Seek The Old Paths

"Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths... and walk therein"
(Jeremiah 6:16)

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# The Christian's Response To The Rise Of The Religion Of Islam In America

*Gary McDade*

The presence of Muslims in the Congress of the Unites States of America is an indication of "the rise of the religion of Islam in America." These Muslims are: André Carson (D-IN), Ilhan Omar (D-MN), Lateefah Simon (D-CA), and Rashida Tlaib (D-MI). Professor Victor Davis Hanson recently observed America is becoming an Islamic Socialist Republic. A case in point is the new mayor of New York City, Zohran Mamdani who has declared himself to be an Islamic socialist. The political views of all these people aside, the purpose of mentioning them is to establish the reality of the "rise of the religion of Islam in America." Also, the increase of the number of mosques in the USA from 1,209 in 2000 to 3,150 in 2026, more than double, quantifies numerically the "rise of the religion of Islam in America."

Outside of the political arena, what is the Christian's response? In America, the First Amendment of the Constitution assures freedom of speech, but in some other countries the Christian's response offered here could bring a death sentence. A threefold response follows.

One, point out the god of the Quran, although referred to as Allah (meaning god) and is referred to in the Quran as the Beneficent, is not the God of the Bible. Proof comes from the Quran and the Bible. The Quran says god has no son; the Bible says God has a Son.

**The Quran:** "And they say: The Beneficent has taken to Himself a son. Certainly you make an abominable assertion! The heavens may almost be rent thereat, and the earth cleave asunder, and the mountains fall down in pieces, That they ascribe a son to the Beneficent! And it is not worthy of the Beneficent that He should take to Himself a son" (Surah Mary a.k.a. chapter 19:88-92).

**The Bible:** *"While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him"* (Matt. 17:5). Also, *"And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.... Father, glorify Thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again"* (John 12:23,28). And, the memorable John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

These contrasts from the Quran and the Bible prove the religion of Islam to be a false religion.

Two, point out the Muslims are monotheistic, that is, the Quran affirms only one single person is their god. The Bible speaks of the Godhead, that is, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the god of the Quran is not the God of the Bible.

**The Quran:** "That is Allah, your Lord. There is no god but He; the Creator of all things; therefore serve Him, and He has charge of all things" (Surah The Cattle a.k.a chapter 6:103). "Say: He, Allah, is One. Allah is He on Whom all depend. He begets not, nor is He begotten: And none is like Him" (Surah The Unity a.k.a. chapter 112:1-4).

**The Bible:** *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"* (Matt. 28:19). *"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen"* (2 Cor. 13:14). *"Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device"* (Acts 17:29). *"For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse"* (Rom. 1:20). *"For in Him* [Jesus Christ] *dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily"* (Col. 2:9).

These contrasts from the Quran and the Bible prove the religion of Islam to be a false religion.

Three, point out the Quran itself calls for the death of non-believers and for those who do not believe in their monotheism. The Bible commands "love thy enemies" (Matt. 5:44) and

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**The Christian's Response...**



*Editorial...*

# Islam's Identifying Marks

*Garland M. Robinson*

When examining anything, it is essential that we observe its "marks of identity." For example: if your car is stolen you would give police its characteristic marks. You would give them the make, model and year, its color and any dents, blemishes or other identifying marks. If it's a car, that automatically eliminates trucks. If it is white, that automatically eliminates cars that are red, gray, blue, silver, etc. If it had a scratch or dent, that would eliminate cars without scratches or dents.

When someone is missing, the family gives the identifying marks of that person. It may be a 25 year old woman with dark shoulder length hair. She is 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighs 140 pounds. That information excludes men. Women 5 feet tall or 6 feet tall are eliminated. Women with red or light colored hair are eliminated.

This principle is true regarding religions of the world. When we read of the church in the New Testament we recognize its characteristics. We examine religions in the world to see if they match what we read about in the New Testament.

Let's put the characteristics of Islam to the test regarding the church we read about in the New Testament. It fails in every point.

**Islam has the wrong FOUNDER: Mohammed**

God told Abraham: *"in thy **seed** shall all the nations of the earth be blessed"* (Gen. 22:18). This promise would be fulfilled through his wife **Sarah** not **Hagar.** *"Abraham said unto God, O that **Ishmael** might live before thee! And God said, **Sarah** thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name **Isaac:** and **I will establish my covenant with him** for an everlasting covenant, and with **his seed** after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. **But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee**"* (Gen. 17:19-21).

Jesus is the Christ, the redeemer, the messiah, the fulfillment of the "seed" promise. By the inspiration of the true and living God, Paul reveals the identity of the "seed" of God's promise. *"Now to Abraham and his **seed*** [singular] *were the promises made. He saith not, And to **seeds, as of many; but as of one,** And to **thy seed, which is CHRIST**"* (Gal. 3:16). Jesus is the savior that was promised — the only begotten Son of God (John 3:16).

The apostle John wrote these words: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made"* (John 1:1-3). In verse 14 we read: *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*

Ephesians 2:13-21: *"But now **in Christ Jesus** ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one* [Jew & Gentile], *and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For **through him** we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are **built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone];** In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord"* (Eph. 2:13-21).

**Islam has the wrong HEAD: Mohammed.**

Jesus the Christ is the head of the church, the eternal kingdom of God — not Mohammed. *"And hath put all things under his feet* [Jesus the Christ], *and **gave him to be the head** over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all"* (Eph. 1:22-23). *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ"* (Eph. 4:15). *"And he* [Jesus the Christ] *is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence"* (Col. 1:18). *"Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed"* (1 Peter 2:7-8).

Jesus is the savior of the world. *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord"* (Luke 2:11). *"...This is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world"* (John 4:42). *"...The Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ"* (Phil. 3:20). *"...Our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel"* (2 Tim. 1:10; Acts 13:23, Eph. 5:23).

**Islam began at the WRONG PLACE: Mecca**

The promised messiah, Jesus the Christ, would establish his kingdom in Jerusalem. *"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of **Zion** shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from **Jerusalem**"* (Isa. 2:2-3; Micah 4:1-3).

The church of Christ began in Jerusalem. *"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto **Jerusalem,** and*

*suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but* ***tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem,*** *until ye be endued with power from on high"* (Luke 24:49-53). *"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should* ***not depart from Jerusalem,*** *but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. ... But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in* ***Jerusalem,*** *and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. ... Then returned they unto* ***Jerusalem****..."* (Acts 1:4,8,12). *"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"* (Acts 2:1-4).

**Islam began at the WRONG TIME: 622 A.D.**

The eternal kingdom (the church of Christ) was prophesied to began during the days of the Roman Empire (circa 146 BC — 476 AD). *"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever"* (Daniel 2:44).

The church of Christ, the promised kingdom, was established in 33 AD during the days of the Roman kingdom — 600 years earlier than Islam. The Roman Empire ended 150 years before Islam.

Jesus said: *"There be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power"* (Mark 9:1). *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son"* (Col. 1:13).

**Islam has the wrong LAW: Qur'an (Al-Qur'an)**

The word of the Lord, the Bible, the New Testament, governs all mankind. Jesus said: *"He that rejecteth me, and* ***receiveth not my words,*** *hath one that judgeth him:* ***the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day****"* (John 12:48). *"The Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son"* (John 5:22). *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That* ***the man of God may be perfect,*** *throughly furnished unto all good works"* (2 Tim. 3:16-17). *"Because he* [God] *hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead"* (Acts 17:31). The apostle John wrote: *"I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and* ***the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books,*** *according to their works"* (Rev. 20:12).

**Islam has the wrong ANCESTRY: Ishmael**

Isaac was the child of promise, not Ishmael. In Genesis 17:19 we read: *"God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee* [Abraham] *a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. ... But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee..."* (Gen. 17:19,21).

Galatians 4:22-31 makes clear that "Christians" are the children of Abraham through Isaac, not Ishmael. *"It is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. ... Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman"* (Gal. 4:22-31).

**Islam has the wrong means of EVANGELISM: Coercion**

While some in the Islamic Faith reject coercion, many others wholeheartedly accept it and practice it.

The church of Christ is a kingdom of peace. Jesus said: *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light"* (Matt. 11:28-30). Regarding the Christ, Matthew quotes Isaiah: *"Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.* ***He shall not strive*** [engage in strife], ***nor cry*** [cry out]; ***neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets*** [as in protest]. ***A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till***

*(Continued on page 88)*

**Islam's Identifying Marks...**

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# The Islamic Religion Explained

*Jon Gary Williams*

**DEFINING TERMS:**

**Allah** — Islam's name for its god.

**Muhammad** — Said to be Allah's prophet sent to restore true religion. He is considered to be the last and most important prophet, even superseding Christ.

**Islam** — The religion which resulted from the influence of Muhammad begun in 622 A.D. Islam means "submission."

**Muslim** — One who follows the religion of Islam. It means "one who submits to Allah."

**Ali** — Cousin and son-in-law of Muhammad — followed by the Shiite division.

**Abu Bakr** — Father-in-law of Muhammad — followed by the Sunni division.

**Qur'an** (Koran), **Hadith**, **Sharia**. (see "Islamic Holy books")

**Mecca** — The most holy city of Islam located in western Saudi Arabia. Said to be the "First place created." The city to which Muslims are to make a pilgrimage at least once in their lifetime.

**Hajj** — Word describing a Muslim's pilgrimage to Mecca.

**Medina** — City of western Saudi Arabia where Muhammad was buried — under the green dome of the "Mosque of the Prophet."

**Dome of the Rock** — Mosque in Jerusalem where Solomon's temple once stood. Muslims believe Muhammad was supernaturally transported from Mecca to this spot and then taken to heaven to meet Abraham, Moses and Jesus.

**Ramadan** — The Islamic month in which it is claimed that the Quran was revealed to Muhammad. (Equivalent to September.) Muslims fast during this month.

**Ayatollah** — Spiritual leader ("master").

**Jihad** — Means "struggle" or "strive." A word describing a "holy war" and is the driving force of Islam. Some Muslims believe this is a spiritual struggling, however, radical Muslims believe this includes waging physical battles.

**Imams (Caliphs)** — Religious leaders.

**Sunni, Shiite** (see "The Two Divisions")

**HISTORY OF THE ISLAMIC RELIGION**

Muhammad, born in Mecca in 570 A.D., claimed that in a cave he had a vision of Allah and through an angel named Gabriel he received revelations. Later these revelations became the Quran. He began to teach his new religion. His wife, Khadija, a wealthy widow, was his first convert. His cousin and son-in-law, Ali, was also converted and it was Muhammad's desire that Ali become his successor.

In 622 A.D. Muhammad was driven out of Mecca and took flight to Medina. Before leaving Mecca he preached a peaceful co-existence with others. Later, however, his preaching became more aggressive. His writings gradually shifted to Jihad — "holy war." In Medina he converted many and organized the Umma, the community of Islam. Here the first Islamic mosque was built. He organized an army and took the role of prophet, ruler, judge and prayer leader.

Muhammad's radical religion resulted in the establishment of a powerful political theocracy with himself as head. His new "religion" was now to increase by forcible conquest. Muhammad set out to control the Arabian peninsula. He subdued tribes killing thousands of resisters. Plundering city after city he was able to consolidate his power. A way of entering Paradise (as seen by radical Muslims: Sura 4:74 "Let those fight in a way of Allah, who sell this world's life for the hereafter; and whoever fights in the way of Allah, then be he slain or be victorious, we shall grant him a mighty reward." For radical Muslims the guaranteed way of entering Paradise is to die in Jihad — dying while fighting an enemy of Islam.

Through his conquest Muhammad gathered many wives and concubines. When Muhammad died (632 A.D.) a great dispute arose over who would be his successor. Muhammad wanted his son-in-law, Ali, to take his place. However, while his family was busy with his funeral the leaders in Medina elected Abu Bakr as successor. From that time the Islam religion has been marked by two major divisions.

**THE TWO DIVISIONS**

The two major divisions within Islam are the Sunnis and Shiites.

**Sunni** — Most Muslims in all the Mideast are Sunnis — as many as 90%.

Their source of religious authority is the Quran and written traditions.

They are more "orthodox" following traditional beliefs and actions.

They believe in a separation between religious and civil authority.

They believe their leaders should be elected.

They believe the Jihad (holy war) is a spiritual battle.

**Shiite** — Shiites dominate the country of Iran — as many as 93%.

They regard only the Imams (Caliphs) descended directly from Muhammad's son-in-law, Ali, as authority.

They promote the Jihad (holy war) as literal fighting. (See Sura 4:74 above)

Most Muslim radical terrorists come from the Shiite division, however, some come from other Muslim sects.

In addition to Mecca, Medina and the Dome of the Rock, the Shiites have two other sacred cities — Karbala in Iraq and Meshed in Iran.

Both Sunni and Shiite divisions have many splinter groups.

**SECTS OF ISLAM**

Within the Muslim world there are several different ideologies.

**Ismaili** — Those who follow a later line of Caliphs.

**Sufis** — They oppose a rigid interpretation of the Quran, relying as much on personal experiences.

**Wahhabis** — These are strict fundamentalists, rejecting anything added after the third century of Islamic religion. They have strong control over Muslim mosques. It is from the Wahhabis sect that suicide bombers (both men and women) are recruited.

**Taliban** — These are extreme radicals who dominate Muslims in

Afghanistan.

**Hamas** — This is the "Islamic Resistance Movement" — extreme terrorists working among the Palestinians. They hate Jews and deny the Holocaust.

**Al-Qaida** — This is a global political movement trying to represent all Islam. They are death-obsessed and want to kill all who are not Muslims.

There are other smaller Muslim sects: **Kahrijites**, **Zaidis**, **Fatimids**, **Nizari**, **Druze** and **Baha'i.**

**ISLAMIC HOLY BOOKS**

**Qur'an (Koran)** — The Islamic "Bible." A collection of so-called revelations given by Allah to Muhammad through an angel called Gabriel. It is considered to be Allah's absolute, infallible and final word. It contains 114 chapters (Suras). The literary style of the Quran is incoherent, containing numerous deviations. No ongoing theme exists and it lacks the historical nature of the Bible. It's so-called prophecies are only obscure speculations — nothing to compare with the prophetic nature of the Bible. About 60% of the Quran speaks about Jihad and allows for violence, retaliation and revenge.

**The Hadith** -Writings used as a supplement (interpretation) of the Quran. They contain rules and principles to govern activities of life. The Sunni Muslims accept all the Hadith. The Shiite Muslims accept all but things recorded by Muhammad's second wife.

**The Sharia** — A body of literature. They contain Islamic law. They deal principally with custom and practice.

**The Bible** — Surprisingly Muslims also appeal to the Bible (on their own terms). **The Torah (Pentateuch)** — The prophet Moses — **The Psalms** — The prophet David — **The Gospels** — The prophet Jesus. However, Muslims are taught that all these writings were corrupted. Hence, Allah appointed Muhammad to receive the Quran to correct the corruptions.

**ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS BELIEFS**

**The oneness of Allah** — This is primary to Muslims. (This is in contrast to the Biblical teaching that God is a triune bring — Father, Son and Holy Spirit.)

**The 5 pillars of faith**

1) The Shahada — the confession faith in Allah. "There is no God by Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet." (Saying Shahada with sincerity makes one a Muslim.) To the Muslim there is mystique in this chant. It is considered to be a source of strength and often heard at gatherings and funeral dirges.

2) Multiple daily prayers — dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, dusk, 2 hours after sunset.

3) Charitable giving — 2.5%. Generally recipients feel no gratitude toward the giver, they believe they are allowing the giver to fulfill an obligation.

4) Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime — called "Hajj."

5) Fasting at daylight hours during Ramadan.

6) Note: Radical Muslims include a 6th pillar — the **Jihad**.

**ISLAM — A RELIGION OF WORKS**

Entrance to Paradise (heaven) must be earned. Sura 101:6-9 "Then as for him whose measure of good deeds is heavy, he shall have a pleasant life (in Paradise). But as for him whose measure (of good deeds) is light, his abode shall be the abyss (pit, hell)."

**ISLAM — A RELIGION OF BLIND ACCEPTANCE**

Muslims are not to question their religion. Sura 5:101-102 — "O ye who believe! Ask not questions about things which if made plain to you, may cause you trouble. Some before you did ask such questions, and on that account lost their faith." In Muslim controlled countries criticism of the Islam religion is a criminal offence and is often punishable by death.

**ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY**

**Jesus** — To Muslims Jesus cannot be Deity. The greatest sin is to believe that God could take the form of man. Islam religion teaches that Jesus was merely another prophet of Allah, the last in a long lime of Old Testament prophets. They believe only small parts of what the gospels reveal about Jesus. They deny Jesus was crucified and raised from the dead and that people are saved by his atoning death.

**The New Testament —** They believe the New Testament is the product of people who wanted to promote Jesus as a savior and is not God's final revelation to man. They believe only those parts of the New Testament they can use to give support to their claims regarding the Islamic religion.

**Christianity** — They believe Christianity is a false religion and not God's eternal purpose. They are taught that those who claim Christianity are "infidels."

**THE GOAL OF RADICAL ISLAM — WORLD DOMINATION**

Omar, the 2nd Caliph of Islam, advocated that the theocratic state of Islam must conquer the world. This was considered the true glory of Allah. The Islam religion was advanced by armed conquest. This conquest was thwarted when its armies were defeated at the Battle of Tours in France in 732 A.D. Later attempts at conquest were put down in the Crusade wars between Christians and Muslims (1096 — 1291 A.D.).

The Islam religion is intolerable. Most Muslim nations are closed to other religions and have made evangelism by other religions illegal. (Yet, Muslim leaders expect freedom to promote their religion worldwide.)

Jihad victory — Radical Muslims consider Jihad a success when a nation accepts Islam as both their religion and their form of government. Of the 1.4 Billion Muslims in the world 15% are radical extremists, which means there are at least 200 million radical Muslims who believe the Jihad is real war. Though the Islam religion has always been an aggressive religion, in more recent times Islamic radical fundamentalism has grown due to several factors:

1) The resurgence of fundamental Islamic beliefs in newly established Islamic nations. (Many middle eastern nations are less then 60 years old.)

2) The establishment of the modern nation of Israel.

3) The moral weakness of an increasingly secularized western culture.

4) An increase of Arabic emigration to western Europe and America.

5) Oil.

**PRESENT WORLD RELIGIOUS STATS** (As of 2010)

**Christianity** — 33%, Islam — 22%, Hindu — 15%, Non-religious — 14%, Buddhism — 6%, Chinese

— 3%, Primal — 3%, Other — 3%, Africa has over 300 million Muslims, Asia has over 775 million Muslims.

In 1945 there were only 4 independent Islamic nations. Now there are 24. Of these, 5 have strict enforcement of Islamic laws: Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Egypt and the Sudan.

The Sudanese government is the most severe, having forced people to convert to Islam through starvation, enslavement, torture and imprisonment. Since becoming an Islamic state, in Sudan an estimated 3 million non-Muslims have been enslaved or slaughtered.

Muslims in non-Arab countries now outnumber Muslims in Arab countries 3 to 1.

Global birthrate is now almost 50% Muslim. (United Nations figures)

France has over 5 million Muslims, Germany has over 3 million Muslims.

Islam is now the 4th largest religious group in America.

**ISLAMIC EVANGELISM IN THE UNITED STATES**

In America 30% of Muslims are not of Arab descent but are converts, most coming from the African-American community. Many millions of Arab dollars go to promoting the Islam religion in America. Islamic nations financially support the "World Community of Islam in the West" — better known as the "Black Muslim Movement." Detroit has over 500,000 Muslims and 40 Mosques. Each year in our prison systems it is estimated that upwards to 35,000 black prisoners are converted to the Islam religion.

Islam groups are highly visible and active on American University campuses. It is echoed by Muslin leaders: "It is time to get out of the mosque and into the community."

**ISLAM AND POLITICS**

"American Muslims have arrived as a political force." (American Muslim Council). Each year more and more Muslims enter local, state and federal political offices. Through their oil wealth (OPEC) Islamic nations maintain strong influence in world economy.

**ISLAMIC MOSQUES**

There are approximately 2,770 to over 3,000 mosques in the United States. Prayer five times daily. (It is taught that prayers in a mosque are more valuable.) There is no music. No books are used. Prayers are from memory. In many mosques there are schools which function to promote Islam. In some places Mosques are used for more than worship — they have been used for storing weapons, making military plans, recruiting Muslims to fight in the Jihad and classes in which children are taught to hate and kill non-Muslims.

Mosques are present in all 50 states. States with the largest total numbers and highest concentrations are: California, New York, Texas, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

**ISLAM AND WOMEN**

Muslim women have the same religious obligations as men. Under Muslim law women are said to have certain rights: the right to inherit, to buy and sell, to control their own property and the right to obtain an education.

Note: While this may be true in some places, in most Islamic controlled countries this is not always the case.

Some examples of negative attitudes toward women.

1) Men may have up to four wives.

2) Women can have only one husband.

3) Women inherit only half of what men inherit.

4) A Muslim wife cannot answer the door if her husband is not home.

5) Men can divorce their wives by simply saying the word "Talag" three times.

6) Women must have their heads covered when in the public.

7) Women cannot shake hands with men.

Thousands of Muslim women have told horrific stories of mistreatment.

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| ISLAM | TRUTH |
|---|---|
| There is no god but Allah. (Shahada, Surah Muhammad 47:19) | (Exodus 20:2-3) "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Exodus 6:3; Psalm 83:18) |
| Mohammed is his messenger (prophet). (Shadhada, Quran) | (1 John 4:1) "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." (Mark 13:22; Acts 3:22-26; Gal. 1:9) |
| The Quran (Koran) is God's revelation from heaven for man. (Quran Surah Az-Zumar 39:1; Al-Jathiyah 45:2) | (Gal. 1:6) "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel." (2 Tim 3:16,17; Rev. 22:18) |
| The angel Gabriel (Jibril) appeared to Muhammad in a cave. (Hadith, Sahih alBukhari book 1, Hadith 3; book 91, Hadith 4953 & Sahih Muslim) | (Gal. 1:8) "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." (Acts 10:3-6; Jude 3; 2 Cor. 4:7) |
| Jesus (Isa) was a prophet, though inferior to Mohammed. (Surah Maryam 19, verses 30-33; Surah Al-Maidah 5, 75) | (Heb. 1:5) "For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?" (Isa. 9:6; Matt.5:39-42) |
| Holy wars of conquest are right and meritorious. (Quran, Hadith literature; Quran 4:74; 8:39; 9:29) | (John 18:36) "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." (Matt. 6:10; Col. 1:13; Matt. 5:39-41) |
| Jesus did not die on the cross, but was helped to escape. (Surah An-Nisa 4:157; Quran 4:157) | Phil: 2:8) "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Matt. 27:50; Rom. 5:6-10) |
| Polygamy is permissible for man (up to four wives). (Quran, Surah An-Nisa 4:3; Hadith) | (Matt 9:4-6) "He answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." (Gen. 2:18-25; 1 Tim. 3:2) |
| A pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca is necessary at least once before death (those able-bodied and financially able). (Quran, Surah Al-Imran 3:97) | (John 4:21) "Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father." (Eph. 2:8-9; Rev. 22:14) |
| Pray (Qibla) five times a day (facing Mecca) and fast one month each year during Ramadan (1 of 5 pillars) of Islam. (Surah Al-Isra 17:78-79; Ta-Ha 20:130) | Gal. 4:10-11) "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain." (1 Thess. 5:17) |
| Angels (Jinn or Genii) intercede between God and man. (Quran Suran An-Najm 53:26; Al-Anbiya 21:26-28) | (1 Tim. 2:5) "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (Rom. 8:26-27; 8:34; Heb. 7:25) |

**The Christian's Response...**
*(Continued from page 81)*

"turn the other cheek" (Luke 6:29).

**The Quran:** "And kill them wherever you find them, and drive them out from where they drove you out, and persecution is worse than slaughter. And fight not with them at the Sacred Mosque until they fight with you in it; so if they fight you (in it) slay them. Such is the recompense of the disbelievers" (Surah The Cow a.k.a. chapter 2:191). And, "So when the sacred months have passed, slay the idolaters [polytheists], wherever you find them, and take them captive and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush. But if they repent and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate, leave their way free. Surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful" (Surah The Immunity a.k.a. chapter 9:5).

**The Bible:** *"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you"* (Matt. 5:43-44). And, *"But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also"* (Matt. 5:39).

These contrasts from the Quran and the Bible prove the religion of Islam to be a false religion.

False religions in America have twisted the Scriptures not only to their own destruction but also to the ruination of the nation (2 Peter 3:16). How sad that America seems never to have learned the lesson Jesus taught when He said, *"And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand"* (Mark 3:24).

Perhaps by looking for ways to apply this "Christian response to the rise of the religion of Islam in America" the church will be empowered to take the proper stand against this evil. Wisdom shows that *"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people"* (Prov. 14:34). Before listing the Christian's spiritual armor, the apostle to the gentiles said, *"Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. Stand therefore..."* (Eph. 3:10).

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# The Bible And The Qur'an: The Evidence For Divine Revelation

*John F. Board*

When Christians compare the Bible with the Qur'an (Quran or older spelling Koran), the central question is whether God has spoken through these documents. Antiquity, literary beauty, widespread influence, and careful preservation do not establish divine inspiration. A book may possess all these qualities and still originate with men.

Christians affirm the Bible is God's word and reject the Qur'an's claim to be a subsequent revelation from Him. However, we should explain why. Confidence must rest upon evidence. Our arguments must withstand the same examination we apply to another religion. Paul instructed, *"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good"* (1 Thess. 5:21).

## A CLAIM REQUIRES CONFIRMATION

The Bible explicitly claims divine inspiration. Paul wrote, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God"* (2 Tim. 3:16). These words identify what Scripture claims, but quoting them alone does not establish that claim to an unbeliever. The Qur'an also claims divine origin. Competing claims require examination.

The biblical case rests upon a connected body of evidence: 1) revelation unfolding through history, 2) prophecy and fulfillment, 3) the works and resurrection of Jesus, 4) the testimony of His appointed witnesses, to name a few. These considerations deserve more attention than arguments about which book has the most attractive language or the fewest copying differences.

The question is whether the evidence gives us sufficient reason to recognize God's authority behind the message.

**Prophecy Preceded Its Fulfillment.** The relationship between the Old and New Testaments is fundamental to the Christian's case. The apostles did not present Jesus as an isolated religious teacher. They proclaimed Him as the fulfillment of promises God had made beforehand.

Isaiah 53 describes a servant who suffers innocently, bears the sins of others and is associated with death and subsequent vindication. Christians recognize the fulfillment of this portrait in Jesus. Acts 8:30-35 records Philip beginning with this passage and preaching Christ.

The chronological relationship matters. The "Isaiah Scroll" dates from before Jesus' earthly life. Thus, the prophecy cannot reasonably be dismissed as a Christian passage inserted into Isaiah after the crucifixion. Its interpretation must still be examined, but its existence before Christianity is established by manuscript evidence.

The Christian argument is cumulative. The promises to Abraham, the Davidic hope, and the prophetic expectation of redemption, converge in Christ. This unfolding relationship supplies a substantial reason to understand the Bible as a unified revelation, rather than merely a collection of unrelated religious writings.

**The Resurrection Is Central.** Christianity places its central claim within history. Jesus lived, was crucified, and, according to the apostolic witnesses, rose from the dead. Paul openly acknowledged the consequences if that proclamation were false: *"And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain"* (1 Cor. 15:17).

In 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, Paul recounts Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and appearances. He names witnesses, including Peter and James, and refers to a larger group, many of whom he says were still living. This is testimony about events and identifiable people, rather than an appeal merely to private religious feeling.

Paul reports meeting Peter and James (Gal. 1:18-19). His testimony therefore connects with others at the center of the earliest Christian proclamation.

Naming witnesses does not automatically prove a miracle. Their testimony must be weighed. Nevertheless, the early proclamation, the witnesses' reported encounters, and Paul's transformation from persecutor to preacher,

together, present a serious historical case. Christians conclude that Christ's actual resurrection best explains this evidence.

If Jesus rose from the dead, His authority cannot be treated as merely that of another religious philosopher. The resurrection supplies the foundation for trusting His teaching concerning God, Scripture, and salvation.

**Christ's Authority Leads Us to Scripture.** Jesus treated the Old Testament as authoritative and declared, *"The scripture cannot be broken"* (John 10:35). He also commissioned apostles and promised them the Spirit's guidance (John 14:26; 16:13). Hebrews 2:3-4 describes the message as confirmed by those who heard the Lord, with God bearing witness through miraculous works.

The Christian argument therefore has a definite progression: examine the evidence concerning Jesus, recognize His divine authority, and receive the Scriptures He endorsed and the apostolic teaching He authorized.

This does not eliminate the need to examine individual books and their apostolic connections. It provides the foundation for doing so. Our confidence in Scripture rests upon the authority of Christ whose claims are supported by the evidence of His resurrection.

**Why Reject the Qur'an's Claim?** The Qur'an appeared centuries after the apostolic proclamation and challenges central elements of that message. A decisive example concerns the crucifixion. *Qur'an 4:157, as traditionally understood in Islam, denies that Jesus was crucified.* Although interpretations differ over some details, this understanding conflicts directly with the New Testament's account.

Christ's execution is also reported outside Christian Scripture. The Roman historian Tacitus records that Christus [Christ] suffered execution under Pontius Pilate during Tiberius's reign (Annals 15.44). Tacitus does not establish the resurrection, but his account corroborates the execution that the traditional Islamic reading denies.

A later denial does not overturn earlier evidence simply by claiming divine authority. It requires adequate grounds for rejecting that evidence. The issue is, therefore, more than disagreement between two books. The Christian case appeals to testimony arising close to the events and to the authority of the risen Christ. Having recognized that authority, Christians cannot accept a later message that contradicts the Gospel He authorized. Paul explicitly warned against another gospel, even if proclaimed by an angel (Gal. 1:8-9).

**Preservation Has a Supporting Role.** Textual preservation remains important because we must know what a document says before evaluating its claims. However, preservation and inspiration are different questions.

Islamic tradition describes Uthman's distribution of official Qur'anic copies and destruction of other written materials (Sahih al-Bukhari 4987). That account deserves fair examination. It does not, by itself, prove that the Qur'an is false. Likewise, biblical manuscript differences do not automatically disprove the inspiration of the original writings. Even a perfectly preserved Qur'an would still require evidence of divine origin. Accurate copying cannot supply divine authority to an originally human message.

Christians have positive reasons for receiving the Bible: 1) its prophetic preparation, 2) its historical testimony concerning Jesus, and 3) the authority of the risen Lord. We reject the Qur'ans competing claim because it would require us to abandon central truths supported by that evidence.

Our responsibility is to present this case clearly, treat Muslims with respect, and speak the truth without exaggeration.

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## Islam's Identifying Marks...

*(Continued from page 83)*

***he send forth judgment unto victory"*** (Matt. 12:18-20; Isa. 42:1-4). *"The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and* ***peace,*** *and joy in the Holy Ghost. ... Let us therefore* ***follow after the things which make for peace,*** *and things wherewith one may edify another"* (Rom. 14:17,19). *"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence"* (John 18:36). Paul wrote: *"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we* ***persuade*** *men..."* (2 Cor. 5:11).

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