

What Does the Bible Teach About Islam?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

- A. It was during the gulf war that Americans became increasingly interested in the religion of Islam.
 - 1. Islam is the religion taught by a man called Mohammed who was born in the city of Mecca in 570 A D.
 - 2. He believed that he had been sent to destroy the idols of the heathen Arabs and to teach them that there was only one God, Allah, and that he, Mohammed, was Allah's final and best messenger.
 - 3. Those who believe in Allah and accept Mohammed as his messenger are called Moslems, or Muslims, from Arabic, meaning "those who submit to God."
 - 4. Islam is an Arabic word meaning "submission." (Not peace)
- B. The influence of Islam is clearly seen in its spread over the world.
 - 1. Today, 1.8 billion followers or 24% of the world population.
 - 2. One half of the Moslem population lives in South and Southeast Asia with the largest populations in Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan.
 - 3. One fourth of all Moslems live in the Middle East and make up the majority of the population in Albania and nearly all of the population in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
 - 4. Islam is the second largest religion in Belgium, France, and Germany.
 - 5. In the US there are an estimated 3.5 million followers of Islam (1% of population)

I. THE HISTORY OF ISLAM

- A. The world to which Mohammed was born was a mixture of Christian and Jewish dogmas.
 - 1. The teachings of Judaism had long been established in the region of the Middle East but had corrupted itself into idolatry that even worshiped people such as Ezra as a god.
 - 2. Christianity had spread to the Arab world but after nearly 600 years, it had also become a primitive, unorganized polytheism that lived in superstition, fear and worship of numerous gods.
- B. Mohammed's early life
 - 1. He was born in Mecca (Saudi Arabia) in 570 AD.
 - 2. His father died before he was born, and his mother died when he was six years old.
 - 3. He lived with his grandfather, and after he died, his uncle, Abu Talib, a chief of the Quraysh tribe who believed in one god, Allah.
 - 4. Allah was one of many pagan Arabic gods, and not a particularly good one; similar to demons in the New Testament.
 - 5. The religion of that day was a mixture of pagan idol worship, perverted Jewish worship and a corrupted version of Christianity based on early Catholic dogmas.

6. At 25, Mohammed began working for a wealthy widow, 15 years his senior, whom he later married and who bore six children to him. Only one girl survived.
7. When he was 35, a flood damaged the Kaaba, and he was chosen to set the sacred Black Stone back in its place.
8. Soon afterward, he began to show interest in religion, despising idolatry of his day. He often went to a desert mountainside to think about God.
9. One day, he was meditating alone in a cave on Mount Hira and a vision appeared to him. He hurried home and told his wife; he thought he was possessed by demons and was unsure of the meaning of the dreams and visions.
10. He thought he may have been going insane, but his wife told him he was a prophet.
11. He claimed to have been visited by the angel Gabriel who directed him to preach God's nearness and to proclaim God's will to His people. This was the beginning of his prophetic office. Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism made the same claim.
12. These appearances, visions and such are what later became known as the Koran or Quran.

C. As the prophet of Allah

1. Began to preach and was ignored until he began to preach against their idols. He made only 40 converts in first 4 years.
2. He was despised and persecuted; at the death of his uncle, he fled to Medina in 622 where the people made him king.
3. He later conquered the city of Mecca and destroyed all the idols around the Kaaba, and proclaimed himself a prophet of God
4. Everything in the Islamic faith is based upon this flight to Medina.

Beginning of Moslem calendar.

D. His death and subsequent events

1. He died in 632 AD at the age of 62.
2. When he died, he had 12 wives and two concubines, in contrast to the Koran which said a man can only have four wives.
3. Islamic tradition teaches that he ascended to heaven on a blue mule from the temple mount in Jerusalem. That is why the Arabs hold vehemently to the mosque on that rock.
4. The influence of Mohammed grew following his death to where in less than a hundred years, Islam had spread from the Atlantic Ocean to central Asia and deep into India.
5. The major means of the spread of Islam was by conversion by sword. Go into a city, execute a few of the leaders and prominent citizens, and demand that the rest of the city convert or die. The Nazi SS borrowed that technique in WWII.
6. The crusades were a direct result of the threat of Islam as Europe banded together and fought numerous battles against Muslim invaders from 1099 - 1291.
7. Events of the last century have reawakened an interest in this religion

II. FIVE ARTICLES OF THE FAITH OF ISLAM

A. Allah is the one true God

1. Allah is Arabic for God.
2. They believe that three Beings in the Godhead is polytheistic and reject the principle as taught in the Bible. Those who accept it are polytheistic; they claim that Christians believe in three gods
3. Everything that happens is in accordance with Allah's will, whether good or evil. He is a god of evil as well as a god of good.
4. The Koran assigns 99 names to Allah and the 100th name is known only by the camel.

B. Allah has sent many prophets.

1. The Koran mentions 28 of these prophets by name, but suggests there are over 100,000. These include Abraham, Moses, David, John the Baptist, and Jesus.
2. The Koran suggests all these prophets were sinless just as it claims Mohammed was.
3. Jesus, they say, was a great prophet and performed many miracles but He was not God, nor was He the Son of God.
4. Mohammed is the last prophet, and there have been no prophets since.

C. The Koran is a book that is above all other books.

1. Surpasses all other revelations. Each age was given a book through prophets, but most have been lost or corrupted, including the Bible according to Islam.
2. The Koran is the most inspired and important of four books:
 - a. The Torah - the five books of Moses;
 - b. The Psalms of David;
 - c. The words of Jesus (the gospels), including the ersatz gospel of Barnabas
 - d. The Koran is the fourth, holiest, highest, and most important.
3. They accept the Bible, but only the texts that are not corrupted according to them.
4. The Koran supersedes anything the Bible says.

D. There are many intermediary beings.

1. They believe in many good and evil angels, and claim that they are presently at work.
2. Mohammed sought to destroy the polytheism of his day to worship only one God, and yet today Islam has become in many ways a practical polytheism.
3. The chief good angel is Gabriel, and the chief evil angel is Yatan or Shaitan, who is similar to Satan.

E. They believe in the resurrection and a Day of Judgment.

1. Allah will be the judge of all and will send each to heaven or hell.
2. Hell is a place of torment for all who have denied Allah and his prophet Mohammed; that is why we are called blasphemers.
3. Heaven is a place of sensual delights and fleshly gratification, a place that will satisfy all the desires of men.

4. There is no mention of heaven for women, except as servants and sexual objects for men in heaven.
 5. Americans tend to believe that they can enjoy life and fleshly gratification here and now here and hope to go to heaven where there is joy and peace; but, Moslems believe the complete opposite; they are willing to sacrifice all joy here to attain everything there. All the food they want, all the drink they want, all the fleshly desires will be met there.
- F. There is a sixth article of faith that is commonly held among Moslems.
1. "Kismet" or fate, foreordination, reality that is viewed in a fatalistic way. "What will be, will be."
 2. What happened on 9/11 was intended to happen by Allah.
 3. The belief in Divine Predestination includes belief in four things:
 - a. Allah knows everything. He knows what has happened and what will happen.
 - b. Allah has recorded all that has happened and all that will happen
 - c. Whatever Allah wills to happen happens, and whatever he wills not to happen does not happen.
 - d. Allah is the creator of everything.

III. FIVE PILLARS OF THE FAITH OF ISLAM

- A. Faith or belief in the oneness of Allah and the finality of the prophet-hood of Mohammed.
 1. The word Koran in Arabic means to recite.
 2. They recite the Koran and they must recite: "There is none worthy of worship except Allah and Mohammed is the messenger of Allah."
 3. Recite every day, out loud, in public.
- B. Establishment of the daily prayers.
 1. Pray five times a day: dawn, mid-day, late-afternoon, sunset, nightfall.
 2. The five prescribed prayers contain verses from the Koran and are said in Arabic, the language of the revelation.
 3. Personal petitions and supplications can be offered in one's own language any time.
 4. These prayers are made prostrate toward Mecca (Mohammed originally started with praying toward Jerusalem).
- C. Concern for poor and almsgiving to needy
 1. At first it was voluntary, but now mandatory, in the form of a tax: 1/40th of a person's holdings, excluding such items as primary residence, car, and professional tools.
 2. Even for the disabled and mentally ill.
- D. Self-purification through fasting.
 1. Every year in the month of Ramadan, all Muslims fast from dawn until sundown, abstaining from food, drink, and sexual relations with spouses
 2. Based upon the lunar calendar; Ramadan began this year April 23 and ended May 23.
- E. The pilgrimage to Mecca for those who are able.

1. The pilgrimage to Mecca is an obligation only for those who are physically and financially able to do so.
 2. This dates back actually to pre-Mohammed dates of those who came to worship the Black Stone.
- F. A sixth pillar of faith more relevant to our time: the jihad, or holy war.
1. Not all accept this but many do, depending upon what sect, tribe, country, or belief one belongs to as to whether a Jihad is called or not.
 2. A religious duty by all adult males. Debate today among many whether a true holy war has been called.
 3. Any Moslem who dies in such a war is assured forgiveness and promised paradise.
 4. The real question in the minds of many is who can call a Jihad.
 5. This has been their most successful form of evangelizing, to emigrate to other countries, subdue them, and make Islam the state religion.

IV. ADDITIONAL TENETS OF FAITH IN ISLAM

- A. The unforgivable sin to a Muslim is to attribute deity to any other than Allah. (Called the "shirk") Their reasoning:
1. When we say that Jesus is God, we become blasphemers.
 2. Allah is unbegotten and begets not. Jesus cannot be God, God cannot beget. God does not have children; we believe Jesus is the Son of God. Cannot produce a son by a woman; that is blasphemous
- B. Islam teaches that Jesus predicted the coming of Mohammed
1. John 14:15-16 - The Bible teaches this is the Holy Spirit; Moslems teach that the word used here is corrupted and refers instead to Mohammed.
- C. They say Trinitarians believe in a trinity of God the Father, Jesus the son, and Mary the mother.
1. Reveals that Mohammed and those who followed after his death were more influenced by Catholicism than anything else, and not by true Christianity.
- D. Koran allows up to four wives
1. Polygamy is authorized and divorce for any reason is accepted. Polyandry is forbidden.
 2. Osama Bin Laden had four wives. Mohammed had twelve wives and three concubines.
- E. Prohibits gambling, alcohol and pork.

V. ALLAH IS NOT GOD, AND MOHAMMED IS NOT A PROPHET

- A. Jehovah is God, and Jesus Christ, His Son, is our Spokesman for the rest of time - Heb. 1:1-3
- B. God's word is truth, not the Quran - John 17:17
- C. Mohammed is a false prophet, inconsistent and self-contradictory
1. Gal. 1:9; 2John 9-11; 1John 4:1
 2. Mohammed began by accepting Jews and Christians.

- a. “Believers, Jews, Christians, and Sabaeans, whoever believes in God and the Last Day and does what is right, shall be rewarded by their Lord; they have nothing to fear or regret” (Sura 2:62).
 - 3. When they rejected him as a false prophet, he revised Qur’an scripture.
 - a. “If anyone desires a religion other than Islam, never will it be accepted of him” (Sura 3:85).
 - b. “Fight those who believe not in Allah, nor acknowledge the religion of Islam” (Sura 9:29).
- D. Moslems worship Mohammed above Allah.
 - 1. “Love of the prophet runs like blood in the veins of the community. You can deny God, but you cannot deny the prophet” (Iqbal of India).
- E. Moslems overlook Mohammed’s hypocrisies.
 - 1. Sura 2:106 - Changing Allah’s scriptures that are supposed to be unchangeable.
 - 2. Sura 53:21 - Compromising with pagans for practical reasons.
 - 3. Sura 33:37 - Involved in moral scandals.
 - 4. Sura 48:2 - He needed forgiveness of sins, even though the Quran claims he was sinless.
 - 5. Sura 4:34 - Mohammed advocated beating women.
- F. Mohammed believed himself exempt from keeping the law of the Qur’an. He practiced moral expediency, piracy, plagiarism, assassination, murder, oath-breaking, lying, etc.
 - 1. The answer of his apologist, Haykal: “The Great stand above the law.”
- G. Mohammed’s Allah is evil - Sura 9:51, 7:178-9, 36:7-10, 32:13

VI. WHAT DO WE GAIN FROM A STUDY OF ISLAM?

- A. Awareness of potential apostasy - 2Tim. 4:3-4
- B. Tools to identify false religions - 1John 4:1-4
- C. A reminder of the true source of salvation - Acts 4:12; Mark 16:15-16