



Islam

This PASTOR'S GUIDE SHEET was developed by Dr. Joe K. Taylor, Senior Pastor, South Reno Baptist Church, Reno, NV • jtaylor@southreno.com
Scriptures are printed verbatim with references noted but highlights and underlines are added. Quotes and all primary sources are footnoted. This is the Sixth Edition of "PGS - Islam."

On September 11, 2001, Muslim extremists hijacked American airplanes and flew their suicide missions into the WTC Twin Towers in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. On that infamous day, the veil was pulled back on the twenty-first century, revealing a world in turmoil between two predominant religions...Christianity and Islam. Paradoxically, they both look to the biblical patriarch of the Old Testament Abraham and call him "Father."¹ The Bible says, "Abraham sacrificed his son, his only son, Isaac..." (Genesis 22:9). But the Koran, says, "Abraham sacrificed his son, his only son, Ishmael." (Surah 37: 99-109).



A. What is Islam?

Muslims believe that Islam began when God created Adam and Eve and that every person ever born is actually born a Muslim. They assert that Islam has always been the religion of antiquity, thus Moses was a Muslim, as was Jesus. For example, the Koran states, "*Ibrahim [Abraham] was not a Jew nor a Christian but he was (an) upright (man), a Muslim*" (Surah 3:67).

- Islam is the name of a worldwide religion that began under the leadership of Muhammad in the Arab Peninsula, now called Saudi Arabia, during the seventh century A.D.
- Islam is the second largest religion and the fastest growing in the world. Only Christianity has more followers. Approximately 20% of the world's population is Islamic.
- Islam is one of the few religions that claim to believe in only one god (monotheism). Because Muslims believe that the Christian doctrine of the Trinity is polytheistic, they claim that Islam restores true monotheism. Because they believe their revelation through Mohammed is later and corrective, they believe that their teachings supersede both Judaism and Christianity.
- **Islam** means "submission," implying submission to the will of Allah. (In Arabic, **Allah** literally means "the god.")
- The followers of Islam are called **Muslims**, which means "ones who submit" to the will of Allah. Muslims believe that Islam is the final, perfect religion of Allah.
- Muslims are generally divided into two categories: Traditional (non-extremists) and Militant (extremist).*

"Our Mahadi (a kind of Muslim Messiah) will appear to dominate the world for Islam if Muslims attack Israel. Our Mahdi will protect Muslims from Western retribution. We have no fear! On with the task of wiping Israel off the face of the planet!"

– Former Iranian President Ahmadinejad*²

¹ Hunt, J. (2008). *Biblical Counseling Keys on Islam: A View behind the Veil* (1). Dallas, TX: Hope For The Heart.

² CNN's "Forum on Truth and Culture" (rf., November 12, 2011) and numerous other media sources.

B. Christianity and Islam (A summary of beliefs):

It's very important to differentiate between "Extremists" and "Non-extremists" Muslims as there is a vast difference between the two groups—theologically and methodically.

	Christianity	Islam
Key Figures(s)	Jesus Christ.	<i>Allah</i> (god) and Mohammad. Muslims also claim a direct bloodline to Abraham through his son, Ishmael. They pray, " <i>There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is His prophet.</i> " Mohammad means, " <i>highly praised.</i> "
Key Documents	The Holy Bible.	The Koran (holy scriptures in Arabic); The Hadith (Muhammad's words and deeds); The Law of Moses; Psalms; and the Injil (the gospel of Jesus)—though included in the Koran, it's considered "corrupt" by present day Moslems.)
Who Is God?	God, viewed in Trinitarian form (e.g. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit—three in one, not three Gods.) He is personal and involved with people. He created the universe out of nothing, is eternal, changeless, holy and perfect.	God (called <i>Allah</i>) is "one." God revealed the Koran to Muhammad through the angel Gabriel. God is a severe judge (though sometimes merciful) and is not depicted as loving. " <i>Allah</i> is one to be feared." FYI: <i>Islam</i> means, "submission to Allah." <i>Muslim</i> means "those who submit."
Who Is Jesus?	Jesus is God, the second person of the Trinity. As God the Son, He has always existed and was never created. He is fully God and fully man (the two natures joined, not mixed). As the second Person of the Trinity, He is coequal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. In becoming man, He was "begotten" through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary; Jesus is the only way to the Father, salvation, and eternal life. He was killed on a cross according to God's plan, as a full sacrifice and payment for our sins. He rose from the dead three days later, spiritually and physically immortal. For the next 40 days He was seen by more than 500 eyewitnesses (e.g. His wounds were touched, He ate meals, etc.) He physically ascended to Heaven. Jesus will come again visibly and physically at the end of the world to establish God's Kingdom.	Jesus is one of 124,000 Muslim prophets sent by <i>Allah</i> to various cultures. Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, and Muhammad are others. Jesus was born of a virgin, but is not the Son of God. Jesus was sinless but was not divine or God himself. He was not crucified and is not a savior but did ascend into Heaven without dying. Islam does believe that Jesus will return to the Earth (with other prophets) to live, then die and then ascend into Heaven having been saved through belief in Mohammad.
Who Is The Holy Spirit?	The Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity. The Holy spirit is a person, not a force or type of energy. Among many tasks, He comforts, grieves, reproves, convicts, guides, teaches, and fills Christians.	Muslim scholars see the angel Gabriel as the Holy Spirit.
How Is One Saved?	An individual is saved by God's grace, not by an individual's good works or efforts. Salvation must be received by faith professed in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Only Jesus Christ can save people. There is "no other name on Earth by which [people] must be saved." People must believe in their hearts that Jesus died for their sins and physically rose again, which is the assurance of forgiveness and resurrection of the body. This is God's loving plan to forgive sinful people.	No man knows for sure in this life where he/she will spend eternity. Only Allah decides who is saved. "Good deeds" may influence Allah's decision. Man attempts to earn his own salvation and pays for his own sins. Humans are basically good, but fallible and need guidance and saving. The balance between good and bad deeds may determine eternal destiny in paradise or hell. God's mercy may tip the balances but it is arbitrary and uncertain. Man becomes "good" by observing the "Five Pillars of Islam." The only way to be sure of going to Heaven is to die in a Holy War (i.e. <i>Jihad</i>)
What Happens After Death?	Christians go to be with Jesus. After death, all people experience the final Judgment. Both saved and lost people will be resurrected (but at different times). Those who are saved live with Jesus in Heaven. Those who are lost suffer the torment of eternal separation from God in Hell. Jesus' bodily resurrection guarantees believers that they, too, will receive new immortal bodies.	Literal resurrection from the dead. Final day of reckoning and rewards. Eternal paradise for those who believe in Islam. Eternal hell for "infidels"—those who reject Islam.
Other Beliefs Or Practices	Group worship, usually in local churches. No secret rites. Believers practice public baptism and Lord's Supper. Other practices include active, voluntary missionary efforts, offering aid to those in need, tithing as a means to facilitate the ministry, and personal relationships with Christ, to name a few. Jesus said His followers would be known for their "love for one another."	Followers of the religion of Islam are called "Muslims." They go to a mosque for prayers, sermons, and counsel. Go to great efforts to spread Islam. There are "five pillars" of Islam: (1) Confess that Allah is the one true God and that Muhammad is his prophet. (2) Pray five times daily facing Mecca, Saudi Arabia. (3) Fast during daylight in the month of Ramadan. (4) Give alms. (5) Make a pilgrimage to Mecca as least once in a lifetime.

The Jews say, "Ezra is a son of God." The Christians say, "The Messiah Jesus is God." Such the sayings in their mouth! They resemble the sayings of the infidels of old! Allah, do battle with them! How are they so misguided! Make war upon such of those to whom the Scriptures of the [Koran] have been given as believe not in Allah. They are infidels ... who believe not in Allah!"

- The Koran, Sura 11:30, 40ff.

C. Statistic of Islam

- ☑ About 20% of the world's population is composed of Muslims.
- ☑ Islam is the world's second largest religion, behind Christianity.
- ☑ In the last 50 years, Islam has grown 500%.
- ☑ Over 65 nations in the world are Islamic.
- ☑ There are now more Muslims in the United States than Episcopalians, Methodists, and/or Jews.
- ☑ There are 4.8 million Muslims in America.
- ☑ There are over 1.6 billion Muslims in the world.
- ☑ Muslims have built over 1,100 mosques in the United States. 80% of these have been built in the last 15 years.
- ☑ Muslims have a "public stated goal" for Islam to be a mainstream American religion, influencing American life and culture.
- ☑ Islam's growth worldwide has been the fastest of any religion in history.



D. The Number of Muslims in the US



The number of Muslims in America has grown from just under 500 thousand in the early 70s to just under 7 million in 2000 to an estimated 16 million by 2010.

E. Six Articles of Beliefs in Islam

1. Allah is the one true god.
2. The Koran is the most holy book.
3. Mohammad is Allah's greatest prophet.
4. There are angels, demons, and a Satan.
5. Allah has predetermined all things by unchangeable decrees.
6. There will be a day of judgment.

There is one unforgivable sin (according to the Koran) called the "shirk," a sin that will send a Moslem to hell forever.
The Shirk is committed when one "confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord."

F. The Five Pillars (e.g. "duties") In Islam

1. **Creedal recitation:** Muslims are expected to publicly recite the *Shahadah* (lit. "to bear witness"). *"There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the Prophet of Allah."*
2. **Prayers five times a day:** Dawn, noon, afternoon, evening and night in a series of postures (standing, kneeling, hands and face on the ground) while facing Mecca (Holy City). (Some Shi'a pray all five prayers but at only three times a day.)
3. **Give Alms:** Muslims are expected to give alms to the Muslim community that amounts to one-fortieth (or $2\frac{1}{2}\%$) of one's income. The offering is supposed to benefit widows, orphans, and the sick or it can be used to further Islam. (Today, alms are taxed in most areas.)
4. **Fasting:** Muslims are expected to fast during the month of *Ramadan* (the ninth month of the Muslim lunar year) during daylight hours only.
5. **Holy Pilgrimage:** Unless there are circumstances beyond one's control (e.g. health or finances), a Muslim is expected to make an official pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in his or her life.

G. The Sects of Islam

There are many sects in Islam. There are two prominent sects (the Sunnis and the Shi'ites) and other smaller sects:

The Sunnis

- * The Sunnis make up 85% of all Muslims and dominate in such countries as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan.
- * Their name is derived from *Sunnah*, which refers to "the trodden path" or "tradition." The Sunnis follow the traditions of Islam.
- * They seek to live their lives according to the exemplary pattern set by Mohammad.
- * Most Sunnis are 'non-extremists.'
- * 85% of the Muslim world is Sunnis. (6%↑ of all Sunnis are extremists.)

The Shi'ites

- * The Shi'ites are predominately in countries like Iran, Iraq, Lebanon and parts of Africa.
- * The Shi'ites broke off from the main body of Muslims (above) in the first century in a dispute over the succession of leadership following Mohammad's death.
- * The Shi'ites believed the successor should come through Mohammad's bloodline. The Sunnis, by contrast, believed Islamic leadership should elect him. The Sunnis got their way. Very Important: This "succession" issue has led to all the conflict within the Muslim world between the two groups. It has also given rise to the extremists groups on both sides of the Sunnis/Shia conflict.]
- * Most Shi'ites are extremists (or at least very "hardline" Muslims).
- * 15% of the Muslim world is Shi'a. (35%↑ of all Shia are extremists.) (NOTE: 7%↑ of all Muslims are extremists.)

al-Gama'a al-islamiyya (Sunni Extremists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Numbers: Unknown * Egypt's largest militant group that seeks to overthrow Egypt's Government. No major attacks since 1998. * The group is sided with Osama bin Laden, including signing his 1998 fatwa calling for attacks on U.S. civilians.
al-Qaeda (Sunni Extremists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Numbers: As many as several thousand, has a global outreach, operates out of Afghanistan. * Run by the world's once most -wanted terrorist, Osama bin Laden--wanted for the attacks on the WTC, D.C., and PA. * Seeks to overthrow all non-Islamic governments and expel Westerners and non-Muslims from Muslim countries. * In 1998, this group said it was the duty of all Muslims to kill U.S. citizens and their allies everywhere (i.e. <i>Jihad</i>).
Hamas (Sunni Extremists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Numbers: Unknown hard-core members but tens of thousands of sympathizers. Operates in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. * Targets Israeli civilians and military facilities. * Uses political and violent means to pursue establishing an Islamic Palestinian State in place of Israel. Friendly with Iran.
Hezbollah (Shia Extremists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Numbers: A few hundred operatives; several thousand supporters. Located in Beirut and southern Lebanon; cells in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. * Targets U.S. and Israeli interests. * This radical group seeks more political power in Lebanon and opposes Middle East peace negotiation. * Is anti-West and anti-Israel, and is closely allied with Iran and Syria, to whom it turns for financing of weapons and other support.
al-Jihad (Sunni Extremists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Numbers: Probably several hundred hard-core members. Operates out of Cairo, with networks in Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sudan and Lebanon. * Targets Egyptian and Israeli officials and U.S. and Egyptian facilities. Seeks to overthrow the Egyptian government. * Was a close partner with bin Laden. They assassinated Egypt's Anwar Sadat in 1981; bombed the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad in 1995; failed in bid to attack U.S. embassy in Albania in 1998.
Taliban (Sunni Extremists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Islamic militant group that ruled most of Afghanistan from 1994 onward. (Some have since fled to Pakistan.) * They are a mix of strict fundamental Islamic interpretation, military might, and terrorism. * While in power, the Taliban enforced one of the strictest interpretations of Sharia law ever seen in the Muslim world, and became notorious internationally for their treatment of women. * Taliban means "student" in Arabic.
al Shabaab (Shia Extremists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Organized in 2008 in Somalia, it used intimidation and violence to undermine the Somalia government. * Reports of amputation of limbs for minor thievery offenses, stoning for suspected adultery, honor killings, torture and killings of those who convert to other religions are numerous. * al Shabaab is a multi-clan entity and receives significant donations worldwide from those who oppose the "soft" Somali government. The donations help support their violence and also support families whose members who have been martyred.
Muslim Brotherhood (Sunni Extremists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Founded in Egypt in 1928, they are officially called "The Society of the Muslim Brothers." * Their credo: "Allah is our objective, the prophet is our leader, the Koran is our law, Jihad is our way, dying in the way of Allah is our highest hope." * They have modeled political activism and Islamic charity work. * The movement officially renounced political violence in 1949 but was implicated in an attempted assassination of an Egyptian president. * The Arab Spring (i.e., democratic, free elections, "a new day") brought it legalization and substantial political power at first but as of 2013, it has suffered severe reversals in numbers and direction. * It is now declared a "terrorist group" by the US government.
Boko Haram (Sunni Extremists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * "Boko Haram" means "Western education is forbidden" * It's official title is "Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati waljihad" meaning, "People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's teachings and Jihad". * Founded in 2002, they set up a mosque and Islamic school. They began military operations in 2009. * They have killed more than 5,000 civilians since beginning terrorist attacks in 2009. * They have abducted more than 2,000 men, women and children and caused 1.5 million people to flee their homes. * They currently control towns and villages in 20,000 square miles of Nigeria and have begun incursions into neighboring Cameroon and other parts of Africa. * Early 2015, Boko Haram pledged "theological and methodological allegiance" to ISIS, now use the ISIS flag as their own and are essentially the "African Version of ISIS."
ISIS (Sunni Extremists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS or ISIL or IS) was founded in 2006. * The group of Sunni extremists was formed in response to Iraq's Shiite-dominated government after the fall of the Hussein government. (The U.S. government helped put the Shi'ite government into power in Iraq.) * The group is currently led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (who has no love for the West). He believes the West has been oppressing Islam since the Crusades. * Early on, ISIS was associated with al-Qaeda but the two groups have split apart now. Some smaller entities of each have even declared "jihad" against one another.) * It's initial goal was to free Sunnis from prison and impose its puritanical version of Islam over every person in Iraq, then Syria and now the world. * In 1923, Turkey abolished the office of the "caliphate" which has upset many Muslims. ISIS seeks to reestablish the "caliph" system and bring Islam's "rightful leader back into power." * They are supporters of Sharia Law (discussed later). * When Baghdadi, ISIS's current leader, was released from US detention in 2009, he told his American captors, "I'll see you in New York."

Primary Sources: The Koran (pub. Ballantine Books); Introduction to the Study of THE HOLY KORAN (by Maulana Muhammad 'Ali); Time Magazine, "The Official Roll Call of Terror" (Article p. 38, Oct. 1, 2001); Understanding Sectarian Groups in America (by George W. Braswell); ISLAM "What You Need To Know" (Pamphlet by Ron Rhodes); World Magazine, "Islam and Terrorism" (articles pp. 22-24, 26, 28-29); So What's the Difference? (by Frita Ridenour); A Biblical Perspective on Death, Terrorism and the Middle East" (Sermon by John MacArthur, Jr.) and God's Holy Word

H. Important Observations and Understandings about Islam

1. Americans *make judgments* based on “right v. wrong” while Muslims (especially, *extremist Muslims*) operate from a paradigm of “passion v. passivity”.
2. “Islam” comes from the Arabic root denoting submissions. This “submission” is expressed through works that are many times motivated by fear (i.e., “the sword”).
3. Understanding *Sharia Law*: In *The Spirit of Islamic Law*, Professor Bernard G. Weiss states "In archaic Arabic, the term shari'a means 'path to the water hole.' When we consider the importance of a well-trodden path to a source of water for man and beast in the arid desert environment, we can readily appreciate why this term in Muslim usage should have become a metaphor for a whole way of life ordained by God."³ Sharia Law is a long, diverse, complicated intellectual tradition that details the duties of Muslims and provides a standard by which actions and motivations are judged. This Muslim or Islamic law encompasses both civil and criminal justice as well as regulating individual conduct both personal and moral. The custom-based body of law is based on the Koran and the religion of Islam. Because, by definition, Muslim states are theocracies, religious texts are law; the latter distinguished by Islam Muslims in their application, as *Sharia* or *Sharia Law*. *Sharia* [Arabic: شريعة] means “Way” or “Path”.
(See a more detailed discussion about Sharia Law on page 10 of this Pastor’s Guide.)
4. As with all other religions, the issue of apologetics (who is right?) all boils down to documentation—*who’s bible is right?*
5. Christians and Muslims often attach different meanings to the same words (e.g., sin, prayer, faith, works, etc.). Be sure that the definitions are understood.
6. In sharing your faith, remember that Muslims are not assured of “salvation”. They certainly do not view “god” as a personal, loving deity. Emphasize God’s attributes of love, passion, and forgiveness when exposing Muslims to Christ. The initial goal of witnessing to anyone of a different religion is to plant “appropriate seed doubts” in their hearts about their own religion.
7. Islam is not simply a religious system—it is political, social, and economic, as well.
8. Though hyper-extremists branches of Islam are certainly a threat to Americans (and the non-Islamic world), most Muslims should be viewed as simply a challenge. Be prayerful, educated, and concerned about your Muslim neighbor. The fact that so many are moving into America may be God’s plan for reaching them for Christ.
9. A Muslim will bring to any relationship the same “misconceptions” Christians may bring. Never forget that your Muslim friend is an individual who is loved and wanted by God. No cultural, social, or communication profile can substitute for your firsthand experience of friendship. Let your goal be a genuine friendship that may very well open the door for sharing the good news of Christ Jesus.
10. If you seek to be effective in sharing your Christian faith with Muslims, please begin now to read, study, and understand everything you can about Islam—***Holy God will bless it!***

This Minaret Tower is located in Ammon, Jordan. ↗

The Minaret Tower usually has either a trumpet player or more commonly, a loud speaker system that play the typical “call to prayer” five times a days for Muslims.

³Bernard G. Weiss, *The Spirit of Islamic Law*. Alta Mira Press, 1998, pg. 17.



I. The Burka

The Burka is also called the “Hijab”. Islam has no fixed uniform of dress for Muslim women. But there are two requirements, which come from the Koran and hadith (verified sayings of the Prophet Muhammad):

First, a woman’s body should be covered such that only her face, hands, and feet are revealed. Secondly, the clothing must be loose enough so that the shape of a woman’s body is not visible. Other parameters (as stated in hadiths) are that women shouldn’t dress so as to look like men, women shouldn’t dress in a way similar to those who don’t believe in God, and the clothing should be modest, neither ragged nor overly fancy.

It is important to remember that Islam teaches Muslims that the concept of modest dress doesn’t just mean covering the body, but it also has to do with behaviors, manners, speech, and public appearance. Modesty is a total package, with dress being one part of it. The word “hijab” comes from the Arabic “hajaba,” which means to conceal or hide from view. In general terms, it refers to Islamic modest dressing for women. But it has come to signify the headscarf, which is the covering many Muslim women use to hide their hair, neck, and often bosom. Hijab and modest dressing is mandated in the Koran, though some Muslims argue that it is not a strict requirement but merely a strong suggestion (that is open to individual interpretation). A few passages in the Koran refer to an Islamic dress code:

“Say to the believing man that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that will make for greater purity for them; and Allah is well acquainted with all that they do. And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; and that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what must ordinarily appear thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty except to their husbands, their

fathers, their husbands' fathers, their sons, their husbands' sons, their brothers or their brothers' sons, or their sisters' sons, or their women, or the slaves whom their right hands possess, or male servants free of physical needs, or small children who have no sense of the shame of sex; and that they should not strike their feet in order to draw attention to their hidden ornaments ...” (Koran 24:30-31) This verse highlights three points: That a woman shouldn’t show her beauty except when faced with uncontrolled factors, like the wind blowing her clothes; that the headscarf should cover the hair, neck, and the bosom; and that women need not cover up in front of certain men (husbands, fathers, sons, etc.).⁴



J. Mecca, Saudi Arabia

As the birthplace of Muhammad and a site of the composition of the Koran, Mecca is regarded as the holiest city in the religion of Islam and a pilgrimage to it known as the Hajj is obligatory upon all able Muslims. The Hijaz was long ruled by Muhammad's descendants, the sharifs, either as independent rulers or as vassals to larger empires. It was absorbed into Saudi Arabia in 1925. In its modern period, Mecca has seen tremendous expansion in size and infrastructure. Because of this Mecca has lost many thousand years old buildings and archaeological sites. Today, more than 13 million Muslims visit Mecca annually, including several million during the few days of the Hajj. As a result, Mecca has become one of the most

cosmopolitan and diverse cities in the Muslim world, although non-Muslims remain prohibited from entering the city. The full official name is **Makkat al-Mukarramah** (المكة المكرمة), pronounced *mak-kar al-mu-kar-ra-ma*), which means “Mecca the Honored”, but is also loosely translated as “The Holy City of Mecca”.



← “The Ka’ba” (lit., The Holy Mosque), located in Mecca.

The large, black building in the center of the picture is actually a carpet draped “room” with historical Islamic artifacts inside.

⁴ Cf., <http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Islam/Galleries/Why-the-ijab.aspx?p=3#ixzz1ovhTUyxD>

K. Misconceptions about Islam

Misconception #1 – Muslims worship Mohammed.

Mohammed, though very significant to Muslims, was merely a messenger. He is no savior or deity. In fact, it would be blasphemous for a Muslim to worship him instead of or in addition to Allah.

Misconception #2 – Jesus is unknown to Muslims.

Jesus is a well-known figure to Muslims. He is mentioned over 100 times in the Koran—as are other biblical figures. Jesus is thought highly but He is not “God.” (At the end of the Koran, the Jesus of the Koran bows down to confess that Allah is indeed God.

Misconception #3 – The Koran is a book only about killing and war.

60% of the Koran has its origin in the Bible (of Christianity). While there are many very disturbing statements about how to treat non-Muslims, some of our “bible stories” are in the Koran. The Koran is generally divided into three sections. (See additional details about this on page 9.)

Misconception #4 – All followers of Islam are ultimately jihadist and working to overthrow all democratic governments in order to install Sharia Law worldwide.

There are nearly 1.7 billion Muslims worldwide, and the majority of that population wants precisely what Americans desire and even fight for: freedom from oppression, a peaceful society to raise their families, and an end to systems that teach religious intolerance.

Misconception #5 – All followers of Islam read and speak Arabic. (The Koran is written in Arabic.)

Of those who are Islamic, only a small percentage actually read and speak Arabic. It is the only “official” language of the Koran. Any “devout Muslim” would be expected to read the Koran in the original Arabic. If one cannot read Arabic, they must accept the reading(s) and interpretation(s) of the imam or Islamic cleric. (This issue alone leaves most Muslims without a good working knowledge of the Koran and even most teachings of Islam.)



A Message Signed with Blood to the Nation of the Cross

On Sunday, February 15, 2015, Islamic militants in Libya claiming loyalty to ISIS released a video depicting the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians. Titled "A Message Signed with Blood to the Nation of the Cross," the video shows a line of men dressed in orange jumpsuits, forced to their knees. On their knees, they were given the chance to recant of their faith and join the fight with ISIS. When the men refuse, the ISIS spokesman proclaims:

"All crusaders: safety for you will be only wishes, especially if you are fighting us all together. Therefore we will fight you all together...The sea you have hidden Sheikh Osama bin Laden's body in, we swear to Allah we will mix it with your blood."

These 21 men were more than victims of a tragic atrocity, rather they were innocent by-standers singled out because of their Christian beliefs.

L. Jesus and Islam

Just a casual look at the account of Jesus (*Isa*) from the Koran and the account of Jesus from the Bible quickly confirms that they cannot be the same. For example, Muslims do not see the need for a savior because their salvation comes from doing good deeds. Christians, however, say that while living a good, moral life is very beneficial, good deeds can never take away sin, and in reality, individuals need to give control of their lives to Jesus, who died on the cross to pay the penalty for their sins.

BIBLE

- Jesus **is** the Son of God.

"The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.'" (Luke 1:35)

- Jesus **is** the incarnation of God in human flesh.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1, 14)

- Jesus **is** the atoning sacrifice.

"We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Hebrews 10:10)

- Jesus **is** the Savior.

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

- Jesus **is** the intermediary between God and humanity.

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5)

KORAN* AND HADITH**

- Jesus **is not** the Son of God.

"Christians call Christ the son of God. That is a saying from their mouth; (in this) they but imitate what the Unbelievers of old used to say. Allah's curse be on them: how they are deluded away from the Truth!" (Surah 9:30)
(See Surah 19:88, 92.)

- Jesus **is not** the incarnation of God in human flesh.

"In blasphemy indeed are those that say that Allah is Christ, the son of Mary." (Surah 5:17)

- Jesus **is not** the atoning sacrifice.

"No bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another." (Surah 39:7)

- Jesus **is not** the Savior—people are saved by doing good deeds.

"Then those whose balance (of good deeds) is heavy—they will attain salvation: But those whose balance is light, will be those who have lost their souls; in Hell will they abide." (Surah 23:102–103)

- Jesus **is not** the intermediary between God and humanity—Muhammad is.

"The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, 'Some people will be taken out of the Fire through the intercession of Muhammad (peace be upon him): they will enter Paradise....'" (Imran ibn Husayn SAHIH AL-BUKHARI)⁵

*The **Koran** is the official scripture of the Islamic Faith.

The **Hadith is a collection of oral teachings, now written down, from the Prophet Muhammad.



The Crescent and Star are not specifically "Islamic" but are specifically Arabic symbols used in the Arabic and Islamic architecture. →

⁵ Hunt, J. (2008). *Biblical Counseling Keys on Islam: A View Behind The Veil* (14–15). Dallas, TX: Hope For The Heart.

M. Detailed Islamic Topics

Interpretations of the Koran — Muhammad conveyed the Koran in three stages and were written at three different stages in Muhammad's life. **(1) Conciliatory Verses** - The first, given while he was living in his hometown of Mecca from A.D. 610 to 622, is conciliatory in nature. It includes statements such as "let there be no compulsion in religion" (2:256) and "to you be your Way, and to me mine" (109:6). **(2) Defending Verses** - The second, given after he moved his followers to Medina and established the first Islamic community (known as the ummah), requires Muslims to defend Islam. It includes statements such as "fight in the cause of God those who fight you, but do not transgress limits" (2:190). **(3) The Sword Verses** - Tragically, Muhammad authored a third section of the Koran before he died, authorizing aggression against non-Muslims. These so-called "sword verses" contain such statements as "fight and slay the pagans wherever ye find them. . . . Fight those who believe not in God" (9:5, 29). There is a seismic intellectual divide in Islam today over the way these sections should be interpreted. Moderate Muslims believe the later sections should be understood in light of the earlier texts. They view the sword verses as we interpret God's command to kill the Canaanites—tragically necessary for establishing the people of God, but not binding on us today. ISIS and similar groups believe just the opposite. They follow the doctrine of "abrogation," which teaches that the later revelations supersede the earlier. Thus they believe they are obeying God when they "strive hard against the unbelievers" (9:73) and "fight those who believe not in Allah" (9:29). They take literally the command that non-Muslims "should be murdered or crucified or their hands and their feet should be cut off" (5:33). They believe women captured in battle can be raped or made into sex slaves: "All married women are forbidden unto you save those captives whom your right hand possess" (4:24).

Jihad – "Jihad" is Arabic for "struggle" and is typically understood as a "holy war." The word can be used to describe a Muslim's struggle to live righteously and to please Allah. It can also be employed as a call to holy war against the enemies of Islam. From its inception, Islam has been a warrior faith. Muhammad and his first followers engaged in numerous armed conflicts, beginning with their enemies in Mecca, and extended Islam across the Arab peninsula largely through military actions. The spread of Islam in its first century was primarily a military expansion.

Fighting and dying for Islam is still considered a sacred duty by most Muslims. When asked "What is the best deed?" Muhammad replied, "To believe in Allah and to fight for His Cause" (Sahih Buhari 3.46.694; Sahih Muslim 1:149). Dying in a jihad is the only guarantee of salvation in Islam: "Allah's Apostle said, 'Allah guarantees him who strives in His Cause and whose motivation for going out is nothing but Jihad in His Cause and belief in His Word, that He will admit him into Paradise (if martyred) or bring him back to his dwelling place, whence he has come out, with what he gains of reward and booty'" (Sahih Bukhari, 4:53:352).

The Koran is explicit about rewards accorded those who die for Islam: "Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. Nay, they live, finding their sustenance in the Presence of their Lord. They rejoice in the Bounty provided by God: and with regard to those left behind, who have not yet joined them (in their bliss), the (Martyrs) glory in the fact that on them is no fear, nor have they (cause to) grieve. They glory in the Grace and the Bounty from God, and in the fact that God suffereth not the reward of the Faithful to be lost (in the least)" (3:169-71).

One much-debated aspect of reward for martyrs concerns virgins in paradise. The Koran promises that God will "join them to Companions, with beautiful big and lustrous eyes" (52:20). These will be maidens who are "chaste, restraining their glances, whom no man or Jinn before them has touched" (55:56). God has "made them virgin pure (and undefiled)—beloved (by nature) equal in age—for the Companions of the Right Hand" (56:36-38).

Their number is fixed at 72 in the hadith: "The Prophet Muhammad was heard saying: 'The smallest reward for the people of Paradise is an abode where there are 80,000 servants and 72 wives, over which stands a dome decorated with pearls, aquamarine, and ruby, as wide as the distance from Al-Jabiyyah [a Damascus suburb] to Sana'a [Yemen]'" (Sunan At-Tirmidhi, 4:21:2687).

Some Muslim scholars view these "virgins" or "companions" as "symbols of purity, grace, beauty, innocence, truth and sympathy." It has been debated whether these "companions" are given to all Muslim males, or only to martyrs. But there is no doubt that the "72 virgins" have been used through Islamic history as an enticement to martyrdom.

Dying for Islam is the highest honor and glory – "The Prophet said, 'Nobody who dies and finds good from Allah (in the Hereafter) would wish to come back to this world even if he were given the whole world and whatever is in it, except the martyr who, on seeing the superiority of martyrdom, would like to come back to the world and get killed again (in Allah's Cause)'" (Sahih Bukhari, 4:52:53). "I heard the Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) say:... 'By the Being in Whose Hand is my life, I love that I should be killed in the way of Allah; then I should be brought back to life and be killed again in His way'" (Sahih Muslim, 20:4631).

"The Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) said: 'One who died but did not fight in the way of Allah nor did he express any desire (or determination) for Jihad died the death of a hypocrite'" (Sahih Muslim, 20:4696). It should be noted that suicide was prohibited by Muhammad: "If someone commits suicide with anything in this world, he will be tortured with that very thing on the Day of Resurrection" (Sahih Bukhari 8.73.73). But many Muslim scholars make a distinction between a person who kills himself and one who fights for Islam while knowing that he will die as a result. As a result radical Muslims do not consider those who kill themselves to kill infidels "suicide bombers." Rather, they view them as martyrs to Islam.

The Sword Verses – The so-called **Sword Verse** (*ayat as-sayf*) is the fifth verse of the ninth sura (*Surat at-Tawbah*) of the Koran. It is a widely-cited Koranic call to violence against "pagans" ("idolators", *mushrikun*), obliging Muslims to "fight and slay the Pagans wherever ye find them" (*fa-uq'tulū l-mush'rikīna haythu wajadtumūhum* فَاَقْتُلُوا الْمُشْرِكِينَ وَجَدْتُمُوهُمْ حَيْثُ الْمَشْرِكِينَ; trans. Abdullah Yusuf Ali).

This verse is often cited to justify attacks of Muslims on non-Muslims both in classical exegesis and in contemporary jihadism,⁶ while contemporary Muslim scholars tend to interpret the call to violence as limited to self-defense.¹²¹ The verse being from a Medinan sura, it has been of particular interest in the literature on abrogation. Although the name "sword-verse" (*ayat as-saif*) is not Koranic and has no support in the major Hadith, it is on record comparatively early, used the literature concerned with abrogation from the 10th century. Thus, Abu Jafar an-Nahhas (d. 949) dedicates a chapter to this verse, compiling a total of 113 Koranic verses which are "abrogated" (cancelled) by it.⁷

FYI: Here is the Foundational Text of ISIS⁸

Arabic: الصَّلَاةَ وَأَقَامُوا تَابُوا مَرْصِدٍ فَإِنْ كُلَّ لَهُمْ وَأَفْعَدُوا وَاحْصُرُوهُمْ وَجَدْتُمُوهُمْ وَخُذُوهُمْ حَيْثُ الْمُشْرِكِينَ الْاَشْهُرُ اَنْسَلَخَ اِذَا رَجِمْ رَغْفُو الله سَيِّلُهُمْ اِنَّ الزَّكَاةَ فُكُلُوا وَاَتُوا
Koran 9:5 (from the Sword Verses section)

Transliteration: *fa-idhā insalakha l-ashhuru l-hurumu fa-uq'tulū l-mush'rikīna haythu wajadtumūhum wakhudhūhum wa-uh'surūhum wa-uq'udū lahum kulla maršadin fa-in tābū wa-aqāmū l-salata waātawū l-zakata fakhallū sabīlahum inna llāha ghafūrun raḥīmūn.*

Marmaduke Pickthall, The Meaning of the Glorious Koran (1930) - "Then, when the sacred months have passed, slay the idolaters wherever ye find them, and take them (captive), and besiege them, and prepare for them each ambush. But if they repent and establish worship and pay the poor-due, then leave their way free. Lo! Allah is Forgiving, Merciful"

Abdullah Yusuf Ali, The Holy Koran (1934) - "But when the forbidden months are past, then fight and slay the Pagans wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem (of war); but if they repent, and establish regular prayers and practice regular charity, then open the way for them: for Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful."

Other Verses from the Koran and the Hadith

Significant Verses from the Koran (with some context and explanation noted):

Koran 8:12, which says, "When your Lord revealed to the angels: I am with you, therefore make firm those who believe. I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. **Therefore strike off their heads** and strike off every fingertip of them." Koran 2:191-192, which says, "And kill them wherever you find them, and turn them out from where they have turned you out. And Al-Fitnah [disbelief or unrest] is worse than killing...but if they desist, then lo! Allah is forgiving and merciful. **And fight them until there is no more Fitnah** [disbelief and worshipping of others along with Allah] and worship is for Allah alone. But if they cease, let there be no transgression except against Az-Zalimun (the polytheists, and wrong-doers, etc.)"

⁶ Wilson, Aaron N.R. *Challenges of the progressive Muslim*. [Bloomington, IN]: Xlibris Corp. p. 31. ISBN 1462873383.

⁷ Carl Brockelmann: *Geschichte der Arabischen Litteratur*. 2nd ed. Brill. Leiden 1943. vol. 1, p. 138. فوالسي بأية القرآن في المنسوخ بيان Abu Jafar an-Nahhas, 2nd ed., Beirut 1996, p. 267; Hibatallah ibn Salāma ibn Nasr (d. 1019) already counts 124 verses abrogated by the sword-verse. Fuat Sezgin: *Geschichte des arabischen Schrifttums*. Brill. Leiden. 1967. vol. 1, pp. 47f.; Abū 'Ubaid al-Qāsim ibn Sallām's *Kitāb al-nāsikh wa-l-mansūkh*. ed. John Burton. Cambridge 1987. p. 131.

⁸ Ali, Maulana Muhammad (2011). *The Religion of Islam*. ISBN 1934271187.

Koran 2:216, which says, *"Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knoweth, and ye know not."*

Koran 3:151, which says, *"Soon shall We cast terror into the hearts of the Unbelievers, for that they joined companions with Allah, for which He had sent no authority".*

Koran 8:67, which says, *"It is not for a Prophet that he should have prisoners of war until he had made a great slaughter in the land..."*

Koran 8:65, which says, *"O Prophet, exhort the believers to fight..."*

Koran 9:30, which says, *"And the Jews say: Ezra is the son of Allah; and the Christians say: The Messiah is the son of Allah; these are the words of their mouths; they imitate the saying of those who disbelieved before; may Allah destroy them; how they are turned away!"*

Koran 9:111, which says, *"Allah hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs (in return) is the garden (of Paradise): they fight in His cause, and slay and are slain: a promise binding on Him in truth, through the Law, the Gospel, and the Koran: and who is more faithful to his covenant than Allah? then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded: that is the achievement supreme."*

Koran 17:16, which says, *"And when We wish to destroy a town, We send Our commandment to the people of it who lead easy lives, but they transgress therein; thus the word proves true against it, so We destroy it with utter destruction."*

Honor Killing's, cf., Koran 18:65-81 - This parable lays the theological groundwork for honor killings, in which a family member is murdered because they brought shame to the family, either through apostasy or perceived moral indiscretion. The story (which is not found in any Jewish or Christian source) tells of Moses encountering a man with "special knowledge" who does things which don't seem to make sense on the surface, but are then justified according to later explanation. One such action is to murder a youth for no apparent reason (74). However, the wise man later explains that it was feared that the boy would "grieve" his parents by "disobedience and ingratitude." He was killed so that Allah could provide them a 'better' son. (Note: This is one reason why honor killing is sanctioned by Sharia. Reliance of the Traveler (Umdat al-Saliq) says that punishment for murder is not applicable when a parent or grandparent kills their offspring (o.1.1-2).)

Koran 61:4, which says, *"Surely Allah loves those who fight in His way"* This is followed by (61:9): *"He it is who has sent His Messenger (Mohammed) with guidance and the religion of truth (Islam) to make it victorious over all religions even though the infidels may resist."* (See next verse, below). Infidels who resist Islamic rule are to be fought.

Koran 61:10-21, which says, *"O You who believe! Shall I guide you to a commerce that will save you from a painful torment. That you believe in Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad), and that you strive hard and fight in the Cause of Allah with your wealth and your lives, that will be better for you, if you but know! (If you do so) He will forgive you your sins, and admit you into Gardens under which rivers flow, and pleasant dwelling in Gardens of 'Adn - Eternity ['Adn (Edn) Paradise], that is indeed the great success."* This verse refers to physical battle in order to make Islam victorious over other religions (see above). It uses the Arabic word, Jihad.

Verses from the Hadith (with some context and explanation noted):

Bukhari (52:177) - Allah's Apostle said, *"The Hour will not be established until you fight with the Jews, and the stone behind which a Jew will be hiding will say. "O Muslim! There is a Jew hiding behind me, so kill him."*

Bukhari (52:256) - The Prophet... was asked whether it was permissible to attack the pagan warriors at night with the probability of exposing their women and children to danger. The Prophet replied, *"They (i.e. women and children) are from them (i.e. pagans)." In this command, Muhammad establishes that it is permissible to kill non-combatants in the process of killing a perceived enemy. This provides justification for the many Islamic terror bombings.*

Bukhari (52:65) - *The Prophet said, 'He who fights that Allah's Word, Islam, should be superior, fights in Allah's Cause. Muhammad's words are the basis for offensive Jihad - spreading Islam by force. This is how it was understood by his companions, and by the terrorists of today.*

Bukhari (52:220) - Allah's Apostle said... ***'I have been made victorious with terror'***

Abu Dawud (14:2526) - *The Prophet (peace_be_upon_him) said: Three things are the roots of faith: to refrain from (killing) a person who utters, "There is no god but Allah" and not to declare him unbeliever whatever sin he commits, and not to*

excommunicate him from Islam for his any action; and jihad will be performed continuously since the day Allah sent me as a prophet until the day the last member of my community will fight with the Dajjal (Antichrist)

Abu Dawud (14:2527) - The Prophet said: Striving in the path of Allah (jihad) is incumbent on you along with every ruler, whether he is pious or impious

Muslim (1:33) - The Messenger of Allah said: **I have been commanded to fight against people till they testify that there is no god but Allah, that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah**

Bukhari (8:387) - Allah's Apostle said, "I have been ordered to fight the people till they say: 'None has the right to be worshipped but Allah'. And if they say so, pray like our prayers, **face our Qibla and slaughter as we slaughter, then their blood and property will be sacred to us and we will not interfere with them except legally.**"

Muslim (1:30) - "The Messenger of Allah said: I have **been commanded to fight against people so long as they do not declare that there is no god but Allah.**"

Bukhari (52:73) - "Allah's Apostle said, 'Know that Paradise is under the shades of swords'."

Bukhari (11:626) - [Muhammad said:] "I decided to order a man to lead the prayer and then **take a flame to burn all those, who had not left their houses for the prayer, burning them alive inside their homes.**"

Muslim (1:149) - "Abu Dharr reported: I said: Messenger of Allah, which of the deeds is the best? He (the Holy Prophet) replied: **Belief in Allah and Jihad in His cause...**"

Muslim (20:4645) - "...He (the Messenger of Allah) did that and said: There is another act which elevates the position of a man in Paradise to a grade one hundred (higher), and the elevation between one grade and the other is equal to the height of the heaven from the earth. He (Abu Sa'id) said: What is that act? He replied: **Jihad in the way of Allah! Jihad in the way of Allah!**"

Muslim (20:4696) - "the Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) said: 'One who died but did not fight in the way of Allah nor did he express any desire (or determination) for Jihad died the death of a hypocrite.'"

Muslim (19:4321-4323) - Three separate hadith in which Muhammad shrugs over the news that innocent children were killed in a raid by his men against unbelievers. His response: "They are of them (meaning the enemy)."

Muslim (19:4294) - "When the Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) appointed anyone as leader of an army or detachment he would especially exhort him... He would say: **Fight in the name of Allah and in the way of Allah. Fight against those who disbelieve in Allah. Make a holy war... When you meet your enemies who are polytheists, invite them to three courses of action. If they respond to any one of these, you also accept it and withhold yourself from doing them any harm. Invite them to (accept) Islam; if they respond to you, accept it from them and desist from fighting against them... If they refuse to accept Islam, demand from them the Jizya. If they agree to pay, accept it from them and hold off your hands. If they refuse to pay the tax, seek Allah's help and fight them.**"

Bukhari 1:35 "The person who participates in (Holy Battles) in Allah's cause and nothing compels him do so except belief in Allah and His Apostle, will be recompensed by Allah either with a reward, or booty (if he survives) or **will be admitted to Paradise (if he is killed).**"

Tabari 7:97 The morning after the murder of Ashraf, the Prophet declared, **"Kill any Jew who falls under your power."** Ashraf was a poet, killed by Muhammad's men because he insulted Islam. Here, Muhammad widens the scope of his orders to kill. An innocent Jewish businessman was then slain by his Muslim partner, merely for being non-Muslim.

Tabari 9:69 **"Killing Unbelievers is a small matter to us"** The words of Muhammad, prophet of Islam.

Tabari 17:187 **"By God, our religion (din) from which we have departed is better and more correct than that which these people follow. Their religion does not stop them from shedding blood, terrifying the roads, and seizing properties.' And they returned to their former religion."** The words of a group of Christians who had converted to Islam, but realized their error after being shocked by the violence and looting committed in the name of Allah. The price of their decision to return to a religion of peace was that the men were beheaded and the woman and children enslaved by the caliph Ali.

Ibn Ishaq/Hisham 484: - "Allah said, 'A prophet must slaughter before collecting captives. A slaughtered enemy is driven from the land. Muhammad, you craved the desires of this world, its goods and the ransom captives would bring. But Allah desires killing them to manifest the religion.'"

Ibn Ishaq/Hisham 990: - Lest anyone think that cutting off someone's head while screaming 'Allah Akbar!' is a modern creation, here is an account of that very practice under Muhammad, who seems to approve.

Ibn Ishaq/Hisham 992: - "Fight everyone in the way of Allah and kill those who disbelieve in Allah." Muhammad's instructions to his men prior to a military raid.

Saifur Rahman, The Sealed Nectar p.227-228 - *"Embrace Islam... If you two accept Islam, you will remain in command of your country; but if you refuse my Call, you've got to remember that all of your possessions are perishable. My horsemen will appropriate your land, and my Prophethood will assume preponderance over your kingship."* One of several letters from Muhammad to rulers of other countries. The significance is that the recipients were not making war or threatening Muslims. Their subsequent defeat and subjugation by Muhammad's armies was justified merely on the basis of their unbelief.

Top 10 Controversial Verses in the Koran

As the title of this section suggests, this section lists the top 10 most controversial verses found within the Koran. This page is simply an overview, it does not deal with the apologetic objections that have been brought forth in recent times by a minority number of Western apologists. Articles dealing with any such objections are linked below their corresponding verses.

10. "Beat Them"

This verse advises men to beat their wives if they don't obey them:

"Men are the maintainers of women because Allah has made some of them to excel others and because they spend out of their property; the good women are therefore obedient, guarding the unseen as Allah has guarded; and (as to) those on whose part you fear desertion, admonish them, and leave them alone in the sleeping-places and beat them; then if they obey you, do not seek a way against them; surely Allah is High, Great."

Koran 4:34

9. "Cut off their hands"

This verse orders an irreversible punishment for thieves, taking away their chance to [rehabilitate](#), improve as human beings and become a productive member of society later on. As an example, Terrence Barkley was arrested on his 16th birthday for stealing cars, but that resulted in him getting out of gangs and into college to study criminal justice at the University of Central Missouri.^[1] If Terrence's hands and feet had been cut off according to Islamic laws, none of this would have been possible.

As for the thief, both male and female, cut off their hands. It is the reward of their own deeds, an exemplary punishment from Allah. Allah is Mighty, Wise."

Koran 5:38

Sura 5:33 orders the cutting off of the hands and feet of those who wage war against Allah and his Messenger.

The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger, and strive with might and main for mischief through the land is: execution, or crucifixion, or the 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 is theirs in the Hereafter;

Koran 5:33

8. A man may marry four wives

This verse allows a man to marry up to four wives:

If ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal justly with the orphans, Marry women of your choice, Two or three or four; but if ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal justly (with them), then only one, or (a captive) that your right hands possess, that will be more suitable, to prevent you from doing injustice."

Koran 4:3

7. A man can marry a girl who hasn't reached puberty

This highly controversial Koranic verse prescribes the waiting period of a female who has not yet reached puberty thereby permitting men to have sex with girls who have not reached puberty:

"Such of your women as have passed the age of monthly courses, for them the prescribed period, if ye have any doubts, is three months, and for those who have no courses (it is the same): for those who carry (life within their wombs), their period is until they deliver their burdens: and for those who fear Allah, He will make their path easy."

Koran 65:4

6. A man can have sex with prisoners of war

This verse allows men to have sex with women who are prisoners of war:

"O Prophet! We have made lawful to thee thy wives to whom thou hast paid their dowers; and those whom thy right hand possesses out of the prisoners of war whom Allah has assigned to thee; and daughters of thy paternal uncles and aunts, and daughters of thy maternal uncles and aunts, who migrated (from Makka) with thee; and any believing woman who dedicates her soul to the Prophet if the Prophet wishes to wed her;- this only for thee, and not for the Believers (at large); We know what We have appointed for them as to their wives and the captives whom their right hands possess;- in order that there should be no difficulty for thee. And Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."

Koran 33:50

5. Turned into Apes

People who broke the Sabbath were turned into apes:

"And you know well the story of those among you who broke Sabbath. We said to them: "Be apes—despised and hated by all. Thus We made their end a warning to the people of their time and succeeding generation, and an admonition for God-fearing people."

Koran 2:65

4. A man may marry the wife of his adopted son

Muhammad married Zaynab, the wife of his adopted son. This verse suggests that the adopter may marry the wife of his adopted son and vice-versa:

"Allah has not made for any man two hearts within him; nor has He made your wives whose backs you liken to the backs of your mothers as your mothers, nor has He made those whom you assert to be your sons your real sons; these are the words of your mouths; and Allah speaks the truth and He guides to the way."

Koran 33:4

3. A woman's witness testimony is half of that of a man's

This verse says the witness testimony of one man is equivalent to the witness testimony of two women:

"O you who believe! when you deal with each other in contracting a debt for a fixed time, then write it down; and let a scribe write it down between you with fairness; and the scribe should not refuse to write as Allah has taught him, so he should write; and let him who owes the debt dictate, and he should be careful of (his duty to) Allah, his Lord, and not diminish anything from it; but if he who owes the debt is unsound in understanding, or weak, or (if) he is not able to dictate himself, let his guardian dictate with fairness; and call in to witness from among your men two witnesses; but if there are not two men, then one man and two women from among those whom you choose to be witnesses, so that if one of the two errs, the second of the two may remind the other; and the witnesses should not refuse when they are summoned; and be not averse to writing it (whether it is) small or large, with the time of its falling due; this is more equitable in the sight of Allah and assures greater accuracy in testimony, and the nearest (way) that you may not entertain doubts (afterwards), except when it is ready merchandise which you give and take among yourselves from hand to hand, then there is no blame on you in not writing it down; and have witnesses when you barter with one another, and let no harm be done to the scribe or to the witness; and if you do (it) then surely it will be a transgression in you, and be careful of (your duty) to Allah, Allah teaches you, and Allah knows all things."

Koran 2:282

2. A woman inherits half of what a man inherits

This verse says that a woman inherits half of what a man inherits:

"Allah enjoins you concerning your children: The male shall have the equal of the portion of two females; then if they are more than two females, they shall have two-thirds of what the deceased has left, and if there is one, she shall have the half; and as for his parents, each of them shall have the sixth of what he has left if he has a child, but if he has no child and (only) his two parents inherit him, then his mother shall have the third; but if he has brothers, then his mother shall have the sixth after (the payment of) a bequest he may have bequeathed or a debt; your parents and your children, you know not which of them is the nearer to you in usefulness; this is an ordinance from Allah: Surely Allah is Knowing, Wise."

Koran 4:11

1. Fight non-Muslims

This widely known verse orders Muslims to fight non-Muslims simply because they do not believe in the same God that Muslims do:

"Fight those who do not believe in Allah, nor in the latter day, nor do they prohibit what Allah and His Messenger have prohibited, nor follow the religion of truth, out of those who have been given the Book, until they pay the tax in acknowledgment of superiority and they are in a state of subjection."

Koran 9:29

This is just one of the verses in the Koran which encourages Islamic terrorism. This verse, together with verse 9:5 (the "Verse of the Sword"), has abrogated 122 peaceful verses.

N. Muslims Extremists view the West as "Crusaders" - The Crusades (1095-1291) are still remembered with bitterness and anger as an example of Western aggression. Bin Laden often refers to Americans as "Crusaders," even though our nation did not exist for five centuries after the last Crusaders left the Middle East. The American invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq following 9-11 is often cited as Exhibit A of our crusading assault on the Muslim world.

You may remember President Bush's statement to reporters on September 16, 2001: "This crusade, this war on terrorism, is going to take a while." Of course, the president did not intend any identification between our military response to 9-11 and the medieval Crusades, but bin Laden and others were quick to take his remarks out of context. Since Baghdad was the seat of the Muslim caliphate from AD 750 to 1261, the Western invasion and occupation of this city is especially offensive to many Muslims. When American troops were based in Saudi Arabia during the first Gulf War (1991), bin Laden and others were outraged. One of the "hadiths" (statements attributed to Muhammad but not found in the Koran) states: "The Prophet on his death-bed [said], 'Expel the pagans from the Arabian Peninsula.'" Another quotes the Prophet: "I will expel the Jews and Christians from the Arabian peninsula and will not leave any but Muslim."

For "infidels" to set foot on the sacred soil of Arabia, home of Mecca and Medina, is seen by radical Muslims as an invasion of Islam itself, akin to Nazis occupying the Jewish Temple. In bin Laden's view, American soldiers did not defend Saudi Arabia—we occupied it. So long as we maintain even a small military presence there, we are seen as defiling the holy land of Islam.

O. Islamic Concept of Salvation – Salvation is achieved by submission to Allah: "So believe in God and His Apostle; and if ye believe and do right, ye have a reward without measure" (3:179). The "five pillars" express the essentials of Muslim life and practice:

1. The "witness" ("shahadah"): "La ilaha illa lah Muhammadur rasulul lah"—"There is no god but Allah, Muhammad is Allah's messenger." Every Muslim must declare this aloud at least once in his life very slowly, with deep meaning and full commitment; most Muslims repeat it many times each day.
2. Prayer ("salah") with directed motions, five times a day, facing toward Mecca, the holy city.
3. Almsgiving ("zakah"), approximately 2 1/2% of all one's income and permanent annual worth, to the poor. This is an act of worship.
4. Fasting ("sawm"), especially during the month of Ramadan, which commemorates the giving of the Koran. From dawn to sunset every day of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, a Muslim refrains from eating, drinking, smoking and sexual relations.
5. Pilgrimage ("hajj") to Mecca at least once from every believer who is physically and financially able to make the journey.
6. In addition, jihad ("holy war") can be declared the unequivocal religious duty of the Muslim man, as the will of God.

Note that strict morality is a hallmark of Muslims. They obey strong prohibitions against drinking wine, eating pork, gambling, and practicing usury. They invoke the name of Allah at the slaughter of all animals. They also require a specific dress code: men must be covered from navel to knees; women must cover their entire bodies except face and hands, with women above the age of puberty required to cover their face while going out and meeting strangers. Pure silk and gold not allowed for men; men cannot wear women's clothes, and women cannot wear men's garments; the symbolic dress of other religions is not allowed.

Also, Muslims believe that there will be a final day of judgment, the consummation of history, and the assigning of heaven and hell to all persons on the basis of their acceptance or rejection of the message of God and their accompanying good works. Allah is depicted as weighing good and bad works on a delicate scale of balance which is accurate even to the weight of a grain of mustard seed (7:5-8; 21:47; 23:103-5).

P. The Islamic Prayer of Conversion

This is also called the *Islamic Salvation Prayer*:

In the name of Allah, the compassionate and merciful, praise be to Allah, lord of creation, the compassionate, the merciful, king of judgment day. You alone we worship, and to you alone we pray for help. Guide us to the straight path, the path of those whom you have favored, not of those who have incurred your wrath, which are the Jews, nor of those who have gone astray—the atheists and Christians. Indeed, there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the Prophet of Allah.⁹

Q. Sharia Law – "Sharia" means "path" in Arabic. Sharia, or Islamic law, guides every aspect of Muslim life. It is derived from the Koran and the Sunna (the sayings, practices, and teachings of the Prophet Muhammed). Precedents and analogy are applied by Muslim scholars, together with the consensus of the Muslim community.

Sharia developed several hundred years after Muhammed's death (AD 632). There are several "schools" of Sharia, each named for the scholars that inspired them:

1. Hanbali: embraced in Saudi Arabia and by the Taliban.
2. Hanafi: the most liberal and focused on reason and analogy; dominant in Central Asia, Egypt, Pakistan, India, China, Turkey
3. Malaki: dominant in North Africa
4. Shafi'i: Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Yemen.
5. Ja'fari: Shia law.

There are three categories of offenses: those with punishments prescribed in the Koran, those which fall under a judge's discretion, and those resolved through tit-for-tat (blood money paid to the family if a murder victim). Koranic punishments (hadd) are required for:

1. Unlawful sexual intercourse
2. False accusation of unlawful sexual intercourse
3. Wine or alcohol drinking
4. Theft
5. Highway robbery

Punishments range from flogging, stoning, amputation, exile, or execution. They are not often carried out, though vigilante justice is a major problem (cf. honor killings).

Sharia and the modern world—three options (see next page):

⁹ Source: Author and Speaker, Brigitte Gabriel and also *"The Hadith"* (cf., Introduction).

Sharia and the modern world—three options:

1. **Dual legal system** where government is secular but Muslims can choose to bring familial and financial disputes to sharia courts. Britain now allows sharia tribunals governing marriage, divorce, and inheritance; this is similar to Anglican and Jewish mediation. Criminal law remains under the existing legal system.
2. **Government under Islamic god**, where Islam is the official religion and sharia is a source or the source of laws. Examples: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Yemen, UAE. In Egypt, Pakistan, Iran and Iraq, it is illegal to enact legislation which contradicts Islam. Saudi Arabia: women are not allowed to drive, are under the guardianship of male relatives at all times, and must be completely covered in public.
3. **Secular Nation** – Another option is being a completely secular nation, as in Turkey.

FYI - Sharia, modern economies and banking - Islamic banking is growing 15% a year. Riba, charging or paying of interest, is banned under Islamic law. Banks such as Citigroup, HSBC and Deutsche Bank are developing Islamic banking sectors. Sharia-compliant investments are also growing, avoiding transactions related to weapons, alcohol, tobacco, gambling, pornography and pork.

R. Additional Matters about Islam

- **Women** – Women in Islam are considered *property* and are greatly oppressed. In fact, the Koran says, “(As to) those [women] on whose part you fear desertion, admonish them, and leave them alone in the sleeping-places and beat them.” - Surah 4:34
- **Martyrdom** - *The Hadith* states that Muslim martyrs will receive an abundance of benefits in the afterlife. Men enjoy the sexual pleasures of 72 virgin maidens for eternity, not just the maximum of four wives as stated in the Koran for the non-martyr. And 70 members of the martyr’s family are guaranteed eternal life in paradise.
- **Jihad** – Jihad does not mean “holy war” (though we hear that a lot in America). “Jihad” is an Arabic word for “struggle” or “strife”, implying a struggle in the cause of Allah with pen, speech or sword. Muslims are charged, “...fight with them until there is no persecution, and religion should be only for Allah.” - Surah 2:193, and “Fight those who believe not in Allah.” - Surah 9:29.

S. What can we expect in the future?

1. **The conflict will continue** - ISIS, Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda, the Taliban and over 200 other “extremist Muslim” groups committed to an Islamic world without Israel. They are motivated politically and religiously and economically.
2. **The war will escalate worldwide** - No country will be able to remain natural.
3. **Christians will face increased persecution** – We are viewed by most extremists Muslims as “infidels.” We have a lower place than their women.
4. **The destruction of Israel will commence at some point in time—but fail.** The Bible teaches that the countries around Israel will begin an attack on Israel but the Lord will rescue them.
5. **Most countries will seek a political solution** – Look at this map. Why should Israel give up more land? No political solution will work—it will only delay the inevitable.
6. **Personal: “My fear is not for me. It’s for my kids and grandkids.”**
7. **The Lord will return and all of this will be resolved.**



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T. Witnessing to Muslims

1. Remember, you can't win your enemies to Christ—only your friends.

You must focus on being a friend—and a true friend—not just on the “facts” of the argument.

2. Learn the art of diplomacy—especially with a Muslim.

One must understand the importance of being prepared for interacting in a different culture without offending the code of behavior in that culture. Americans and Arabs live in vastly different worlds.

- Make Muslim friends of your own sex, not of the opposite sex.
- Men and women must not sit next to each other on a sofa.
- Men and women must not shake hands.
- Women should not look at a Muslim man full in the face.
- Women should not speak forcefully to a Muslim man.
- Men should not speak to a married Muslim woman without her husband's being present or he will feel dishonored. If a woman answers the door, ask to speak with her husband.
- Men should avoid asking questions about a Muslim's female relatives.
- Muslims in certain countries do not welcome photographs being taken of them. First ask if taking a picture of them would be appropriate.
- Prepare no item from pig, which is considered detestable (all pork products including bacon, pork ribs, gelatin taken from the pig's foot, etc.).
- Serve no shellfish or catfish, which both the Hadith and the Old Testament dietary laws prohibit (Leviticus 11:10–12).
- Cook nothing with lard.
- Serve nothing containing alcohol, such as rum cake. If there are bottles or cans of cooking alcohol, remove them before your friends arrive.
- Offer no food or beverage between sunrise and sunset during the holy month of Ramadan. Eating and drinking (even water) is forbidden.
- With the left hand, pass no plate, serve no dish, and eat no food, for the left hand is considered “unclean.”
- As you serve each dish, explain how it was prepared so that you will put your guests at ease. They will appreciate your sensitivity.
- Pass a drinking vessel only to your right.
- Accepting an invitation can show great sensitivity and may win a great favor but do not arrive early, but perhaps between 5 to 15 minutes after the stated time.
- Remove your shoes if your hosts have removed their shoes.
- Never show the soles of your shoes or feet—this would be insulting.
- Always allow time for a long, leisurely meal...avoid rushing.
- Eat everything set before you. (The food will be very tasty.)
- Compliment the preparation of the food—and compliment again.
- If you are in doubt about proper protocol or what could be offensive, allow your Muslim friend to act first.
- If you ever do attend a mosque service, stand to the side and observe—do not participate and ask no questions until after you leave the mosque. Be an observer and not a participant.

3. Learn what you believe and learn what “they” believe.

4. Be realistic about their fear of being a “kafir”.

A former Muslim is called *kafir*. Leaving Islam is a major Muslim offense. Conversion can bring about rejection of family, expulsion from the country, torture, imprisonment and even death. A *kafir* is considered an infidel, a blasphemer, and according to a literal interpretation of Islamic Law, comes under the sentence of death. How will their friends and family members respond if they become Christian? Is this a major hindrance to their becoming Christian? A Muslim who becomes a Christian needs your personal encouragement and the strong support of a church community—immediately

5. Be ready to give thoughtful answers.

In humility, submit the following verse from the Koran: *“His name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honor in this world and the Hereafter and of (the company of) those nearest to Allah” (Surah 3:45)*

6. Remember that in Islam, there is no “assurance of salvation” (apart from martyrdom).

It may be that the greatest gift you can offer a seeking Muslim is that in Jesus Christ, eternal salvation is secure.

7. You have some misconceptions about Muslims—they have misconceptions about you.

When witnessing to a Muslim, remember your “witness” may be “caught, not taught.” Be a great example of Christianity 24/7. Pray for that “divine appointment” with your Muslim friend.

8. At the very least, join Christians around the world in praying for was to end and for spiritual awakening in the Muslim world.

Please see our ‘battle’ a more spiritual than physical. We are seeing significant growth of the church in the Middle East.

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.” - Colossians 4:5

U. Islamic Terms

Allah - The Arabic word for "god."

al-Qaeda – A loosely-knit militant Islamic organization led and funded by the late Osama bin Laden, by whom it was established in the late 1980s from Arab volunteers who had fought the Soviet troops previously based in Afghanistan; known or believed to be behind a number of operations against Western, especially US, interests, including bomb attacks on two US embassies in Africa in 1998 and the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York in 2001.

Dar al-Harb—The House of War, those who do not live under Islam.

Dar al-Islam—The House of Peace, those who live under Islam. Outsiders are to be brought in by submission. Some Muslims consider Christians and Jews "people of the book" and part of Dar al-Islam, but most consider them outsiders. A Muslim woman cannot marry anyone outside the house of Islam, and a Muslim man cannot marry anyone who isn't among the people of book. Traditionally, Muslims subjugated lands they conquered by marrying their women, thus making their children Muslim.

fatwa—A legal ruling by a man of high standing in Islam that someone is in violation of Islamic principles and should be punished by faithful Muslims. Muslims debate who has authority to issue a fatwa. Some, for instance, vest that power only in muftis and feel Osama bin Laden has no such power.

folk Islam—The beliefs of Islam mixed with a people group's traditional beliefs. For instance, a person practicing folk Islam may continue to use fetishes and ceremonies intended to please good spirits and placate evil ones.

Hadith - A traditional account of things said or done by Muhammad recorded by his followers, commonly taught as a part of Islamic theology.

Honor Killings – In 2000, the United Nations estimated that there are 5,000 so-called "honor" killings around the world each year. Most observers believe the number to be much higher. Worldwide, more than half the victims are tortured before they are murdered, many by gang rape. Globally, 58 percent of the victims are killed for being "too Western" (often for refusing to wear the hijab or choosing their own husbands); 42 percent are murdered for committing an alleged sexual impropriety (often as victims of rape). Ninety-one percent of "honor" killings perpetrators are Muslims. According to the Pew Forum, majorities of Muslims reject this practice in only 14 out of the 23 Muslim-majority nations. Support for honor killings appears to be highest in Egypt, Iraq, Afghanistan and Jordan.

hajj - A pilgrimage made by Muslims to the city of Makkah (Mecca), the holiest city of Islam. Every Muslim is expected to make a religious journey to Mecca if they are physically and financially able to do so. Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam.

halal - A term describing something that is lawful and permitted in Islam, according to Islamic law. Often used to describe food or drink which is permitted for consumption under Islamic dietary laws.

imam - Person or religious leader who leads prayers in a mosque, a recognized authority on Islamic theology, or a person of authority within the community. For Shiite Muslims, an Imam (capitalized) denotes a descendant of Muhammad.

Islam - A monotheistic religion based on the teachings of Muhammad as detailed in the Koran.

Ismaeli—One of the modern movements within Islam that brings together many of the current popular expressions of Islam, especially those found outside the traditional Muslim world. For example, the Islam of sub-Saharan Africa or the evangelical Islam of the United States.

jihad—Exertion of effort to advance Islam. Often equated with holy war, a national struggle, but also refers to a personal struggle to advance Islam within one's own soul—and everything in between. The Koran says a warrior who dies in jihad goes straight to paradise.

Kaaba—Great stone shrine in Mecca which is covered in black carpets and is said to be the "House of God." THE remains of the Mohammed are entombed here.

Koran - The central religious text of Islam believed to be the word of Allah revealed to Muhammad.

Madrasah - The Arabic word for an educational institution for any kind of learning. Often used to refer to an Islamic religious school or a school with courses in Islamic theology and religious law.

mosque - A Muslim place of prayer for followers of Islam.

Muhammad - The Arab prophet and founder of Islam who, according to the religion, was the last messenger of Allah.

Muslim - A person who believes in or practices the Islam religion.

Muslim Brotherhood—The grandfather of all Islamic fundamentalist organizations. Seeks to establish Islamic republics. The current version emerged in the 1930s in Egypt in response to Western colonial powers and their puppet leaders. Sayyid Qutb, an influential leader in the 1950s, espoused the idea that Muslims may make war against a Muslim state that had compromised. Bin Laden's top ideologist has a background with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Ramadan - The ninth month of the Islamic calendar, during which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. It commemorates the transmission of the Koran by the archangel Gabriel to Muhammad.

Salat - The Arabic word for prayer. Usually refers to the ritual prayer performed five times daily at specific times; the second pillar of Islam.

Sawm - An Arabic word for fasting; the act of total abstinence from food, liquids and sexual relationships from dawn to sunset, for one lunar month.

Shahada - The declaration of belief in the singularity of Allah and the prophethood of Mohammed; one of the five pillars of Islam.

Sharia - The harsh laws of Islam derived from the Koran and from the teachings and example of Muhammad that regulate the spiritual and secular actions of Muslims. They are especially negative toward all women and all non-Muslims.

Shia - The second largest denomination of Islam after Sunni Islam. Shia Muslims believe that the rightful successor to Muhammad after his death was his son-in-law Ali.

Sufi - A mystical branch of Islam that emphasizes self-denial as a means of communion with god.

Sunnah - A collection of Muhammad's words and deeds during his lifetime.

Sunni - The largest branch of Islam. Sunni Muslims believe the first four successors to Muhammad after his death were the rightful leaders and not his son-in-law Ali.

sura - One of the sections of the Koran, which are traditionally arranged in order of decreasing length. The Koran contains 114 suras.

tafsir - Interpretations of the Koran by Islamic scholars; the Arabic word for exegesis or commentary.

tawhid - The central Islamic doctrine that dictates there is no other god but Allah.

Umma—The world or family of Islam, God's kingdom visible on earth. Islam says that the whole world society should be under Umma, the umbrella of Islamic culture and that it is the sole religion of culture.

Zakat - The giving of alms or contributions to charity as an act of worship, usually about 2.5 percent of one's annual wealth given mainly for the benefit of the poor and the needy. One of the five pillars of Islam.

V. Historical Summary on Islam

Around A.D. 610, one man's mystical experience in the Arabian Desert forever changed the world. In a cave outside Mecca, in what is now Saudi Arabia, a trader named Muhammad—a man known for his honesty and integrity—is said to have had a visit from the angel Gabriel. The angel told him he was to become a prophet and revealed the first few words of what would become the holy book of Islam, the Koran. Muslims believe Muhammad was a descendant of Ishmael—Abraham's first son by his wife's maid, Hagar—forever linking Islam with Judaism and Christianity as one of the three, great monotheistic faiths. Muhammad's historical impact has been immense. His teachings, and the Islamic faith, have directly influenced social, political and religious institutions for 14 centuries. Over those centuries, Islam spread out of Arabia, sweeping in three great arcs—one across North Africa and eventually into Spain, another north through the Middle East across Europe to the gates of Vienna, and the third east across Asia to the Pacific. Islam's theology of peace and submission to Allah produced civilizations of stunning beauty. But much of this expansion was the result of conquest, carried on swift horses by fierce warriors with the edge of the sword. Islamic religious texts contain verses that supported this conquest and have a militancy that to this day extremists use to justify conquest, violence and acts of unspeakable terror—all in the name of Allah. Today, Islam—little understood by most non-Muslims—is the faith of over 1 billion people across the globe and the fastest growing religion in the world.

W. Statistical Research on Islam

According to a report by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, there are about 1.6 billion Muslims worldwide. (2012) Islam is the 2nd largest religion in the world, following Christianity. Indonesia has the largest following of the Islamic religion, 13%, though Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh have large populations as well. According to U.S.-based Muslim organizations such as the Islamic Society of North America and the Islamic Circle of North America, there are almost 7 million adherents to the Islamic religion in the United States. Sunnis make up 85% of the worldwide Muslim population. Shiite Muslims make up approximately 15%.



Located on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, Israel, "The Dome of the Rock" (also called, "The Mosque of Omar") is the second most holy site in Islam.

X. A story for you...



Why do you think this gate is cemented in?

Y. A Scripture you...

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18, NASB95 - ¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Remember, this is how it all ends!

Z. Addendum

A. Dates and Histories

Mohammad (Dates) – 570—632 AD (the late 6th Century and early 7th Century)

Resting Place – The prophet Mohammad is buried under the Green Dome (Al-Masjid al-Nabawi) called “Mosque of the Prophet” in Medina, Saudi Arabia. Mohammad’s ‘grave clothes’ used to transport him to his burial site were taken to the Grand Mosque (Mecca, Saudi Arabia) and placed behind a wall in “the cube”. The cube, according to tradition, was built by Ibrahim (Abraham). It is stated in the Koran that this was the first house that was built for humanity to worship Allah (God).¹⁰

Islam (Official Dates) – The beginning of Islam is cradled in the late 6th or early 7th Century.

570 BC - Mohammad is born in Mecca. He comes from a noble family and is well-known for his honesty and upright character.

610 BC - According to Muslim belief, at the age of 40, Mohammad is visited by the angel Gabriel while on retreat in a cave near Mecca. The angel recites to him the first revelations of the Koran and informs him that he is God's prophet. Later, Mohammad is told to call his people to the worship of the one God, but they react with hostility and begin to persecute him and his followers.

630 BC - Mohammad returns to Mecca with a large number of his followers. He enters the city peacefully, and eventually all its citizens accept Islam. The prophet clears the idols and images out of the Kaaba and rededicates it to the worship of Allah alone.

633 BC - Mohammad dies after a prolonged illness. The Muslim community elects his father-in-law and close associate, Abu Bakr, as caliph, or successor.

655 BC - Islam begins to spread throughout North Africa.

1000 BC - Islam continues to spread through the continent of Africa, including Nigeria, which served as a trading liaison between the northern and central regions of Africa.

VERY IMPORTANT: Some Islamic scholars believe that the origins of Islam date clear back to Abraham's time.

B. Chrislam—the interfaith belief that Jesus of Christianity and Islam are the same.

- The word “Chrislam” is a combination from “Christ” and “Islam” and is *pejorative* in nature.
- It began in Nigeria in the 1970s by the leaders seeking to avoid war between the two groups by attempting to “reconcile Islam and Christianity based on shared common beliefs.”
- Neither Muslims nor Christians really believe they are the same Jesus. A very few, misguided scholars (on both sides) hold to the belief of Chrislam.
- However, *Chrislam* is growing among some US pastors and politicians also seeking peace among the two groups.

C. Daily Prayers

- Sunnis pray five time a day the five distinct “daily prayers”.
- Shi’ites pray the “five daily prayers” three times a day.
- As best I can tell, the Koran commands “five prayers a day.”

The Shia acknowledge the five daily prayers. However, they are allowed to pray them in three distinct times, not five; the five prayers are: Fajr (Morning), Zuhr (Noon), `Asr (Afternoon), Maghrib (Sunset), and Isha (Night).

D. “Was Mohammad illiterate?”

Yes, Muslims claim that because Mohammad was illiterate, but wrote the Koran, thus the Koran is a miracle—Mohammad's primary miracle (Source: www.islam.com). This idea of illiteracy is supported in the Koran:

Sura 7:157: “Those who follow the apostle, the Unlettered Prophet, whom they find mentioned in their own (scriptures), in the law and the Gospel....”

Sura 7:158: “...So believe in God and His Apostle, the Unlettered Prophet, who believeth in Allah and His words and follow him that you may be guided.



We're not attacking Islam but Islam is attacking us. The God of Islam is not the same God. He's not the Son of God of the Christian or the Judeo-Christian Faith. It's a different God and I believe it is a very evil and wicked religion.”

- Rev. Franklin Graham

¹⁰ Mohamed, Mamdouh N. (1996). *Haji to Umrah: From A to Z*. P. 262, Amana Publications. ISBN 0-915957-54-X.

Personal Questions or Thoughts:



APPENDIX

NOTE:

The following MSN Article address the horrible issues that has arisen in the last few months—systematic rape on “slave girls” by ISIS fighters. All of this is, they say, justified in the Koran.

ISIS Enshrines a Theology of Rape

Source: MSN (<http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/escaped-isis-captives-detail-a-vast-system-of-sex-slavery/ar-BBIHDWR?ocid=spartandhp>)
Written by Mauricio Lima for the New York Times • August 13, 2015 • It's reprinted here with permission

QADIYA, Iraq — In the moments before he raped the 12-year-old girl, the Islamic State fighter took the time to explain that what he was about to do was not a sin. Because the preteen girl practiced a religion other than Islam, the Quran not only gave him the right to rape her — it condoned and encouraged it, he insisted.

He bound her hands and gagged her. Then he knelt beside the bed and prostrated himself in prayer before getting on top of her.

When it was over, he knelt to pray again, bookending the rape with acts of religious devotion.

“I kept telling him it hurts — please stop,” said the girl, whose body is so small an adult could circle her waist with two hands. “He told me that according to Islam he is allowed to rape an unbeliever. He said that by raping me, he is drawing closer to God,” she said in an interview alongside her family in a refugee camp here, to which she escaped after 11 months of captivity.



© Mauricio Lima for The New York TimesThe© Mauricio Lima for The New York Times

The systematic rape of women and girls from the Yazidi religious minority has become deeply enmeshed in the organization and the radical theology of the Islamic State in the year since the group announced it was reviving slavery as an institution. Interviews with 21 women and girls who recently escaped the Islamic State, as well as an examination of the group's official communications, illuminate how the practice has been enshrined in the group's core tenets.

The trade in Yazidi women and girls has created a persistent infrastructure, with a network of warehouses where the victims are held, viewing rooms where they are inspected and marketed, and a dedicated fleet of buses used to transport them.

A total of 5,270 Yazidis were abducted last year, and at least 3,144 are still being held, according to community leaders. To handle them, the Islamic State has developed a detailed bureaucracy of sex slavery, including sales contracts notarized by the ISIS-run Islamic courts. And the practice has become an established recruiting tool to lure men from deeply conservative Muslim societies, where casual sex is taboo and dating is forbidden.

A growing body of internal policy memos and theological discussions has established guidelines for slavery, including a lengthy how-to manual issued by the Islamic State Research and Fatwa Department just last month. Repeatedly, the ISIS leadership has emphasized a narrow and selective reading of the Quran and other religious rulings to not only justify violence, but also to elevate and celebrate each sexual assault as spiritually beneficial, even virtuous.

“Every time that he came to rape me, he would pray,” said F, a 15-year-old girl who was captured on the shoulder of Mount Sinjar one year ago and was sold to an Iraqi fighter in his 20s. Like some others interviewed by The New York Times, she wanted to be identified only by her first initial because of the shame associated with rape.

“He kept telling me this is ibadah,” she said, using a term from Islamic scripture meaning worship.

“He said that raping me is his prayer to God. I said to him, ‘What you’re doing to me is wrong, and it will not bring you closer to God.’ And he said, ‘No, it’s allowed. It’s halal,’” said the teenager, who escaped in April with the help of smugglers after being enslaved for nearly nine months.



© Mauricio Lima for The New York Times Aishan Ali Saleh, 40, at a refugee camp on the outskirts of Dohuk. She had lived in Kojo, one of the southernmost villages on Mount Sinjar, which was overrun by Islamic State fighters.

Calculated Conquest

The Islamic State’s formal introduction of systematic sexual slavery dates to Aug. 3, 2014, when their fighters invaded the villages on the southern flank of Mount Sinjar, a craggy massif of dun-colored rock in northern Iraq.

Its valleys and ravines are home to the Yazidis, a tiny religious minority who represent less than 1.5 percent of Iraq’s estimated population of 34 million.

The offensive on the mountain came just two months after the fall of Mosul, the second-largest city in Iraq. At first, it appeared that the subsequent advance on the mountain was just another attempt to extend the territory controlled by Islamic State fighters.

Almost immediately, there were signs that their aim this time was different.

Survivors say that men and women were separated within the first hour of their capture. Adolescent boys were told to lift up their shirts, and if they had armpit hair, they were directed to join their older brothers and fathers. In village after village, the men and older boys were driven or marched to nearby fields, where they were forced to lie down in the dirt and sprayed with automatic fire.

The women, girls and children, however, were hauled off in open-bed trucks.

“The offensive on the mountain was as much a sexual conquest as it was for territorial gain,” said Matthew Barber, a University of Chicago expert on the Yazidi minority. He was in Sinjar when the onslaught began last summer and helped create a foundation that provides psychological support for the escapees, who number more than 2,000, according to community activists.

Fifteen-year-old F says her family of nine was trying to escape, speeding up mountain switchbacks, when their aging Opel overheated. She, her mother, and her sisters — 14, 7, and 4 years old — were helplessly standing by their stalled car when a convoy of heavily armed Islamic State fighters encircled them.

“Right away, the fighters separated the men from the women,” she said. She, her mother and sisters were first taken in trucks to the nearest town on Mount Sinjar. “There, they separated me from my mom. The young, unmarried girls were forced to get into buses.”

The buses were white, with a painted stripe next to the word “Hajj,” suggesting that the Islamic State had commandeered Iraqi government buses used to transport pilgrims for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. So many Yazidi women and girls were loaded inside F’s bus that they were forced to sit on each other’s laps, she said.

Once the bus headed out, they noticed that the windows were blocked with curtains, an accouterment that appeared to have been added because the fighters planned to transport large numbers of women who were not covered in burqas or head scarves.

F’s account, including the physical description of the bus, the placement of the curtains and the manner in which the women were transported, is echoed by a dozen other female victims interviewed for this article. They described a similar set of circumstances even though they were kidnapped on different days and in locations miles apart.

F says she was driven to the Iraqi city of Mosul some six hours away, where they herded them into the Galaxy Wedding Hall. Other groups of women and girls were taken to a palace from the Saddam Hussein era, the Badoosh prison compound and the Directory of Youth building in Mosul, recent escapees said. And in addition to Mosul, women were herded into elementary schools and municipal buildings in the Iraqi towns of Tal Afar, Solah, Ba’aj and Sinjar City.

They would be held in confinement, some for days, some for months. Then, inevitably, they were loaded into the same fleet of buses again before being sent in smaller groups to Syria or to other locations inside Iraq, where they were bought and sold for sex.

“It was 100 percent preplanned,” said Khider Domle, a Yazidi community activist who maintains a detailed database of the victims. “I spoke by telephone to the first family who arrived at the Directory of Youth in Mosul, and the hall was already prepared for them. They had mattresses, plates and utensils, food and water for hundreds of people.”

Detailed reports by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International reach the same conclusion about the organized nature of the sex trade.



© Mauricio Lima for The New York Times A 25-year-old Yazidi woman showed a “Certificate of Emancipation” given to her by a Libyan who had enslaved her.

In each location, survivors say Islamic State fighters first conducted a census of their female captives.

Inside the voluminous Galaxy banquet hall, F sat on the marble floor, squeezed between other adolescent girls. In all she estimates there were over 1,300 Yazidi girls sitting, crouching, splayed out and leaning against the walls of the ballroom, a number that is confirmed by several other women held in the same location.

They each described how three Islamic State fighters walked in, holding a register. They told the girls to stand. Each one was instructed to state her first, middle and last name, her age, her hometown, whether she was married, and if she had children.

For two months, F was held inside the Galaxy hall. Then one day, they came and began removing young women. Those who refused were dragged out by their hair, she said.

In the parking lot the same fleet of Hajj buses was waiting to take them to their next destination, said F. Along with 24 other girls and young women, the 15-year-old was driven to an army base in Iraq. It was there in the parking lot that she heard the word “sabaya” for the first time.

“They laughed and jeered at us, saying ‘You are our sabaya.’ I didn’t know what that word meant,” she said. Later on, the local Islamic State leader explained it meant slave.

“He told us that Taus Malik” — one of seven angels to whom the Yazidis pray — “is not God. He said that Taus Malik is the devil and that because you worship the devil, you belong to us. We can sell you and use you as we see fit.”

The Islamic State’s sex trade appears to be based solely on enslaving women and girls from the Yazidi minority. As yet, there has been no widespread campaign aimed at enslaving women from other religious minorities, said Samer Muscati, the author of the recent Human Rights Watch report. That assertion was echoed by community leaders, government officials and other human rights workers.

Mr. Barber, of the University of Chicago, said that the focus on Yazidis was likely because they are polytheists, with an oral tradition rather than a written scripture. In the Islamic State’s eyes that puts them on the fringe of despised unbelievers, even more than Christians and Jews, who are considered to have some limited protections under the Quran as fellow “People of the Book.”

In Kojo, one of the southernmost villages on Mount Sinjar and among the farthest away from escape, residents decided to stay, believing they would be treated as the Christians of Mosul had months earlier. On Aug. 15, 2014, the Islamic State ordered the residents to report to a school in the center of town.

When she got there, 40-year-old Aishan Ali Saleh found a community elder negotiating with the Islamic State, asking if they could be allowed to hand over their money and gold in return for safe passage.

The fighters initially agreed and laid out a blanket, where Ms. Saleh placed her heart-shaped pendant and her gold rings, while the men left crumpled bills.

Instead of letting them go, the fighters began shoving the men outside, bound for death.

Sometime later, a fleet of cars arrived and the women, girls and children were driven away.

The Market



© Mauricio Lima for The New York Times A woman from the village of Tojo washing dishes in a refugee camp in Kurdistan. She was held by the Islamic State from last August until June and says she was sexually abused.

Months later, the Islamic State made clear in their online magazine that their campaign of enslaving Yazidi women and girls had been extensively preplanned.

“Prior to the taking of Sinjar, Shariah students in the Islamic State were tasked to research the Yazidis,” said the English-language article, headlined “The Revival of Slavery Before the Hour,” which appeared in the October issue of Dabiq.

The article made clear that for the Yazidis, there was no chance to pay a tax known as jizya to be set free, “unlike the Jews and Christians.”

“After capture, the Yazidi women and children were then divided according to the Shariah amongst the fighters of the Islamic State who participated in the Sinjar operations, after one fifth of the slaves were transferred to the Islamic State’s authority to be divided” as spoils, the article said.

In much the same way as specific Bible passages were used centuries later to support the slave trade in the United States, the Islamic State cites specific verses or stories in the Quran or else in the Sunna, the traditions based on the sayings and deeds of the Prophet Muhammad, to justify their human trafficking, experts say.

Scholars of Islamic theology disagree, however, on the proper interpretation of these verses, and on the divisive question of whether Islam truly sanctions slavery.

Many argue that slavery figures in Islamic scripture in much the same way that it figures in the Bible — as a reflection of the period in antiquity in which the religion was born.

“In the milieu in which the Quran arose, there was a widespread practice of men having sexual relationships with unfree women,” said Kecia Ali, an associate professor of religion at Boston University and the author of a book on slavery in early Islam. “It wasn’t a particular religious institution. It was just how people did things.”

Cole Bunzel, a scholar of Islamic theology at Princeton University, disagrees, pointing to the numerous references to the phrase “Those your right hand possesses” in the Quran, which for centuries has been interpreted to mean female slaves. He also points to the corpus of Islamic jurisprudence, which continues into the modern era and which he says includes detailed rules for the treatment of slaves.

“There is a great deal of scripture that sanctions slavery,” said Mr. Bunzel, the author of a research paper published by the Brookings Institution on the ideology of the Islamic State. “You can argue that it is no longer relevant and has fallen into abeyance. ISIS would argue that these institutions need to be revived, because that is what the Prophet and his companions did.”

The youngest, prettiest women and girls were bought in the first weeks after their capture. Others — especially older, married women — described how they were transported from location to location, spending months in the equivalent of human holding pens, until a prospective buyer bid on them.

Their captors appeared to have a system in place, replete with its own methodology of inventorying the women, as well as their own lexicon. Women and girls were referred to as “Sabaya,” followed by their name. Some were bought by wholesalers, who photographed and gave them numbers, to advertise them to potential buyers.

Osman Hassan Ali, a Yazidi businessman who has successfully smuggled out numerous Yazidi women, said he posed as a buyer in order to be sent the photographs. He shared a dozen images, each one showing a Yazidi woman sitting in a bare room on a couch, facing the camera with a blank, unsmiling

expression. On the edge of the photograph is written in Arabic, “Sabaya No. 1,” “Sabaya No. 2,” and so on.

Buildings where the women were collected and held sometimes included a viewing room.

“When they put us in the building, they said we had arrived at the ‘Sabaya Market,’” said one 19-year-old victim, whose first initial is I. “I understood we were now in a slave market.”

She estimated there were at least 500 other unmarried women and girls in the multistory building, with the youngest among them being 11 years old. When the buyers arrived, the girls were taken one by one into a separate room.

“The emirs sat against the wall and called us by name. We had to sit in a chair facing them. You had to look at them, and before you went in, they took away our scarves and anything we could have used to cover ourselves,” she said.

“When it was my turn, they made me stand four times. They made me turn around.”

The captives were also forced to answer intimate questions, including reporting the exact date of their last menstrual cycle. They realized that the fighters were trying to determine whether they were pregnant, in keeping with a Shariah rule stating that a man cannot have intercourse with his female slave if she is pregnant.

Property of ISIS

The use of sex slavery by the Islamic State initially surprised even the group’s most ardent supporters, many of whom sparred with journalists online after the first reports of systematic rape.

The Islamic State’s leadership has repeatedly sought to justify the practice to its internal audience.

After the initial article in Dabiq in October, the issue came up in the publication again this year, in an editorial in May that expressed the writer’s hurt and dismay at the fact that some of the group’s own sympathizers had questioned the institution of slavery.

“What really alarmed me was that some of the Islamic State’s supporters started denying the matter as if the soldiers of the Khilafah had committed a mistake or evil,” the author wrote. “I write this while the letters drip of pride,” he said. “We have indeed raided and captured the kafirahwomen and drove them like sheep by the edge of the sword.” Kafirah refers to infidels.

In a pamphlet published online in December, the Research and Fatwa Department of the Islamic State detailed best practices, including explaining that slaves belong to the estate of the fighter who bought them and therefore can be willed to another man and disposed of just like any other property after his death.

Recent escapees describe an intricate bureaucracy surrounding their captivity, with their status as a slave registered in a contract. When their owner would sell them to another buyer, a new contract would be drafted, like transferring a property deed. At the same time, slaves can also be set free, and fighters are promised a heavenly reward for doing so.

Though rare, this has created one avenue of escape for victims.

A 25-year-old victim who escaped last month, identified by her first initial, A, described how one day her Libyan master handed her a laminated piece of paper. He explained that he had finished his training as a suicide bomber and was planning to blow himself up, and was therefore setting her free.

Labeled a “Certificate of Emancipation,” the document was signed by the judge of the western province of the Islamic State. The Yazidi woman presented it at security checkpoints as she left Syria to return to Iraq, where she rejoined her family in July.

The Islamic State recently made clear that sex with Christian and Jewish women captured in battle is also permissible, according to a new 34-page manual issued this summer by the terror group’s Research and Fatwa Department.

Just about the only prohibition is having sex with a pregnant slave, and the manual describes how an owner must wait for a female captive to have her menstruating cycle, in order to “make sure there is nothing in her womb,” before having intercourse with her. Of the 21 women and girls interviewed for this article, among the only ones who had not been raped were the women who were already pregnant at the moment of their capture, as well as those who were past menopause.



© Mauricio Lima for The New York Times A woman, who said she was raped by Islamic State militants, in a refugee camp in the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq.

Beyond that, there appears to be no bounds to what is sexually permissible. Child rape is explicitly condoned: “It is permissible to have intercourse with the female slave who hasn’t reached puberty, if she is fit for intercourse,” according to a translation by the Middle East Media Research Institute of a pamphlet published on Twitter last December.

One 34-year-old Yazidi woman, who was bought and repeatedly raped by a Saudi fighter in the Syrian city of Shadadi, described how she fared better than the second slave in the household — a 12-year-old girl who was raped for days on end despite heavy bleeding.

“He destroyed her body. She was badly infected. The fighter kept coming and asking me, ‘Why does she smell so bad?’ And I said, she has an infection on the inside, you need to take care of her,” the woman said.

Unmoved, he ignored the girl’s agony, continuing the ritual of praying before and after raping the child.

“I said to him, ‘She’s just a little girl,’ ” the older woman recalled. “And he answered: ‘No. She’s not a little girl. She’s a slave. And she knows exactly how to have sex.’ ”

“And having sex with her pleases God,” he said.

“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- Matthew 5:10–12

“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ “If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. ²⁰ “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

- John 15:18–20, NASB95

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

- 1 Peter 4:12–14

But if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

- 1 Peter 4:16, NASB95

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written, “FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.” ³⁷ 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, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Romans 8:35–39