

I. Introduction to Islam

When the buildings were knocked down in New York and D.C. on 9-11-01, many saw for the first time a side to Islam that had yet to occur on this soil. Prior to that moment in time, most of what we heard about Islam seemed so distant and removed from our everyday lives that we never gave it a second thought. All at once we were forced to view Islam in a whole new light, or should I say a whole new darkness. The aim of the entire series will be to examine Islam in a perspective not offered by the media, but through the truth of the facts found in the Bible.

The History behind Islam

In order to study Islam with any application, one must first understand the basic background of the religion, including the state of flux in which it was brought forth. The Byzantine Empire controlled Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine and Egypt; and the Sasanid emperors of Persia were in command of the area west of present day Iran. Because of the differences in their cultures, the two empires warred greatly in the regions between India and the Mediterranean. As a result of the Byzantine-Sasinid conflict, the normal trade routes were altered from the Persian Gulf, Euphrates Valley and Syria, rerouting them through Mecca, which is located in present day southeastern Saudi Arabia. Every time a trading caravan passed through the area, the Arabs made a profit, resulting in the rapid increase of the economy and opportunities for those who lived there.

It was under these conditions that Muhammad was born in Mecca in 570 AD, being of one of the dominant tribes of the area, the Qu'raish tribe, specifically the Banu Hashim clan. He was considered a part of an elite group called the League of the Virtuous. Since Mecca was a great trade city and a stopping place for merchants and businessmen of all races, religions, and countries, it also brought with it the struggles of any boomtown, including power struggles and a decline in the moral structure. Not much is known about this man during the first forty years of his life other than the fact that he married a rich widow, which many Islamic historians claim was the first of up to twenty-one women that he had in his life. Around 610, Muhammad claimed that after meditating in the desert, God had revealed many messages to him concerning life. These revelations came from the angel Gabriel, who Muhammad claimed God had used to call him to publish his religion. Muhammad's revelations were written shortly after his death and they are now called the Qur'an.

After these experiences in the desert, Muhammad claimed to be a prophet of God with the great desire to guide others by God's message. So, he began to preach to those around him in 617. Converts to Islam slowly came in the beginning. His first convert was his aging wife, the second was his cousin Ali, the third was his ex-servant Zaid and the fourth was Abu Bekr. The people of Mecca at this time were involved in a religion called Ka'aba meaning "black stone," in which they literally worshipped a black stone, which was believed to be a meteorite. Those following this religion believed that many objects, other than the black stone, possessed spirits and power. There were also a number of Christians and Jews living in the area. Therefore, Muhammad's message asserting the lordship of Allah was not well received at first. The people called him a sorcerer and false prophet and claimed that he was possessed, being condemned by Meccan authorities

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and forcing him to flee Mecca on September 24, 622. This escape is now called the year of the Hegira ("Flight") and marks the first year on the Muslim calendar.

Muhammad found refuge in the rival city of Medina where he was accepted and gathered a fairly large following. Even in Mecca he had some followers and people all over were accepting his message, but, from Medina, he issued a holy war (Jihad: meaning to strive) against Mecca, robbing the caravans for his own personal gain. By selling Jihad as a sacred duty, many joined him for they wanted to get in on the treasures for their own personal gain.

After eight years, Muhammad captured Mecca and became the ruler. He implemented the divine orders he believed he was called to carry out and retained the pilgrimage to Mecca as part of his religious restoration. When he realized that his Jewish and Christian friends were not impressed with his claims to be the Messiah, he was forced to war with them as well. Following a short illness, Muhammad died on June 7, 632 with the majority of the Arabian Peninsula under Islam, a word which literally means "submission." However, he didn't claim to be a revolutionary or innovator -- but only completing the work of the Jewish Christian prophets.

Without leaving a blueprint for the hierarchy of Islam, it naturally led to a power struggle and division among the Muslims, a division that is present to this day. With the support of three of Muhammad's lieutenants, Abu Bekr quickly took upon himself the title *Califa Rasul Allah*, which means "successor to the messenger of God". This began the phase known as the First Caliph Period, the initial successors to Muhammad. Islam spread out of Arabia and into the region, causing conflict with many. In 661, the fourth successor, Ali, Muhammad's cousin, was murdered by a zealot, and the Islamic leadership was transferred to non-Arab Muslims for the next century. This began the Umayyad Dynasty (A.D. 661-750), which is where a major division took place. Those who were primarily non-Arabian Muslims and who felt the leadership of Islam would not follow the lineage of Muhammad, became known as the *Sunnis*. They are considered the orthodox party of Muslims. The Arabians felt that since Islam started with Arabian-born Muhammad, Muslims must follow leadership centered in the lineage of Muhammad, particularly of the last of the rulers of the First Caliph Period, which was Ali. This party adopted the Arabic name *Shiat Ali*, meaning "the Party of Ali", hence, the Shiites.

During the Umayyad Dynasty, problems were often taken to the Abbasid clan to be settled. As an effort to legitimize and purify the Sunni cult and to restore the Arabic aristocracy among the Sunnis, the Abbasid clan claimed they could trace their lineage back to Muhammad. With this misinformation and other strategies, the Abbasid clan was able to usurp authority away from the Umayyads, resulting in the *Abbasid Dynasty* (A.D. 750-1258). They moved the leadership to Bagdad, claiming to be monarchs by divine right, calling themselves "*God's Shadow*". Around 850, Turkish bodyguards were regularly used as the Abbasid secret service. This strategy changed for eventually these guards deposed and appointed the caliphs at will based on who catered to them the most. This resulted in the Ottoman Empire and Byzantine as the capital. The leaders bore the

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name caliph, among other titles and the Ottoman Empire stood until WWI, when it was partitioned into territories. In 1924, the caliphate was officially dissolved.

With this being the basic overview of Islamic history, let us go back to the founder from the beginning, Muhammad the prophet of all Muslims. *La ilaha illa Allah, Muhammad Rasul Allah* is the foundational belief for all of Islam. It is translated “*There is one god but Allah, and Muhammad is Allah’s Apostle.*” This statement of faith is what all Muslims must confess before men or be considered infidels and worthy of death. According to the teachings of the Qur’an, Muhammad is the last and most important in a line of prophets for their god, Allah. Some of the other prophets according to the Qur’an are Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Job, Moses, David, Elisha, Jonah and even Jesus of Nazareth. Islam teaches that Muhammad is the final prophet, carrying the final word concerning mankind and the word of Allah. Islamic scholars even go as far as to teach that the Bible predicts with accuracy the coming of Muhammad, not Jesus, as the prophet of God. Many Christians who have taken the time to ask a Muslim concerning their thought on Jesus have been received an answer like “We believe that Jesus was a prophet, but not the Son of God.” This is why the remaining focus of the first lesson will answer the question, *Was Muhammad the last Prophet of God?*

A common text the educated Muslim will refer to concerning the “Biblical prophesying” of Muhammad is Deut 18:18-19. It reads as follows:

I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him. (KJV)

Muslims make the following argument that Muhammad, not Jesus, is the prophet that is being spoken of here, referring to “like you”. They make the below comparisons to Moses and Muhammad, saying that Jesus could never fit that description.

The likenesses of Moses and Muhammad according to Islam.

1) Rejected by his people and then accepted

Moses: Yes Muhammad: Yes Jesus: No

2) Became a national leader

Moses: Yes Muhammad: Yes Jesus: No

3) Non-miraculous birth

Moses: Yes Muhammad: Yes Jesus: No

4) Encountered enemies in battle

Moses: Yes Muhammad: Yes Jesus: No

5) Family- married with children

Moses: Yes Muhammad: Yes Jesus: No

But what does it say about the raising this Prophet from “*among their brethren*”? Surely they do not believe that Jews and Muslims are brothers, do they? Muslim scholars simply explain that the “brethren” refer to the two brothers, Ishmael and Isaac. They reason that

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if God was talking to Jewish Moses in Deuteronomy, then the brother would those who descended from Ishmael, hence the Muslims.

How do Muslims reason the fact that the verse states “my words” will be in the mouth of the Prophet? That is quite easy for them, for they are teaching that Muhammad heard and recorded the words exactly as they came out of the mouth of God. This is why all the chapters of the Qur’an, except 9 start out with “*In the Name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*”, for they were “taken” directly from the mouth of Allah.

As one Islamic scholar phrased it, “*There are hardly any two prophets who were so much alike as Moses and Muhammad. Both were given comprehensive law and codes of life. Both encountered their enemies and were victorious in miraculous ways. Both were accepted as prophets and statesmen. Both migrated following conspiring to assassinate them.*” (Massey. Islam from God or Man?, Gospel Light Publishing. Delight, AR. 2003) It is clear in the world of Islam that Muslims believe that Muhammad is the long awaited prophet of Allah.

If the Muslim is going to use the Bible to try and prove that Muhammad was the prophet that was being referred to, then it would be best to allow the Bible to explain itself. Like Moses, Peter performed many miracles. He possessed the signs of an apostle (2 Cor 12:12). He could transfer the spiritual gifts to other Christians through the laying on of hands (Acts 8:14-18). He possessed these miracles to verify that he was speaking the truth (John 3:1-2; 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). These miracles included raising the dead (Acts 9:38-42), healing cripples (Acts 3:7), boldly speaking unstudied wisdom (Acts 4:13), fluently speaking unstudied languages (Acts 2:4-12), able to discern accurately whether someone spoke the truth or not (Acts 5:4). Peter was a man that could back up what he said and what he taught, for the Lord was working with him (Mark 16:20). The mere fact that we are discussing these facts today is a testimony, for people the people kept the word and were willing to die the most excruciating deaths for what they knew was true, for they saw it proven to them over and over again. Therefore when a Christian quotes Peter quoting a passage from the Old Testament, we can believe it. What does Peter say about Deuteronomy 18:18-19?

Acts 3:20-23 ...that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until {the} period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. "Moses said, 'The Lord God shall raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed in everything He says to you. 'And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' (NAS)

Moses and Jesus are very much alike.

1) Born Hebrews (Ex 1-2; Mt 1:1-21)

Moses Yes Jesus Yes Muhammad No

2) Born under powerful, evil regimes (Ex 1-2; Mt 2:1-2)

Moses Yes Jesus Yes Muhammad No

3) Threatened with murder as a child (Ex 1:22; Mt 2:16-18)

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- Moses Yes Jesus Yes Muhammad No
4) Came out of Egypt (Ex 2:11; Mt 2:12-21)
Moses Yes Jesus Yes Muhammad No
5) Made deliberate choices to live lives of hardship (Heb 11:24-27; Mt. 16:21)
Moses Yes Jesus Yes Muhammad No
6) Performed powerful miracles, wonders and signs (Ex 4-14; Acts 2:22)
Moses Yes Jesus Yes Muhammad No
7) Led their people through water for salvation (Ex 14; 1Cor. 10:1-11; Rom 6:1-18)
Moses Yes Jesus Yes Muhammad No
8) Possessed promised-land goals for the people (Heb 3:16-19; Rev 14:13, 21-22)
Moses Yes Jesus Yes Muhammad No
9) Meek and gentle (Num 12:3; Mt 11:28-32)
Moses Yes Jesus Yes Muhammad No
10) Refused worldly kingdoms when offered (Heb 11:24; Mt 4:8-11).
Moses Yes Jesus Yes Muhammad No

These are just some of the many comparisons that we could make between Moses and Jesus. It is not Muhammad that is being spoken of here in the text, but Jesus. When confronted with their assumed biblical conclusions concerning Muhammad foreshadowed in the Bible, they have not the facts to rely on. When forced to reason all the evidence, they must abandon their feeble attempts to utilize the Bible as evidence and make the appeal to the Qur'an. *Surah 33:40 "Muhammad is not the Father of any one of your men, but he is the messenger of God and the last of the prophets."* The next time a Muslim says they believe Jesus is a prophet, understand what they mean. They are not complimenting Jesus in the proper light of the scriptures, but are avoiding the greatest truth of all, that He is the Christ, Prophet, Priest and King of kings and Lord of lords, proven through the resurrection from the dead (Rom 1:4). Sadly, this is the side of Jesus that the Muslims do not want to read about in the Bible. The Qur'an teaches that Jesus was not crucified, buried and resurrected, the very core of the faith for the Christian.

Surah 4:157-158 They said (in boast) "We killed Christ Jesus The son of Mary, The Messenger of God," but they did not kill Him nor crucified Him. Only a likeness of that was shown to them. And those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no certain knowledge. But only conjecture to follow, but for a sire they did not kill Him; nay God raised him up unto Himself, and God is exalted in power and all wise.

If Jesus was just another prophet sent by Allah instead of the expected Christ sent from heaven to save mankind from their sins, then the Bible would be a lie. Praise God that the Bible does teach differently! Praise God that the same Spirit that He used to raise Jesus from the dead is also the same Spirit that He will use to bring us back from the dead! Praise God that Muhammad is not the one that this verse is referring to instead of Jesus.

Rom 8:10-11 And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you. (NAS)

II. Religion of Peace?

On September 20th, 2001, President Bush spoke to a Joint Session of Congress and the American People concerning the Islamic terrorist crashing hijacked planes into the Trade Center and the Pentagon buildings.

“The terrorists practice a fringe form of Islamic extremism that has been rejected by Muslim scholars and the vast majority of Muslim clerics –a fringe movement that perverts the peaceful teachings of Islam. The terrorists’ directive commands them to kill Christians and Jews, to kill all Americans, and to make no distinction among military and civilians, including women and children”... “I also want to speak tonight directly to Muslims throughout the world. We respect your faith. It’s practiced freely by many millions of Americans, and by millions more in countries that America counts as friends. Its teachings are good and peaceful, and those who commit evil in the name of Allah blaspheme the name of Allah. The terrorists are traitors to their own faith, trying, in effect, to hijack Islam itself.”
(President Bush’s speech to a Joint Session of Congress and the American People September 20th, 2001)

“The peaceful teachings of Islam”? Islam’s “teachings are good and peaceful”? If Islam is a religion of peace, then two things must be true. First, Muhammad, the leader of Islam, would have to be proven a man of peace. Second, the true disciple of Islam is the one that truly follows Muhammad in his peaceful ways. Therefore, the goal of this lesson is to examine the lives Jesus and Muhammad in order to see Who is truly the leader of peace and which faith is the religion of peace.

Jesus and Muhammad on Apostasy, Unbelievers and Evangelism

- **Muhammad** taught in **Surah 9.73** “Prophet, make war on the unbelievers and the hypocrites and deal rigorously with them. Hell shall be their home: an evil fate”
- **Jesus** taught in **Matt 10:13** "And if the house is worthy, let your {greeting of} peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your {greeting of} peace return to you.
- **Muhammad** taught in **Surah 4.76** “The true believers fight for the cause of God, but the infidels fight for the devil. Fight then against the friends of Satan.”
- **Jesus** taught in **John 4:23-24** "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
- **Muhammad** taught in **Surah 47:4** “When you meet the unbelievers in the battlefield, strike off their heads and, when you have laid them low, bind your captives firmly.”
- **Jesus** taught in **Mark 6:11** "And any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake off the dust from the soles of your feet for a testimony against them."
- **Muhammad** taught in **Surah 2.190-191** “Fight for the sake of Allah those that fight against you, but do not attack them first. Allah does not love the aggressors.

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Slay them wherever you find them. Drive them out of the places from which they drove you. Idolatry is worse than carnage.”

- **Jesus** taught in **Matt 5:11-12** "Blessed are you when {men} cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. 12 "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- **Muhammad** taught in **Surah 9.81** “Those that stayed at home were glad that they were left behind by Allah’s Apostle [Muhammad], for they had no wish to fight for the cause of Allah with their wealth and with their persons. They said to each other: “Do not go to war, the heat is fierce.” Say to them: “More fierce is the heat of Hell-fire!” Would that they understood!
- **Jesus** taught in **Mark 16:15-16** And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.
- **Muhammad** taught in **Surah 9.5** “When the sacred months are over slay the idolaters wherever you find them. Arrest them, besiege them, and lie in ambush everywhere for them. If they repent and take to prayer and render the alms levy, allow them to go their way. Allah is forgiving and merciful.”
- **Jesus** taught us in **Luke 6:35-36** "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil {men.} 36 "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
- **Muhammad** taught in **Surah 9.29** “Fight against such of those to whom the scriptures were given as believe neither in Allah nor the Last Day, who do not forbid what God and His Apostle have forbidden, and do not embrace the true Faith, until they pay tribute out of the hand and are utterly subdued.”
- **Jesus** taught in **Matt 26:52** “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword.”
- **Muhammad** taught in **Surah 48.29** “Muhammad is God’s Apostle. Those who follow him are ruthless to the unbelievers but merciful to one another.”
- **Jesus** taught in **Matt 5:39** "But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also.
- **Muhammad** taught in **Surah 60.9** “Allah does not forbid you to be kind and equitable to those who have neither made war on your religion nor driven you from your homes. But He forbids you to make friends with those who have fought against you on account of your religion and driven you from your homes or abetted others so to do. Those that make friends with them are wrongdoers.”
- **Jesus** taught in **Matt 5:44-45** "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you 45 in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on {the} evil and {the} good, and sends rain on {the} righteous and {the} unrighteous.
- **Muhammad** taught in **Surah 5.33** “The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger [Muhammad], and strive with might and main for mischief through the land is: execution, or crucifixion, or cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from the land: that is their disgrace in this world, and a heavy punishment in the hereafter.”

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- **Jesus** said in **John 14:27** "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.
- **Islam** teaches "Whoever changed his Islamic religion, then kill him." (Bukhari volume 9, #57)
- **Christianity** teaches in Heb 10:30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people."
- When insulted by an aged Jewish poet named Ka'b bin al-Ashraf, **Muhammad** hired an assassin named Muhammad bin Masalama to deceive and kill the old man. (*Sahih Muslim* vol.3 bk.17 no. 4436)
- When a couple of disciples of Jesus said of the Samaritans in **Luke 9:54-55** "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" **Jesus** "...turned and rebuked them..."
- When the **Muslims** defeated the Jewish tribe of Bani Qurayzah, **Muhammad** had the 700 men beheaded in front of their wives and children, then enslaving them for the rest of their lives. (Martin Lings, *Muhammad: His Life Based on the Earliest Sources*, Inner Traditions International, 1983, pg 232)
- Another enemy of the prophet, a man named Umaiya, was told that **Muhammad** vowed to kill him, something that was carried out at the earliest opportunity. (Sahih Bukhari, vol. 4, bk. 61. no. 3632)
- When **Jesus** was beaten and hung on the cross, **1 Pet 2:23-24** "...and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting {Himself} to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed."
- When Asma bin Marwan, a mother of five children, mocked Muhammad, he called for a hit to be put on her. She was murdered while holding her infant child while she slept, to which Muhammad said, "You have done a great service to Allah and his messenger, Umayr." (Maxime Rodinson, *Muhammad*, trans. Anne Carter, Pantheon Books, 1980, pg. 157, 171-72)
- When **Jesus** was hanged on the cross, despised and shamed, having the right to condemn the entire world, **Luke 23:34** tells us He responded, "*Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.*"
- Islam spread across the globe to millions of souls by the sword. When Muhammad and his followers came to a new area, they would make them the following offer 1) Convert 2) Shut-up and pay the infidel tax or 3) Be killed.
- **Matt 28:18-20** And **Jesus** came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

If Muhammad is a man of peace, his own writings do not seem to bear that out. Jesus taught in Matt 7:20 "... you will know them by their fruits." The true follower of Jesus wears the armor of God, possesses the fruit of the Spirit and demonstrated the love of Jesus Christ in their treatment toward others. The Christian's call from the Bible is to 1

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Pet 2:17 *Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.* We are to Gal 6:10 “...do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith. That is clearly the theme of the New Testament and of Jesus.

What is the fruit of those who possess a poor role model like Muhammad? Here is some of the fruit of the “Peaceful” Muhammad:

- **1972 Munich Olympics:** The Israeli athletes are murdered. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **1979 Tehran, Iran:** 52 American hostages are taken and held for 444 days. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **1983 US marine barracks, Beirut:** suicide truck bomb killed 299. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **1984 Disco Bombing:** US troops wounded in Germany, surveillance indicates an order from Libya. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **1988 Lockerbie, Scotland:** The bombing of Pan Am flight 103. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **1991 NIGERIA:** 300 Christians are murdered when Muslims become upset at the preaching of Jesus to the Muslims by a local preacher. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **1992 Argentina:** The Israeli embassy blown up, leaving 29 dead. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **1993 New York:** A truck bomb set off in basement of one of the 110 story Trade Center buildings that contained 50,000 people. There are 6 killed and 1,000 injured. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **1995 Saudi Arabia:** Bombing at U.S.-run military training facility in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, kills seven. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **1996 Indonesia:** 280 churches have been burned, demolished, stoned, and closed in terrorist within five years. These acts were carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **1996 Khobar towers barracks** bombed in Saudi Arabia, killing 19 US troops. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **1998 Kenya & Tanzania:** 231 killed, many civilians wounded outside when embassies are blown up. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **2000 Yeman:** USS Cole, guided missile destroyer, bombed in Aden harbor by small boat with suicidal crew; 17 killed but ship is saved. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **2001 New York, Washington DC:** The World Trade Center airliner crash bombing, New York, and Pentagon, near Washington DC. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **2002 Tunisia:** 21 people, including 14 German tourists, die in bombing at synagogue on a Tunisian resort island. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **2002 Indonesia:** Two bombs explode at nightclub strip in Bali, Indonesia, killing 193 people from two dozen nations. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **2002 Kenya:** Truck bomb at resort hotel in Kenya kills 11 Kenyans and three Israelis; two missiles narrowly miss an Israeli airliner as it takes off. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.

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- **2003 Saudi Arabia:** Suicide bombers attack Westerners' housing compounds in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, killing 26 people and nine attackers. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **2003 India:** Car bombs tear into the financial district of Mumbai, killing 65 and injuring 100. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **2004 Spain:** Passenger trains blown up in Madrid, Spain, leaving 191 dead and hundreds injured. It was carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- **2004 Iraq:** Several non-Muslims are filmed while being brutally beheaded by Al-Qaeda. The videos are played around the world on the Internet. These acts are carried out by Islamic terrorists.
- Of the **30 wars** going on in the world in 2001, **28** of them were Muslims fighting non-Muslims or other Muslims concerning Islam.

Each and every time these acts of terrorism took place, as well as thousands of others, we have been told that radical extremists are committing these acts of terrorism, for true Islam is the religion of peace. Yes, it is true that there are many moderates in Islam who are not deeply motivated to follow the poor example set by Muhammad, but they are a slim minority.

“The problem is that for all its schisms, sects and multiplicity of voices, Islam’s violent elements are rooted in its central axis. It is unlikely that the voices of moderation will ultimately silence the militants, because the militants will always be able to make the case that they are standing for the true expression of the faith.” (Robert Spencer, *Islam Unveiled*, Encounter Books, San Francisco, 2002, pg 37)

Islamic militants are simply doing what any responsible follower of Muhammad would do, that is...acts of terrorism. If Islam is a religion of peace, they are not following their leader Muhammad, for he was not a man of peace. If someone would like to make the point that Muhammad was a man of peace, then they must accept Jesus as the superior example of peace.

- John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."
- Eph 2:17-18 And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.
- Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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III. Women and Marriage?

The focus of this area of the study is to show the radical differences concerning the teachings of Jesus and Muhammad concerning women and marriage.

Cynthia loved Asham. They met in college and dated steadily through graduation. Asham made her feel like a princess. He showered her with gifts and treated her with a gracious chivalry she had not known with any American man. He was thoughtful, considerate, handsome, intelligent, and oddly spiritual. She did not give much thought to his devout Muslim faith. A casual Baptist, Cynthia assumed that everyone who attended church, synagogue, or mosque was basically on the same track. His morality certainly seemed higher than that of the heathen boys she'd dated. They married soon after graduation and after an extended honeymoon in his home country they settled into a routine of work, play, and eventually children.

The changes in Asham appeared slowly. He became abrupt with her and their five-year-old son. He constantly sent money overseas, supposedly for his family, and was secretive, especially when his friends came around. Every Friday, Asham took their son to the mosque, although Cynthia no longer went with them. Then one Friday she discovered Asham left the country with their son. In the following weeks, she discovered to her horror that she and her child were considered Muslims, at least on paper, and, because her rights to her child were almost non-existent in his country, her child was gone. Her life forever marred. Cynthia did not know that she had joined a growing subculture, a subculture of American women who marry foreign Muslim men. (Islam-From God or Man? pg 33. Gospel Light Publishing. Delight, AR. 2003.)

Unfortunately, this has become a common setting in the American culture. What in the world did this woman do to be treated in such a way by a Muslim man? The answer...she is a woman.

Many Muslims proclaim that women are held in an elevated state of protection. Though many of the women in Islamic society are treated well, the general poor reputation of torture and enslavement of mothers, wives and daughters in the Muslim faith is well deserved. This is an area that Muslims have a difficult time defending because Muhammad was quite specific about his beliefs concerning women. Many of these texts from the Qur'an and the Hadith are a public nightmare for the Islamic community, for they clearly teach that women are inferior to men.

1) Islam teaches that women are inferior in morality.

As strange as this may sound to us, Islam teaches that the woman is more predisposed to immorality than men.

- Hadith 7.30 *"I was shown the Hell-fire and that the majority of its dwellers are women."*
- Hadith 7.33 *"Muhammad said, 'Bad omen is in the women, the house and the horse...after me I have not left any affliction more harmful to men than women.'"*
- Hadith 7.133 *"Muhammad said, 'Don't wear false hairs, for Allah sends His curse upon such ladies who lengthen their hair artificially.'"*

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- Sahih Bukhari Volume 1, Book 6, Number 301: *...Then he passed by the women and said, "O women! Give alms, as I have seen that the majority of the dwellers of Hell-fire were you (women)."*
- Sahih Muslim, vol. 4, hadith 6600 *...Amongst the inmates of Paradise the women would form a minority.*
- Surah 4.43 *...or you have been in contact with women. And if you find no water, then take for yourself clean sand or earth and rub...your faces and hands: for Allah doth blot out sins and forgive them again and again...*

Muhammad most definitely perceived women to be inferior to men in the area of morality. In many Islamic governments, the woman is not holy enough to look the husband in the eye, lest he be corrupted somehow. One recent example in March, 2002 at Saudi Arabia resulted in the death of fifteen young ladies. With no men in the school, the girls had taken off their Islamic garb for lessons. When fire broke out in the building, they were not permitted by the Saudi religious police (the *muttawa*) from leaving the structure because they were not veiled. Death for the girls was preferable to the risk of subjecting the men in the vicinity to impure thoughts. ("Saudi Police 'Stopped' Fire Rescue," BBC News, 15 March 2002. <http://news.bbc.co.uk>)

That is not what the Bible teaches, for we are taught that we will be judged by our behavior and faith in Jesus Christ, not our sex.

- John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever** believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
- Acts 5:14 And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of **men and women**, were constantly added to {their number}
- Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, **men and women alike**.
- Acts 9:2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, **both men and women**, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.
- I Jn 2:1-2 My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for {those of} the **whole world**.
- Rev 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to **everyone** according to what he has done. (NIV)

Jesus showed compassion for women and often recognized their spirituality. He showed compassion to the woman at the well, the sisters of Lazarus, the woman taken in adultery, the widow that lost her son, the woman with the issue of blood, the harlots, the hosts, the outcasts and the incasts of the opposite sex were all on the same equal footing with the men in Jesus' life. He did not teach that the women were morally inferior to the men, but their moral equal, all needing the His blood to be cleansed from our sins everyday.

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2) Islam teaches that women are inferior in marriage.

The media and western Islamic spokespersons would want you to think that Islamic marriages are fair, strong and reasonable, but they would not be following Muhammad if that was the case.

- Muhammad taught that the woman is half that of the man. Surah 4:11 *“To the male a portion equal to that of two females.”*
- Muhammad taught that it was okay to have as many wives as he wanted. Surah 33:50 *“Prophet we have made lawful for thee thy wives...And any believing women who dedicates her soul to the Prophet if the Prophet wishes to wed her...this only for thee and not the believers (at large).”* Note: This is the line that Muhammad used to obtain nine wives for his flock, even though all the other Muslim men can have only up to four.
- Surah 33:37 informs us that another wife, Zaynab Bint Jahsh, used to be Muhammad’s daughter-in-law. When the adopted son saw that the “prophet” found his wife to be attractive, he immediately divorced her so Muhammad could have her for his own. Apparently Allah told him to do it. Note: This is not an acceptable practice even among the gentiles. *1 Cor 5:1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.*
- According to Hadith 7.64, at age 55, Muhammad married one of these wives when she was only six-years old, consummating it when she was nine. Abu Bakr, a close friend of Muhammad, offered his daughter for marriage at age eight, in which Muhammad readily accepted her as one of the fifteen wives (Answering Islam: The Crescent in the Light of the Cross. Pg 176. Baker Book House. Rand Rapids, MI. 2002.) Muhammad even gave his daughter Fatima in marriage to a close friend while she was only twelve.
- Muhammad taught in Surah 4:3 that all the other Muslim men could have up to four wives. *“And if you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly with the orphan girls then marry (other) women of your choice, two or three, or four...”* Note: This was convenient since there were so many extra widows left behind from the slaughtering of the “Infidel” husbands as marked by Islamic history.
- It was taught of Muhammad in Hadith 1.268 that “The prophet used to visit all his wives in an hour round, during the day and night...the prophet was given the strength of thirty men.” Note: This is in direct violation of the Qur’an, for he was not to show favoritism to any of the wives, but to treat them “justly” through the process of a fixed rotation. How did he get around this? He did so through the following revelation from Allah in Surah 33:51 *Thou mayest defer (the turn of) any of them that thou pleasest, and thou mayest receive any thou pleasest.”* It must be nice to have a god that writes the rules as one follows their passions.
- There is great confusion as to how many wives or women that Muhammad had, depending on the Hadiths. Muslim scholar and statesman Ali Dashti gives the following list of the 22 women in Muhammad's life: **16 Wives-** Khadija, Sawda, Aesha, Omm Salama, Halsa, Zaynab (of Jahsh), Jowayriyi, Omm Habiba, Safiya, Maymuna (of Hareth), Fatema, Hend, Asma (of Saba), Zaynab (of Khozayma), Habla, Asma (of Noman) **2 concubines/slaves-** Mary (the Christian), Rayhana **4**

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devoted followers who who "gave" themselves to satisfy Muhammad's sexual desires- Omm Sharik, Maymuna, Zaynab (a third one), Khawla

- Muhammad taught that it is okay to divorce the wife if she is not sexually pleasing to her husband. Surah 66:5 *"It may be, if he divorced you that Allah will give him in exchange consorts better than you."*
- Muhammad taught that the woman is the sexual play things for the man. Surah 2.223 *"Your wives are as a tilth [field to be plowed] unto you, so approach your tilth when and how you will."*

This is one of the sides to Islam that the Muslim men do not want you to see. Another thing concerning woman and marriage is that Muhammad taught that it was okay to beat our wives, for they are inferior and need some straightening up from time to time.

- Surah 4:34 *"As to those women on whose part you fear disloyalty and ill-conduct, admonish them, refuse to share their beds, beat them"*
- Hadith 7:62.77 *When the Prophet was asked about this subject he responded, "What rights does the woman have with the man? He should feed her if he eats, clothe her when he dresses, avoid disfiguring her or beating her excessively or abandoning her except at home"*
- Muhammad himself beat his own wives. Sahih Muslim, book 4, Hadith 2127: *He then lifted his hands three times... **He struck me on the chest which caused me pain**, and then said: Did you think that Allah and His Apostle would deal unjustly? ...*

The Islamic world is filled with wives that long for the domestic terrorism to end. There have been millions of wives that have been forced to accept their mutilations and deaths at the hands of their "faithful" Islamic husbands. Millions upon millions of Islamic women are longing to be freed from ignorance by being able to receive an education rather than being shut up in their homes and under the threat of death for the simplest violations.

BLIDA, Algeria (November 1997)- In the dead of night, in the name of Islam, four terrorists burst into the home of 17-year-old Salima Amina Zenagui. Accusing her of loose morals, the Islamic fundamentalists ordered Zenagui to cover her auburn hair with a hijab head-scarf. Then they abducted her at gunpoint to their underground hideout, where the teenager was forced to marry a terrorist twice her age. After a religious wedding ceremony, he raped her - with a warning that any resistance would mean certain death. The bleeding didn't stop for 15 days. The mental torture, and the physical cruelty, continued for another five months. During the long nights and endless days, Zenagui slowly lost her sanity... and the will to live.

Zenagui is one of thousands of young women and teenage girls believed to have been kidnapped by fundamentalist terrorists during Algeria's five-year Islamic insurgency. Forced into so-called temporary marriages that are a religious license to rape, their screams are soon silenced. Most of the victims have their throats slit, their bodies dumped in wells like the one discovered... in Bentalha, just outside Algiers. Police were drawn by the stench of death to the 40-metre-deep well,

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where they found about 30 badly decomposed corpses of women and girls believed to have been abducted and raped after a massacre in the area..

Zenagui believes her captors were fundamentalist terrorists from the GIA, who rationalize rape as a way of motivating their men to sacrifice themselves for Islam. Even as they mistreat their captive women, they worship their God. In their hideout, Zenagui watched them pray toward Mecca five times a day. They read the Koran, Islam's holy book, and often played inspirational cassette tapes about the Prophet Mohammed. Many of the insurgency's 100,000 victims perished in these killing fields.

Does Christianity teach that the woman was inferior to the man in marriage? Does Christianity teach that the man could marry as fifteen women like Muhammad and four women like the average Muslim man? Does Christianity teach that the woman was a play toy for the man, simply a piece of property to be had?

- Gen 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."
- Eph 5:31 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.
- 1 Pet 3:7 You husbands likewise, live with {your} wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.
- Matt 19:6 "Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."
- 1 Cor 7:4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband {does} and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife {does.}
- 1 Tim 5:1-2 Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but {rather} appeal to {him} as a father, {to} the younger men as brothers, 2 the older women as mothers, {and} the younger women as sisters, in all purity.

Christianity and Islam are on two different pages when it comes to the treatment of women in marriage. There are obviously many Muslim men that choose love their wives in the most responsible ways, but they are not truly following the example set by Muhammad.

3) Islam teaches that women are inferior in mentality.

Did you know that women are inferior to men, that is according to Muhammad and Islam? If someone is claiming to be a follower of Muhammad, then they must follow the teachings of Muhammad.

- In Surah 2.228, it states that "*Women shall have the rights similar to the rights against them: according to what is equitable; but men have a degree over them.*"
- Hadith 3.826 Muhammad asked some women, "*Isn't the witness of a woman equal to half of that of a man?*" The woman said, "*Yes.*" He said, "*This is because of the deficiency of the woman's mind.*"

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- Hadith 2.541 says to a group of women, *“I have not seen anyone more deficient in intelligence and religion than you.”*

This is a dangerous position to hold because it leads to the oppressive dictatorships that we see reflected in the Islamic governments today. Because the women are viewed as weak-minded and incapable of thinking apart from the man, many do not have the right to vote, the right to drive, the right to leave the house, the right to talk to a man outside of the family and the right to even show their uncovered heads in public. Where there is superiority promoted among a group of people, there is dictatorial rule in the lives of the non-exalted.

April 28, 2004 (Compass) – Sudan’s Islamic regime in Khartoum lashed and fined a young Christian Sudanese woman in mid April for not wearing a headscarf in public in the capital city. Cecilia John Holland, 27, was given 40 lashes on her back and fined 10,000 Sudanese dinars (\$40) by the Sizana Islamic Court in Khartoum on April 14, sources in the capital confirmed to Compass.

A Christian born in southern Sudan, Holland was traveling by minibus to her home in the Khartoum suburb of Haj Yousif on the night of April 13 when she was arrested by a group of 10 public-order policemen, some in uniform and others in plainclothes. She was just boarding the bus near Badr gardens in Khartoum Two at 9 p.m. when the police apparently spotted her. A police van pulled ahead of the bus, ordering the driver to stop, and Holland was dragged off the bus into the van. When Holland tried to pull free, protesting that she was a Christian and a southerner, she was struck with a hard blow on the neck and forced into the van. Four other women were already detained there, all wearing scarves, although their attire was tight and revealing.

With temperatures in Khartoum ranging between 100 and 105 degrees F., Holland was wearing modest long sleeves and an ankle-length skirt, but her hair was uncovered. The police told Holland she was being arrested for not wearing a scarf. No one in Khartoum, “even a non-Muslim,” she was told, was exempt from Islamic bans against wearing improper dress...

Nearly all Islamic states that exist today have similar behavior. This is not what Jesus taught concerning mankind, both men and the women. Yes, there are rules of leadership in the worship, for someone must lead, but there is not a dictatorship, for we are all one in Christ.

- Acts 2:39 "For the promise is for you and your children, and for **all** who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself."
- 2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for **all** to come to repentance.
- Gal 3:27-29 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither **male nor female**; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

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Jesus and Muhammad were on two different pages when it came to the treatment of women. Jesus saw the men and women as equal in moral depravity; Muhammad did not. Jesus taught that the women were there to complete the man, for that is the design of the Father, someone to be nurtured loved and protected; Muhammad taught that women were sex toys to be collected and controlled, even if it meant taking them at a young age and beating them into submission. Jesus taught that women were not inferior to the man concerning the mind; Muhammad taught that women are a one camel short of a whole caravan. Who do you think would be the best example for a society to follow for the sake of the women?

IV. Concerning Worship

According to the Bible and Qur'an, there are acts of corporate worship that must be carried out in the life of the worshippers. The basis of this section of study will be to examine both religions and see the differences between the two concerning this most important area.

According to the Bible, there are five primary acts of corporate worship to be exercised when the saints meet. Though mentioned in other places, the easiest place to identify all five would be from the book of First Corinthians. Remember that all five of these in First Corinthians are mentioned in the context of assembling together on the first day of the week (5:4; 11:17, 18, 20, 33, 34; 14:23, 26), the day that the Lord emptied the tomb.

- A. Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:20-34 See also Acts 4:46; Acts 20:7)
- B. Singing (1 Cor 14:15 See also Eph 5:18-21; Col 3:16; Rev 14:1-4)
- C. Prayer (1 Cor 14:15 See also James 5:16; Acts 2:42; Col 4:2)
- D. Instruction (1 Cor 14:19 See also Acts 20:9; Eph 5:18-21; Col 3:16)
- E. Giving (1 Cor 16:1-2 See also Acts 4:45; 2 Cor 8:1-4; Phil 4:14-18; Rev 8:4)

When the church meets together on the first day of the week, they are to corporately and consistently worship the Lord in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). They are to bring their praises to the Father as one body, going through a wedding rehearsal of what they will be doing for an eternity in the afterlife. We know from the writings of the Apostolic Fathers and other historians that these are the five primary acts of worship that the assembly carried out in the expression of praise to the Father. It is in this that we find structure and meaning, for all of these have to do with worshipping the Father in spirit and truth, the very thing that He requires of the Christian. Yes there are other ways a person may worship the Father, but concerning the corporate gathering of the saints as spelled out in the first day of the week, there is a pattern and this seems to be that according to the Bible.

The Five Pillars of Worship for the Muslim

In Islam, there is something called "The Five Pillars of Faith". All Muslims are required to participate in these acts of worship. There are the A) A witness to oneness of God and Muhammad his prophet B) Ritual Prayer C) Social Taxation D) The fasting of Ramadan and E) The pilgrimage to Mecca. The following is the examination of these and the viewpoint as offered by the Bible.

A. Witness to oneness of God and Muhammad as his Prophet

This is called the *shahada* in the Arabic, meaning *to witness*. It is roughly formulated as follows: "I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah." (La ilaha ila Allah: Muhammadur-rasul Allah) This is not said once in a lifetime, but all the time throughout the life of the Muslim. There is great meaning to Muslims in this declaration of words.

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“I bear witness...”

I bear witness is stressing that they are testifying to the others around them that they are on board with the Islamic system. It means that they must and are willing to die for what they believe in concerning Allah and his prophet Muhammad, something that they often do concerning homicide bombings and terrorism.

“that there is no god but Allah...”

When they say *no god but Allah*, they mean Allah and nobody else. We hear in the American culture that Allah is really the same God that we might refer to, but in the world of Islam, this statement eliminates that misunderstanding. In the Muslim view there is but one God, which in making that statement they deny the Deity of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. This does not line up with what the Bible teaches.

- Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..."
- Gen 3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us..."
- Isa 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"
- Matt 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit..."
- 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Based on the several references in the Qur'an that attack the Deity of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, I am persuaded that Muhammad had a "Trinity Complex"; hence he was a "Triniphobe". Perhaps Muhammad would have done well to have heeded the words of Thomas in John 20:28, confessing to Jesus in the post-resurrection *"My Lord and my God!"*

“...and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.”

Muhammad was supposed to be the messenger of God according to his own lips. He supposedly received a revelation from the archangel Gabriel and then taught it to men. The "law of rationality" states that we are to justify our conclusions by adequate evidence. When the evidence is gathered together concerning this claim of being a prophet, Muhammad is still only a man who passed through the pages of history, nothing more and nothing less. When the same "law of rationality" is applied to the Bible, we end up having a proven Savior with a proven track record. This is the confession that we are to make. *Matt 10:32-33 "Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. 33 "But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."*

B. Ritual Prayer

The second pillar of the five is the ritual prayer. Muslims have five prayers a day, called the *al-salat* –just before dawn (fajr), at noon (zuhr), at mid-afternoon (asr), just after

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sunset (maghrib) and around midnight (isha). All Muslims must be facing toward Mecca when praying, for that is the center of the world to them. Prayer is probably the central practice that shapes the daily routine of the followers of Islam. As one prominent Muslim leader once said, "Prayer is the proof of Islam" (Jami al-Tirmidhi). This submission is communicated in the following explanation of the practice of Muslim prayer.

The Ritual of the Prayer:

To perform the prayer, the believer must put herself in a state of purity by performing a ritual washing. This bathing can either be done using water or sand, depending what is available. If someone is extremely defiled through sin or sexual intercourse, then the entire body must be poured. It is seen as a symbol of respect by the Muslim.

The ritual of prayer is based on the standards of reverence in entering the presence of a great ruler or king from late antiquity. The first thing the Muslim worshipper must do before entering the house of prayer is to summon the resolve to enter through extreme focus. Next the petitioner steps over the threshold of the door and raises their hands to their ears, proclaiming glory and majesty for Allah to hear. This is the act of magnification begins the actual prayer, "*Allahu akbar!*" meaning "*Allah is most great!*" Bowing in reverence, the Muslim begins to recite the Surat al-Fatihah, the Quran's opening discourse.

The Fatihah (the opening discourse of the Qur'an): Surah 1:1-6 "Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; the Beneficent, the Merciful; Master of the Day of Judgment. You alone do we worship and from You alone do we seek aid. Show us the Straight Way, the way of those upon whom You have bestowed Your grace, not of those who have earned Your wrath or who go astray."

After reciting this, the petitioner speaks verse of his or her own choosing. At this stage, the Muslim goes to the halfway point of the room and bows oneself, beginning the third part of the prayer, saying "*Allah is most great!*" Bowing three more times from the hip, the worshipper proclaims "*Glory to the Greatest Lord!*" This is then followed by an upright utterance "*Allah hears the one who praises Him. Our Lord, all praise belongs to You!*" Then the final act of prayer is to prostrate oneself before Allah, both hands flat of the ground and their forehead between them. While in this position, the Muslim says, "*Glory to the Lord Most High!*" After saying again that "*Allah is Most Great!*" the worshipper sits back on their heels, begging for mercy, "*Oh God, forgive me and show me mercy.*" After repeating this formula three more times, the petitioner stands up and repeats the entire cycle, starting with another magnification of God. After completing the number of cycles prescribed for the hour of prayer, there is a repeat of the profession of faith (tashahhud). This is when the worshipper engages in the most intimate moment of the prayer, where they are privately petitioning Allah for favor. Once this stage is complete, then the petitioner closes the prayer by turning their head to the right and then the left, uttering, "*May the peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you.*"

From the examination of Islamic prayer, there seems to be a brainwashing that takes place in the minds of the worshippers. Though there are many scholars of the Qur'an, this system primarily generates a large group of people that are driven by subjective thought

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rather than logic and reason. The primary purpose of this type of prayer ritual is to carry out the very meaning of the word ISLAM, which means *submission*.

They believe that the carrying out of *al-salat* is due to the recognition that the performance forces the human body to respond to the reality that has first been acknowledged by the heart and tongue in the *shahdah*. (Esposito, John. *The Oxford History of Islam*. Oxford University Press. New York, NY. 1999. pg 77.)

Though the Christian is to be reverent in prayer, Jesus does not want us to be ritually driven in our prayer life. *Matt 6:7 "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.* This is because God knows what our needs are before we even ask Him. He does not want us to be robots, but spontaneous creatures capable of "*Praying without ceasing*" (1 Thes. 5:17), not a regular schedule, for that is not worshipping in spirit and in truth. I know that there are people that have set times for prayer in their own personal lives, but when that is strictly enforced on all it is a different story. In Christianity it does not matter which direction you are facing when you pray, for the Lord is the Lord of all, including Mecca, Jerusalem and the whole earth.

C. Social Taxation

The third pillar of Islam is the alms or savings tax (*Zakah*). According to Islamic belief, their possessions are purified by setting aside a portion of it for those who are in need. It is calculated in the following matter.

For the most purposes this involves the payment of 2.5% of one's capital, provided that this capital reaches a certain minimum amount that which is not consumed by its owner. A generous person can pay more than this amount, though it is treated as voluntary charity (*Sadaqah*). This amount of money can be used in many useful projects for the welfare of the community. (Brown 458)

Muslims are taught to share "*...their goods with the beggars and the destitute*" (Surah 51.16-19) and to "*...not wrong the orphan...*" (Surah 93.8-10). There is nothing wrong with helping those who are in need, for this concept is Biblical and morally right. *Acts 20:35 "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"* Christians are to be giving people, but this is not to be confused with the giving of Islam. There are some differences in the rules governing Islamic giving that need to be discussed.

Since the *Zakat* is collected from only Muslims, it is commonly taught that it can only be used by Muslims. *Alms shall be used only for those who are in the way of God, for the ransom of slaves and debtors, and for distribution among the poor, the destitute, the wayfarers, those that are employed in collecting alms, and those that are converted to the faith.* (Surah 9.60) In other words, those who are able to receive these funds are for only those who are Muslim *jihad* fighters, Muslim debtors, Muslim travelers the extreme Muslim poor.

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The Bible teaches “*So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*” (Gal 6:10) Though this stresses the importance to help the Christian, it also emphasizes the value of the non-Christian. The collection that is taken is to be used to finance three authorized areas of the work of the church: teaching, edification, and benevolence (Acts 28:18-20; Mk 16:15-16; 1Tim 5:16; James 1:27; Gal 6:10).

The Zakat is not an offering in the spirit of Christianity, for there is no choice in the matter where Islam is the law of the land. One must remember that the meaning of the word Islam means *to submit*, therefore in Islamic countries one is required to pay for it or suffer the consequences, “Submit or we will make you.” Christianity teaches that we are to be cheerful, liberal givers, but this giving is of our own freewill (2 Cor 9:7; Rom 12:8; Acts 5:4).

It is good that the Muslims value giving. Perhaps it would be even better if they valued the giving that Jesus Christ taught in His holy word.

D. The fast of the month of Ramadan

According to Surah 2.183-187, the Muslims are to fast for the month of Ramadan, beginning in October and ending in November, depending on the date of the new moon. This passage sets the occasion as based on the traditional time of the writing of the Qur’an by Muhammad. As the Qur’an states, they are to not have food, drink and sex during the daylight hours, claiming that this is a time to draw closer to God. However, when the sun goes down at the end of the day, then the party begins. You can eat, drink and have relations as much as you wish until “...*you can tell a white thread from a black one in the light of the coming dawn* (Surah 2.187). This will go on for 28 or 29 days, depending on the year.

Once again, it is not the fasting that is being called into question, but the imposition of it. In nations that are largely Muslim, there is not choice concerning the fast. When Ramadan occurs, all the people will be forced to deal with it, whether they want to or not. We know that the Bible refers to fasting for Jesus said in Matt 6:16 “*Moreover when ye fast...*” not “*if you fast*”. This implies that there is fasting to be occurring in the lives of the followers of Jesus. All the examples that we find in the New Testament concerning fasting communicated the personal nature of it (some examples: Luke 4:1-2; Acts 13:2; 14:23; 2Cor 6:4-5). This is because Christianity focuses on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and not necessarily a national relationship.

Ramadan also is wrong in the approach that there is something special concerning the time of the fast. They teach that fasting during this time is a matter of salvation of the one’s soul. In the placing of a specific time and attaching it to one’s salvation, the fast of Ramadan is nothing more than another feeble attempt of man pleasing God outside His revealed will. There is not a specific time and place of worship for the Christian according to the New Testament and that is for a reason, for we worship God in “*Spirit and in truth.*”

E. Pilgrimage to Mecca

The fifth and final pillar of Islam is to make a pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca at least once in his or her lifetime in the month of Dhul-Hijah where various rituals are performed. The following occurs.

- The pilgrim arrives at the “holy city” and changes from the normal clothes into a white garment designed exclusively for this event.
- The pilgrim must walk to the Zamzam well, their legendary location of the well that provided Hagar and Ishmael with water to save them from death.
- They will walk around the Ka’ba seven times, then kissing it on one of the corners. The Ka’ba stone was a meteor that fell from the sky centuries before Islam and was worshipped by the very heathen that Muhammad wiped out. So much for idolatry-free position concerning Islam.
- After this the pilgrim must run seven times between the two hills Safa and Marwa. These are two hills that each possessed an idol at the top.
- On the eighth day, the worshipper will go to Mina, a valley near Mecca, where he will meditate and pray.
- On the ninth day, the Muslims progress to Arafat, the place that they believe Adam begged for mercy from God. It is here that two-million plus will “stand before Allah” in prayer and listen to a sermon on the site where Muhammad preached his farewell address.
- Back at Mina on the tenth day, the pilgrims gather pebbles to throw at a stone pillar which is symbolizing the devil. It is also here that the men will shave their heads and the women will cut off a symbolic lock of their hair.

By performing these rites, the Muslims hope to win Allah’s favor by performing the Hajj. They believe that these rituals will purify their souls by wiping away all of their past sins.

The Bible does not teach that the wearing of special garments, the drinking of certain water, the running from one hill to the next, the kissing of a black stone, and the throwing of rocks has anything to do with salvation of a person’s soul. It is through Jesus and Him alone that we can entrust our soul to God the Father. *John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."* Jesus is the way concerning any and everything for the world. We need not buy white clothes, for it is through Him that we receive “white garments” of purity (Rev 3:18; 5:11). We need not drink from a foreign well, for it is through Him that we drink the “living water” (John 4:10; Rev 22:1). We need not run to and fro from hill to hill, for it is through Him that we stand on Mount Zion (Rev 14:1). We need not bow down and kiss a black stone, for it is through Him that we receive the “white stone” of innocence (Rev 2:17). We need not throw rocks in vain, for it is Jesus that is our solid rock foundation of faith (1Cor. 10:4; 1Pet 2:8). Muhammad and Islam are not the way, but Jesus is the Way.

V. The Bible versus the Qur'an

With the Bible being the book of the Christian and the Qur'an being that of the Muslim, it would be worthy to compare the two in order to better understand some of the differences of the faiths. In so doing, one should be able to know which faith is more subjective of the two, therefore showing the superiority

It says in the Qur'an "*And if you (Arab pagans, Jews and Christians) are in doubt concerning that which We have sent down (i.e. the Qur'an) to our slave (Muhammad), then produce a Surah (chapter) of the like thereof and call your witnesses (supporters and helpers) besides Allah, if you are truthful.*" (Surah 2.23). In this text Muhammad, the prophet of Islam, is challenging the Christian to make a defense for the faith in the Bible, to prove the power of the word that saves us, leads us and defends us.

- We must be able to give a "*defense and confirmation for the gospel*" (Phil 1:7).
- We must be able to "*contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints*" (Jude 1:3).
- We know that we must "*Be diligent to present*" ...ourselves... "*approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth*" (2 Tim 2:15)
- We accept you challenge Muhammad, for "*the word of God is not imprisoned*" (2 Tim 2:9).
- You are about to find out that "*...the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword...*" (Heb 4:12).

A) The Bible is Superior in Authorship

What is meant by the statement that the Bible is superior to the Qur'an in Authorship? I am referring to the writers of the texts and their authority to compose it.

- The Bible contains 66 writings (39 in the Old and 27 in the New). The Qur'an contains only one-hundred and fourteen chapters.
- The Bible is composed in three different languages, yet is easily translated for all to read. The Qur'an is composed in Arabic and proclaimed by its leaders as only purely understood in the original language.
- The Bible was written by forty authors over a 1600 year period. The Qur'an is supposedly the revelations given to ONE man, Muhammad, being received over a span of a couple of decades.
- The Bible writers lived in ten countries covering the area of 6,000 miles. The Qur'an was written from the viewpoint of a camel-herder from the region of Arabia.
- The Bible was written by men who performed miracles in order to validate that it was the word of God which was being spoken (Mk 16:20; Rom 15:19; 1Th 1:5; Heb 2:4; 1Pet 1:12). The Qur'an is the words of a man that did no miracles nor claimed to have done miracles, thereby proving nothing but the ability to speak eloquently.

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- The Bible was written during a time of great persecution against those who followed Jesus. The Qur'an was also written during a time of great persecution. That persecution was also against Christians and others at the hands of Muslims, the very followers of the Qur'an.

In summary on point one, the Bible was written by many inspired men proven through experience, through culture, through peace, through miracles, through inspiration, through perspiration, through persecutions and even executions. Muhammad claimed to have been inspired by God, was not tested in the same way. He was a rebellious prince with the ability to rap in Arabic, but that does not give him equal authority of the Bible writers.

B) The Bible is Superior in Authentication

Is the Bible truly more reliable than the Qur'an concerning authentication? One of the ways that we can know the reliability of the Bible would be through an acid test of attestation. This can be done by comparing three things: 1) the number of manuscripts 2) the date originally written and 3) the date of the oldest manuscript in relation to the original. If we know that a manuscript was written prior to the many improvements of paper writing, then we will be more apt to figure that in the equation.

Secular Writers of Antiquity

In order for us to establish authentication for the Bible, we must use some other writings of antiquity for comparison. Take for example the following.

Caesar's Gallic Wars

- ✓ It was written about 50 BC.
- ✓ We have ten manuscripts with the oldest being from the ninth century A.D. or 800 years removed from the date of the writing.

Herodotus

- ✓ He lived and wrote in 480 to 425 BC
- ✓ We have eight manuscripts of his dating from 900 A.D. or 1300 years removed from the date of the writing.

The Roman History of Livy

- ✓ It was written between 59 B.C. and 17 A.D.
- ✓ We have only 35 out of 147 volumes, with the newest copy removed 300 years from the date of writing.

Histories of Tacitus

- ✓ He lived and wrote around 100-115 A.D.
- ✓ We have only partial copies coming to us from only two manuscripts from the ninth century, being 800 years removed.

The Annals of Tacitus

- ✓ It was written about 100 A.D.
- ✓ Only one full and two partial copies exist and they are dated to the eleventh century, being nearly 1,000 years removed from the original date.

The History of Thucydides

- ✓ Originally written about 460-400 B.C.

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- ✓ We have only eight copies with the earliest dating from 900 A.D., which is 1300 years removed from the original date.

The Bible

Take for example the NT manuscript evidence. The New Testament books are believed to have all been written between 50 and 95 A.D., depending who you ask. The perfect word (1Cor 13:10) would have had to been done by that time for John was the last apostle and he died near that date. With this in mind, let us examine some evidence.

Oldest known copies

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| • <i>Codex Sinaiticus</i> | -copied about 350 A.D. | -250 years removed |
| • <i>Codex Vaticanus</i> | -copied about 350 A.D. | -250 years removed |
| • <i>Codex Alexandrinus</i> | -copied about 450 A.D. | -350 years removed |
| • <i>Codex Ephremaic</i> | -copied about 450 A.D. | -350 years removed |
| • <i>Codex Bezae</i> | -copied about 500-550 A.D. | -400 years removed |

Someone might say that this is a long time between the times of the writing and the copies in possession. Keep the following three facts in mind. 1) that writing materials were not as readily available as when the Qur'an would be written six-hundred years later, 2) that the scriptures and Christianity were often outlawed in the empire of Rome, making it tough to circulate 3) that the Bible is many more times larger than the Qur'an, making it harder to produce entire copies. These are actually large copies that survived all that! Even better is some of the fragment evidence.

- Chester Baetty Biblical Papyi: The fragments contain many portions of the Bible dating between 200 and 250 A.D., only 100 years removed.
- Ryland's Fragment: This fragment contains John 18:31-33,37-ff, being dated at 130 A.D. This document was circulating in Egypt only 40 years after the writing.
- Papyrus Bodmer II: This fragment contains the first 14 chapters of John, less 22 verses and considerable portions of the last 7 chapters. It has been dated around 200 A.D. This is only one century removed from the date of writing.

There are many more fragments and manuscripts that could be cited. There are actually over 5,000 manuscripts and fragments available to us of the Bible. Yet there is the writings of the Apostolic Fathers which date from 90 to 160 A.D. They were men that studied at the feet of an apostle or someone who did. They quote the Bible thousands of times in their letters written back and forth to each other. It is said that nearly the entire New Testament could be quoted in their writings. This tells us that the Bible would have had to been around at the end of the first century in order for them to quote it.

To appreciate the authentication of the New Testament as compared with the other writings of antiquity, I offer the following formula. If we took the number of years prior to 1000 A.D. and took that number times the number manuscripts, partial or whole, then divided that number by the years removed, we would have a resulting number to compare. (AGE x NUMBER OF COPIES / YEARS REMOVED = AUTHENTICITY #)

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Sample: *Caesar's Gallic Wars*: Written 50 B.C. (1050 years prior to starting point) with 10 manuscripts prior to 1,000 B.C. and the oldest copy coming 800 years after the original. $1050 \times 10 / 800 = 13.125$

Applying the same formula to the others, we find the following authenticity #s.

<i>Herodotus</i>	9.1
<i>The Roman History of Livy</i>	116.6
<i>Histories of Tacitus</i>	2.3
<i>The Annals of Tacitus</i>	2.7
<i>The History of Thucydides</i>	8.9
The New Testament	64,285.00

Understanding that this is not a highly accurate formula, simply something to make a comparison, we still see superiority of the New Testament concerning authenticity. Among the writings of antiquity, the Bible would be by far the most tested and trusted text concerning the authenticity using this acid test. Is it any wonder that the Bible has been the number one best seller on every world-wide book seller list ever assembled? We would not dismiss the authenticity of the other writings of antiquity, therefore how dare we dismiss a writing thousands of times more authentic?

The Qur'an

The manuscript evidence of the Qur'an presents us with some serious problems not found concerning the Bible. The writings of the Qur'an are purported to have been written within the century of the life of Muhammad, yet that is not what the evidence would seem to communicate, or should we way the lack of evidence.

What is the manuscript evidence of the Qur'an? Did you know that there is no manuscript evidence for the Qur'an having been written in the century that it is claimed to have been written? The oldest know manuscripts for the Qur'an are dated around 800 AD, well outside of the late antiquity of the founder.

What do Muslim scholars say to this fact? Many of them declare that the other manuscripts disintegrated or were destroyed over time. Others proclaim that they have a couple of manuscripts dating from that time (*Samarkand* and *Topkapi Manuscripts*), but they are written in *Kufic Script*, something that did not appear until the late eighth century. This name is derived from the city of Kufa in Iraq, a city in which would have not had Arabic as the predominant language at the time of conquer and the presumed date of the writing of the Qur'an.

The earliest complete copy of the Qur'an in possession today resides in the British Museum. It was dated 790 A.D. by Martin Lings, a former curator of the museum and practicing Muslim. The earliest known fragments found of the Qur'an are dated over 100 years after the death of Muhammad. Keep in mind that this was during the time when paper was plentiful and in areas of arid climate that should have preserved thousands of

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copies, yet the evidence cupboard is bare. I think we can see that the Bible is superior in authenticity.

C) The Bible is Superior in Application

What about the application of each of the books? Which book, the Bible or the Qur'an, is the most applicable concerning the everyday way of life of those of society? Once again, you decide.

- The Bible covers law, history, poetry, prophecy, biography, geography, theology and psychology. The Qur'an is primarily poetry which discusses submission and judgment.
- The Bible introduces us to over 2,930 separate individuals, beginning with Adam in Genesis and ending with Jesus in Revelation. The Qur'an mentions only a fraction of individuals, primarily focusing on the life of Muhammad and his conversations with Allah.
- The Bible teaches about every possible subject either directly or indirectly, including adultery, adolescence, abstinence, architecture, curses, crime, caring, consideration, drunkenness, depression, divorce, defense, employment, encouragement, edification, education, fitness, forgiveness, forgetfulness, gluttony, hate, health, happiness, love, lust, lying, marriage, motherhood, money, parenting, prayer, pornography, procrastination, respect, reliability, rewards, studying, science, stewardship, slavery, sex, sin, sickness, suffering, tears, taxes, thankfulness, usury, understanding, unwillingness, vindictiveness and zoology, just to name a few. The Qur'an does not even compare to the Bible concerning topics that apply to everyday life.

One area above all does the Qur'an not stack up to the Bible in application. This area is in salvation.

- I Jn 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life. **WE CAN KNOW THAT WE ARE SAVED!**
- 2 Cor 13:5 Test yourselves {to see} if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test? **WE CAN KNOW THAT WE ARE SAVED!**
- 2 Pet 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; **WE CAN KNOW THAT WE ARE SAVED!**
- Heb 10:19-22 Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since {we have} a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled {clean} from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **WE CAN KNOW THAT WE ARE SAVED!**

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- Rom 8:37-39 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **WE CAN KNOW THAT WE ARE SAVED!**
- Eph 1:13-14 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of {God's own} possession, to the praise of His glory. **WE CAN KNOW THAT WE ARE SAVED!**
- Phil 1:6 {For I am} confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. **WE CAN KNOW THAT WE ARE SAVED!**

WE CAN KNOW THAT WE ARE SAVED! We can know while we wait for the Lord that we *will gain new strength and will mount up with wings like eagles* (Is 40:31) when the Lord Jesus Christ who *will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself* (Phil 3:21). Show me in the Qur'an the true knowledge and application of salvation. Show me where the Muslim can know that they will be kept *from falling, and to be presented faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy* (Jude 24)! Where is the assurance for the Muslim in the Qur'an? All the salvation in the world is no good if you can't know that you have or can get it. That is the salvation of the feeble Qur'an, one of works and deeds, not mercy and grace leading to the same.

Muhammad issued a challenge in the Qur'an and it has been beaten back three-fold. The Bible is superior to the Qur'an in **AUTHORSHIP, AUTHENTICATION and APPLICATION**. Here is my challenge back to you Islam: *And if you* (Islamic Lost) *are in doubt concerning that which We* (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit) *have sent down* (the Bible) *to our slave* (Muhammad), *then produce a Surah* (chapter from the Qur'an) *of the like thereof and call your witnesses* (a dead prophet, angry militants and confused followers) *besides Jehovah* (Not Allah), *if you are truthful*. (re-written Surah 2.23).

VI. Coming to a Mosque Near You

In this last lesson of the series on Islam, the discussion will examine a topic that has been a great concern for many Americans as they have watched a changing world unfold before them. If it seems like we are hearing a lot about Islam in the media and on the streets, it is not an illusion. Islam is claimed by many as the fastest growing religion in the United States.

"Five to 6 million strong, Muslims in America already outnumber Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and Mormons, and they are more numerous than Quakers, Unitarians, Seventh-day Adventists, Mennonites, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Christian Scientists, combined. Many demographers say Islam has overtaken Judaism as the country's second-most commonly practiced religion; others say it is in the passing lane." JOHAN BLANK, USNEWS (7/20/98)

What makes Islam such a winner statistically? Why does it seem that it is cleaning the Christian's clock when it comes to conversion? Look at the following chart and ask yourself how Islam can be this popular.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>% Muslim</u>	<u>Religious Freedom</u>
Afghanistan	21.1 million	99.0	no
Algeria	29.4 million	99.5	no
Azerbaijan	7.6 million	88.0	some
Bahrain	620,000	81.0	yes
Bangladesh	125 million	88.3	some
Comoros Islands	514,000	99.0	no
Egypt	62.1 million	94.0	some
Guinea	7.4 million	86.0	yes
Indonesia	200 million	87.2	yes
Iran	62.3 million	99.0	no
Iraq	22.2 million	98.0	no
Jordan	4.5 million	92.0	some
Kuwait	1.8 million	85.0	some
Libya	5.6 million	97.0	no
Mali	9.9 million	90.0	some
Morocco	27.2 million	98.7	no
Pakistan	136 million	95.0	no
Qatar	561,000	95.0	some
Saudi Arabia	19.1 million	98.0	no
Senegal	9.4 million	92.0	some
Somalia	6.8 million	99.0	no
Syria	15.1 million	86.0	some
Tunisia	9.1 million	99.0	no
Turkey	63.5 million	99.8	no
Yemen	16.4 million	99.0	no

Throughout the world Islam is growing. So what are the evangelism strategies for Islam that is leading to the great growth?

Islam Growth Tool #1: Increased Birthrate

Today, the Muslim birth rate in Europe is three times higher than the non-Muslim one. If current trends continue, the Muslim population of Europe will nearly double by 2015, while the non-Muslim population will shrink by 3.5 percent. This is why you find nations like Germany and France being sympathetic toward Palestinian Islam.

The overall French birth rate is 1.9 per woman aged 15-35. This is the same as in the U.S. The Muslim birthrate in France is 4.0, or more than double the average. Evidently then, Islam will become the dominant religion in France in a short time. In view of the ever greater rate of Muslim immigration to France from numerous Mediterranean countries, it can be foreseen that by 2050, France will be the third Muslim country in Europe. The other two are Albania and Turkey.

In 2002, the total fertility rate (TFR) in Palestine of 5.9 children per woman was more than twice as high as in Israel (2.9), which is reflected in their respective rates of natural increase (3.5% annually versus 1.5%). The TFR in the Gaza Strip was one of the highest in the world at 6.6 births per woman (2001).

Four of the top five highest birthrates in the world are in predominately Islamic countries. Even the country that is not Muslim majority is still 20% Islam.

- ✓ 1 Niger
- ✓ 2 Mali
- ✓ 3 Chad
- 4 Uganda
- ✓ 5 Somalia
- ✓ Denotes Muslim majority population in country

Simply put, Islamic teachings leads to high birthrates and high birthrates lead to high indoctrination rates of little Muslims. Little Muslims become big fertile Muslims that start the cycle over again. They are growing through birthrates.

Christian Response #1: High “Born Again” Rate

Jesus said to Nicodemus in *John 3:3* "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Unless we are born again into the kingdom of God, there is no hope. That leaves us with some questions. Rom 10:14 *How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?* "We know that "...faith {comes} from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ" (Rom 10:17). If you are not out bearing the message of Jesus Christ, you are contributing to the overall low "Born Again" rate that we is taking place before us. We must seek to actively lead the Muslims and other lost of the world to Jesus by knowing and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- 1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

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- 1 Pet 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, {that is,} through the living and abiding word of God.
- 1 Jn 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
- 1 Jn 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the {child} born of Him.

We must boost our “Born Again” Rate by preaching the word of God to anyone and everyone that we come into contact with. We defeat the high Muslim birth rate with a high “Born Again” rate.

Islam Growth Tool #2: Mosque Plantings

Another way that Islam is growing is through the planting of many Mosques throughout the world with the use of Saudi Oil money. In our country over the past few years, old church buildings have been purchased through monies generated from our oil consumption dollars. This has been a great concern as of late for the Saudis practice Wahhabism. This brand of Islam is quite militant. "Wahhabism revived the Islamic idea of jihad as military expansionism, a concept that had fallen out of favor with traditional Islam after the early Muslim conquests." There is much documentation of how the Saudis have aggressively exported this brand of Islam throughout the world, especially to the United States. Sufi Sheikh Muhammad Hisham Kabbani told a State Department Open Forum on religious extremism that Saudi Wahhabism "took over more than 80% of the mosques that have been established in the U.S. And there are more than 3,000 mosques in the U.S."

- Mosques in the United States: **3,000**
- American Muslims associated with a mosque: **2 million**
- Increase in number of mosques since 1994: **25 percent**
- Proportion of mosques founded since 1980: **62 percent**
- Average number of Muslims associated with each mosque in the United States: **1,625**
- U.S. mosque participants who are converts: **30 percent**

Christian Response #2: Church Plantings

What is the response to Mosque plantings? Church plantings. When we are in church planting mode, we are doing what the Lord has wanted us to do in the first place. It is a fact that the more accessible the church is to lost people, the more effective the church will be in the lives of the lost. The following verses should confirm that Christ’s church was in church planting mode in the first century, even when under great oppression.

- Acts 8:4 Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.
- 2 Corinthians 9:6 “Whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”
- 1 Thessalonians 1:8 “The Lord’s message rang out from you.”
- Acts 5:42 “... from house to house ...”
- Acts 8:3 “Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house ...”
- Acts 12:12 “... the house of Mary ... where many people had gathered ...”

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- Romans 16:5 “Greet also the church that meets at their house.”
- 1 Corinthians 16:19 “... the church that meets at their house.”
- Colossians 4:15 “... the church in her house.”
- Philemon 2 “... the church that meets in your home.”
- Acts 16:15 (“... she and the members of her household were baptized.”)
- Acts 16:31 (“... you will be saved—you and your household.”)

If a rich Saudi prince can plant mosques in our neighboring communities, then we can plant churches in the same. Fight fire with fire, for mosque plantings mean church plantings.

Islamic Growth Tool #3: The Sword

Islam has always and will always have a branch of their mission team that converts with the sword. Muhammad started the faith as a murdering terrorist and his true followers take their lead from him. According to their own Islamic teaching, Muhammad personally oversaw 26 of these early *jihads* and personally fought in nine of them. As long as he got his fifth, anything was fair play, including rape, beheading, slavery and torture. One cannot overstate the centrality of Muhammad's example within the religion of Islam. One of the greatest Muslim theologians, al- Ghazzali, writes of Muhammad:

Know that the key to happiness is to follow the sunna [Muhammad's actions] and to imitate the Messenger of God in all his coming and going, his movement and rest, in his way of eating, his attitude, his sleep and his talk... God has said: "What the messenger has brought--accept it, and what he has prohibited--refrain from it!" (59:7). That means, you have to sit while putting on trousers, and to stand when winding a turban, and to begin with the right foot when putting on shoes.

It is with this attitude that the true, sincere follower of the Qur'an and the example given by Muhammad that has led to this most wicked form of evangelism, conversion by the sword. Within one century of Muhammad, Islam spread from Spain to India with the convert or die by the sword method of terrorism. The process was convert, pay the infidel tax (Surah 9.29) or die (Surah 9.5). It was not until they were defeated near Paris by Charles Martel in the Battle of Tours in 732 A.D. that they met serious resistance and over the next few centuries were beaten back out of the continent of Europe.

Nine hundred years after the first wave of Islamization, a second powerful wave took place, in the seventeenth Century. The Ottoman Empire's Muslim Turks tried to expand their rule into Europe. They captured Greece, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and parts of Romania and Hungary. By 1683, they had reached the gates of Vienna. However, once again, and against all odds, the Western forces were able to repel them. It was on September 11, 1683 that the conquering armies of Islam were met, held, and thrown back at the gates of Vienna. It was also on September 11th in the year 1922 that the League of Nations formally proclaimed Britain's mandate over Palestine and the Arabs declared a day of mourning. This eventually led to the dismantling of the Ottoman Empire in 1924. It was the end of the second “Great Sword Evangelistic Campaign” of Islam. Ironically

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September 11th was also the date Osama bi Laden chose to kick-off the third great Islamic evangelism plan for our country.

The evangelism of the sword continues today at a pace that is right on track with the first two major campaigns of the past. It is spreading to Africa with “Sword Conversions” in countries like Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Uganda and Sudan. Millions have been killed, yet where is the outcry. It is trying to move into Russia through acts of horrific terrorism by killing large groups of children and civilians.

In the west where Islam does not have as large of populations, they have had to lay low and play the politically correct game as they build their numbers. Europe is and continues to be inundated by a tidal wave of asylum-demanders and illegal immigrants none of whom bother to hide their venomous hatred of the West and all it stands for. And the governments of Europe are paralyzed by political-correctness, inertia, or sheer moral cowardice to stop that invasion. Perhaps the Muslims you know are peaceful, but they are in the minority and have no choice in this country. Where they are a majority, they are ruthless in their evangelism efforts of the sword and because we fail to look at the real problem in the light of a spiritual war, we cannot effectively deal with it.

Western nations, in the grip of the ideology of multiculturalism, have failed to even recognize, much less counter, the Third World invasion going on in their midst. As an Islamic cleric remarked to Turkey's Archbishop Giuseppe Bernardini: "Thanks to your democratic laws, we will invade you. Thanks to our religious laws, we will dominate you."
(Rose)

What you are seeing in the terrorist attacks and acts of national genocide in Islamic countries around the world is Islamic Growth Tool #3.

Christian Response #3: The Sword of the Spirit:

We are told in preparation of what the world has in store for us that we are to put on the armor of God. Mentioned along with the salvation helmet, the breastplate of righteousness, the truth-girded loins, the gospel-shodded shoes and the faith shield, we find the “...*the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*” (Eph 6:17). Do you realize this is the only offensive weapon in the list?

We are reminded of our mighty Savior in Rev 1:16 “...*and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword...*” Do you realize the power of God’s spoken word? Do you realize that “*Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God*” (Matt 4:4)?

The Bible reminds us in Heb 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* Do you realize it is in the power of the word that we can take on something like Islam and win? Win in what way? Win their hearts to Jesus! Win their lives to the church! Win their

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souls to heaven! 2 Cor 10:4 “...*for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.*” We must be able to war in such a way. Eph 6:12 *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.* Are you willing to pick up the sword of the Bible and go to work?

We have covered three primary reasons for the growth of Islam in our nation and in the world. We answered them one by one with a strategy that we can use. Are you willing to make a difference? Are you willing to commit to that which you know is right? You decide.

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Additional Argument:

“people of the book” is mentioned 54 times

Islamic Proposition: The Qur’an states that Jesus was not the son of God, but simply a prophet of God that had a Spirit proceeding from him.

- Surah 3:45 “Behold: the angel said, ‘O Mary! God giveth thee glad tidings of a word from him: his name will be Christ Jesus.’”
- Surah 4:171 “...Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (no more than) an apostle of God, and His Word, which he bestowed on Mary, and a Spirit proceeding from him...”

Biblical Response: This passage is admitting the preexistence of Jesus as a Spirit that came from God. The Qur’an is admitting what John 1:1-3 was saying all along.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Islamic Proposition: Jesus was born of a virgin, but that does not make him the son of God.

Surah 21:91 And (remember) her who guarded her chastity: We breathed into her of Our Spirit, and We made her and her son a Sign for all peoples.

Biblical Response: The mere fact that the Spirit of God was breathed into a virgin would make God the Father of Jesus, which would make Him the Son of God. This is why He is the “Sign for all the peoples”, including Muslims.

Surah 5:49-50 And in their footsteps, we sent Jesus the son of Mary, confirming the law that had come before him: We sent him the gospel: therein was a guidance and light, and confirmation of the law that had come before him: a guidance and admonition to those who fear God. Let the people of the gospel judge by what God hath revealed therein.

Islamic Proposition: The Bible foretells of the coming of Muhammad.

- Surah 7:157 Those who follow the Apostle, the Unlettered Prophet, Whom they find mentioned in their own (scriptures),-in the law and the gospel.
- Surah 61:6 And remember Jesus, the son of Mary, said, O children of Israel! I am the apostle of God (sent) to you, confirming the law (which came) before me, giving glad tidings of an Apostle to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad.
- Deut 18:18-19 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that

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whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him. (KJV)

Biblical Response: If the Muslim can make an appeal to the Bible to confirm their prophet, then we can make the Bible appeal to the Bible in explaining itself. Peter tells us who this passage was referring to in Acts 3:20-23.

Acts 3:20-23 ...that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until {the} period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. "Moses said, 'The Lord God shall raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed in everything He says to you. 'And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' (NAS)

Since the Bible says that it is Jesus this is referring to, the assertion that it was Muhammad mentioned in Deut 18:18-19 is proven wrong. If the quote from Peter is denied, then the initial citation must be rejected as well.

Islamic Proposition: Six hundred years after the fact, Mohammad proposed that Jesus was not really crucified, but that it only appeared that He was. This is the Islamic version of the "Swoon Theory".

Surah 4.157 That they said (in boast), 'We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the apostle of God'; but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for surety they killed him not.

Biblical Response: Pilate was convinced Jesus was dead; the apostles were convinced that He died; the Roman soldiers that stood around the cross were convinced that He was dead; the soldier that pierced His side said He was dead; the embalmers of His body were convinced that He was dead; the apostles that fled out of fear were convinced He was dead; the guards who watched His tomb were convinced He was dead; the Jews that had Him killed thought He was dead; the women that was near Him as He took His last breath were convinced He was dead. Everyone who was there was convinced that Jesus Christ was dead. What witness is Muhammad citing that said Jesus was not really dead?

The Muslim may respond that Muhammad is quoting this through inspiration. If that is the point, then according to the words of the Qur'an, who made it appear that Jesus was dead, Allah? If that is the case, then Allah would be a deceiver of all men for six centuries.