - (Gal. 1:8-9). This would begin his ministry and the beginning of the recording of the Quran.
 - This is the first Ramadan: this now annual observance is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam and lasts twenty-nine to thirty days, from one sighting of the crescent _____ to the next.
 - These visions continued over the next 20 years of his life. Some historic accounts state that he appeared to have epileptic fits when receiving his revelations and visions.
 - Some historic accounts state that during a period of time when he received NO visions it caused him to want to go up to the mountains and commit suicide. His wife persuaded him not to. Biblically speaking, no one wants to commit suicide after they encounter God but there IS someone who committed suicide after their encounter with Satan!! (Luke 22:3; Matt. 27:5)
- 10 years later (620 AD), both his wife Kadijah and his uncle Abu Talib died. He marries the widow of one of his followers and also marries the _____ year old daughter of a friend.
- Roughly a year later, the angel Gabriel allegedly carried him from Mecca to Jerusalem on the Baruq (supernatural horse-like creature) where he was lifted from a prominent _____ to heaven. At this time it is said that he met Abraham, Moses, Enoch, Adam, Joseph, Jesus and other prophets until ultimately standing before Allah. He was returned to Mecca and all of this is said to have occurred in a single evening. This night journey is called the Mi'raj.
 - This location today is called the **Dome of the Rock**, the 3rd holiest site in Islam and is also the site of the Jewish _____ in Jerusalem. However, this location was NOT mentioned in the Quran. It was attributed to Temple Mount **LATER!** (It was constructed sometime between 685-691 AD during a civil war)
 - Muslims believe the Temple Mount is where Abraham was tested by God to sacrifice **ISHMAEL**. (not Isaac)
- As his following grows, he began to be persecuted due to his stance against polytheistic paganism. Another reason being that he was seeking to gain control of Mecca and had sought tribes from Medina for help. When his Quraysh tribe heard of the alliance and suggested overthrow, they chased Muhammad out of Mecca.
- He then travels to Medina in 622 AD with his growing group of followers. This journey is referred to as "Hijrah" (Hegira) and marks the official beginning of Islam. The Muslim calendar also begins with this date.
- While in Medina he led raids on trading caravans from Mecca, saying it was allowed of Allah because of Meccan persecution. Muhammad started to grow in **MILITARY** might as **RELIGION** and **POLITICS** seemed to marry and become inseparable. He returned to capture Mecca in 630 AD by amassing a following of around 10,000 people.
- Now back home in Mecca, he entered the pagan temple called the **Kaaba** and proceeds to clear out the idols of over 360 gods/goddesses. Hubal was one of the primary gods worshipped here. Muslims now believe the Kaaba was the first house of God built by Abraham & Ishmael. It is a stone building at the center of Islam's most important mosque and holiest site, the Masjid al-Haram in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. There is a black stone inside that was believed to be from outer space by the many pagans who worshipped there. Pilgrims would come and walk around it _____ times kissing and touching the black stone. This pagan custom was later adopted by Muhammed (pilgrimage of hajj) and changed the stone to being one that was given to Adam after his fall from paradise and

was originally white but has become black by absorbing the sins of the thousands of pilgrims who have kissed and touched it – Pro. 5:6.

- Some of the pagan customs inherited by newly founded Islam:
 - Pagans ran seven times between Mounts Safa and Marwa.
 - Muslims say that's what Hagar did in the Wilderness (ZamZam).
 - Pagans used to make pilgrimages to the Kaaba.
 - Muslims, as one of the 5 Pillars of Islam, are commanded to do the same (Hajj)
 - Pagans circumambulated (circled) the Kaaba.
 - Muslims are commanded to walk around it 7x as an act of worship (Tawaaf).
 - Pagans prayed and called out the names of their gods as they encircled the Kaaba.
 - Muslims pray and call out the name of their god, Allah, as they encircle it.
 - Pagans worshipped and kissed the black stones (still present) that fell from the heavens, wiping the blood of their animal sacrifices on it.
 - Muslims circle the stones put into the side of the Kaaba and stop to try and kiss it as Muhammad did.
 - Muslims can still make a sacrifice and donate the meat to the poor (Qurbani).
 - Pagans wore white robes to the Kaaba.
 - Muslims wear white robes there (Ihram).
 - Pagans worshipped Allah the chief god (Al-ilah) as Hubal the moon god.
 - Muslims worship Allah.
 - The pagan Arabs believed Allah/Hubal was the most powerful of their gods.
 - Muhammad's father Abdullah was even named "servant/slave of Allah."
 - Allah / Hu-baal / BAAL. (Ps. 83:18)
 - Pagans worshipped 3 goddess daughters of Allah: Al-Lat, Al-Uzza and Manat.
 - Manat = symbolized by a black STONE.
 - Al Lat = (feminine Allah) symbolized by a crescent MOON.
 - Al Uzza = symbolized by the star Venus.
 - Moon and Star: type "Islam" into an iPhone text bar. Now type Kaaba.
 - Other astronomical deities represented as the sun, moon and stars were also worshipped in the Kaaba.
 - Pagans prayed toward the Kaaba.
 - Muslims pray toward the Kaaba (in Mecca).
 - Pagans bowed and prayed 5 times a day, washing beforehand (Ablution).
 - Muslims pray 5 times a day, washing beforehand (Wudu).
 - Pagans fasted during the month of Ramadan and celebrated an Eid the same way.
 - Muslims fast during Ramadan and celebrate Eid.
 - Pagans believe in receiving beautiful women in paradise (Zoroastrian fairies).
 - Muslims believe you receive beautiful women in paradise (houris).

Muslims have documented the _____ of paganism into Islam throughout history in their own Hadiths, with their own historians and their own biographers. But modern Western Muslims have tried hard to change history by suppressing, re-translating and editing their past, as they willingly ignore the facts in their attempt to wash away the cultic origins of the true religion of Islam. This is called _____ history.