

Family Night Special Feature Study
What in the World is Going On?

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	SUMMARY
FOUR	February 11	Islamic Terrorism	Islam claims to be a peaceful religion. We see this religion with a sole objective of destroying the nation of Israel.

NOTE:

Allow Dr. David Jeremiah to challenge you with his pertinent message, *What in the World Is Going On? 10 Prophetic Clues You Cannot Afford to Ignore* and discover the hope we have in Christ.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Joyce Center @ University of Notre Dame
 113 Joyce Center.....Notre Dame, IN 46556
 Start: 7:00 pm Doors Open: 5:30 pm

Study #4 – Islamic Terrorism

Islam claims to be a peaceful religion but how do we reckon this statement with the Islamic Extremist who have called for an outright religious jihad on anyone who will not convert to Islam. Is there such a thing as an Islamic Extremist or do Muslims have a different plan in mind?

The Bible is silent on the specific religion of Islam but we do see other areas in Scripture that speak of the countries, people, and the land where Islam gets its roots from. During this study we will bring more clarification upon the religion of Islam and hold nothing back in the attempt to spread the truth about this religion and its objective in this world.

Facts about Islam

We begin by examining a few simple facts about Islam. These facts are central in developing a basic framework of understanding for us to study the nature of this religion.

- Islam literally means “submission.”
- Islam makes up 20% of the world’s population.
 - There are 1.5 billion Muslims today.
 - There are 1.4 million Muslims in the United States (6% of adult population)
- Islam began in Arabia by Muhammad and spread to North Africa, South-Central Asia, and Indonesia.
- The Qu’ran is the holy book for Islam and consists of Muhammad’s revelations from Allah. They claim it is inspired by God.
- Non-Arab Muslims outnumber Arab Muslims by nearly three to one. Muslim populations: Indonesia 88%, Pakistan 97%, Bangladesh 97 %, India 11%.
- One fifth of international students in the United States come from 40 Islamic countries.
- Following Muhammad’s death two groups divided over his successor. The Sunnis believed the successor should be elected. The Shi’ites believed he should come from the blood line of Muhammad.
- Sunnis are 90% of the Muslims. They emphasize consensus and the authority of the written tradition. These include not only the *Qur’an* but also the *Sunna* or “customs.”
- The Shi’ites are more authority oriented. They believe that God spoke through an *Imam*. The twelfth *Imam* disappeared, and they await his return. In the mean time they and the Sunnis rely on *ulama* or religious scholars.

Questions to Consider

- *What stands out to you about these simple facts on Islam?*
- *Why would these facts be important in helping Christians develop a Biblical framework for understanding the threat of Islam?*

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV) – Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 2:1 (NIV) – But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves.

History of Islam

The next section of our study will focus on obtaining a brief history of the rise of the Islamic religion. Islam was founded in the early seventh century by Muhammad. He was born in Mecca in the Saudi Arabian peninsula in 570 A.D. His father died before he was born, and his mother died when he was six years old. He was raised first by a grandfather and later by an uncle.

Muhammad was illiterate throughout his life. Until the age of 25 he worked in caravans. During his extensive travels, he encountered many Christians and Jews. Through his conversations with them, he picked up bits and pieces of both Judaism and Christianity.

- *Why is this an important item to note in the birth of Islam?*
 - *Think of historical and religious roots of Islam.*

Fifteen years after the marriage to his first wife, at age 40, Muhammad had a visitation from a spirit, in A.D. 610. Supposedly, this spirit told him that he was called of God to be a "prophet" and an "apostle." It is interesting to note that there was no tradition in Arabian religions of either prophets or apostles. These terms were obviously used by Muhammad to appeal to Jews and Christians.

Muhammad decided to proclaim that there was only one god — and he selected Allah as that god. That's the reason the crescent moon became the symbol of Islam. Muhammad also proclaimed that he was the prophet of Allah.

Initially, Muhammad expected both Jews and Christians to receive his new revelation. Thus, early passages in the Koran speak admiringly of "*the people of the Book*." These are the passages that Muslims in the West love to quote in their effort to prove that Islam is a tolerant religion. (NOTE: Sura Means Chapter in reference to the Qu'ran.)

Sura 5:82 which says, "You will find that those who are nearest in love to the believers [Muslims] are those who say, 'We are Christians.'"

History shows that the Jews and Christians rejected Muhammad and then he turned fiercely against them, and later passages in the Koran speak of them disparagingly:

Sura 5:51 – Commands Muslims not to take Jews and Christians as friends.

Sura 9:29 – Commands Muslims to fight against Jews and Christians until they either submit to Allah or else agree to pay a special tax.

Muhammad also found opposition to his teachings in his home town of Mecca and was eventually forced to flee the town to Medina where his message was received. The Islamic calendar dates from this year when Muhammad fled to Medina and found a receptive audience, resulting in the formal establishment of Islam as a religion.

- *Why did Muhammad find opposition to his teachings?*

Samples of Teachings of Muhammad

- **Sura 5:33** — "[For those who do not submit to Allah] their punishment is... execution or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet, from the opposite sides, or exile from the land."
- **Sura 2:216** — "Fighting is prescribed for you, and [some of] you dislike it. But it is possible that you dislike a thing which is good for you, and that you love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knows, and you know not."
- **Sura 9:5** — "Fight and slay the pagans wherever you find them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem of war."
- **Sura 2:190-193** — "Fight in the way of Allah... and slay them [the unbelievers] wherever you find them and drive them out... and fight them until... religion is for Allah."
- Muhammad is quoted in the **Hadith** (the oral tradition of Muhammad's sayings) as saying, "The sword is the key of heaven and hell. A drop of blood in the cause of Allah — a night spent in arms [war] — is of more avail than two months of fasting and prayer. Whosoever falls in battle, his sins are forgiven, and at the day of judgment, his limbs shall be supplied by the wings of angels and cherubim."
- Also in the **Hadith** it says "Whoever changes his religion, kill him" (Hadith 9:57).
- The Qu'ran also expresses an intolerant attitude toward any person who decides to reject the Islamic faith or convert to another religion. Such persons are to be executed (Sura 9:12).



These commands and many more are practiced in all Islamic Fundamentalist countries today.

Is this a peaceful religion that is just misunderstood or is there more to the story?

All of Muslims who were alive after the death of Muhammad took up the sword, as directed by the Qu'ran and devoted themselves to advancing Islam through military might. The resulting spread of the religion was phenomenal. Within a century, Islamic forces had conquered Saudi Arabia, the entire Middle East, Central Asia, and large parts of India. The armies raged through Egypt and across North Africa, destroying corrupt Byzantine Christianity in their path.

In 710 A.D. the Islamic armies crossed the Straits of Gibraltar and quickly conquered three-fourths of Spain and Portugal. They then invaded France and took one-third of the nation. They were 125 miles from Paris when they were miraculously defeated at the Battle of Poitiers (also known as the Battle of Tours) in 732 A.D. by a French army led by Charles Martel. Their influence in Spain lived on for a few more centuries before they were slowly driven back to North Africa.

A second powerful attempt to control all of Europe was made 900 years later in the 17th Century when the Turks expanded their Ottoman Empire. They made their way to Vienna by the late 1600's and were once again defeated by the Western forces. At this point, Islam fell into a state of virtually nonexistence until the 20th Century.

Factors that Awoke 20th Century Islam

- **The Amassing of Great Wealth** — This occurred with the discovery of vast oil reservoirs in the Middle East and other Islamic countries.
- **The Re-establishment of the Nation of Israel** — This was a deciding factor for the Islamic leaders and clerics of Middle Eastern countries that made the connection that this was the judgment of Allah due to the nature of the lukewarm Islamic people.
- **The Positioning of U.S. Armed Forces** — The engagement of the United States military and their great support for the nation of Israel during the 1990's s made tension rise throughout the Middle East in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.
- **The Encroachment of Western Culture into the Muslim World** — Hollywood, radio, and television from the Western culture began to glorify Middle Eastern religion through movies, television programs, and consumer goods.

What are other factors that have led to the rise of Islam in our world today?

Why should Christians be aware of these facts?

2 Timothy 4:3-5 – For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry

Reflect and Compare the Teachings of Jesus

Take a few minutes and reflect upon a few of the teachings of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Compare these teachings to some of those that you have already learned about with Muhammad.

- **Matthew 5:44** – "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."
- **Matthew 5:39** – "Whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also."
- **Matthew 7:1** – "Do not judge, lest you be judged."
- **Matthew 7:12** – "However you want people to treat you, so treat them."
- **Matthew 22:39** – "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
- **John 15:12,17** – "This is my commandment that you love one another."
- **John 15:13** – "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."
- **John 14:6** – Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Questions to Consider

- *How are these teachings different than that of Muhammad?*
- *How would these teachings lead us to the understanding that Allah and Jesus Christ are not the same God?*

Basic Beliefs of Islam

It is also important for us to understand the most basic beliefs of Islam in order to understand the main difference between Islam and Christianity. The beliefs of Muslims worldwide are diverse but there are six basic elements of faith common to nearly all Muslims.

Element #1 – The first of these is that there is no god but Allah. The pre-Islamic Arabs were polytheists. Muhammad succeeded in leading them to devote themselves solely to the chief God of the

pantheon whom they called Allah (which simply means God). To worship or attribute deity to any other being is considered *shirk* or blasphemy.

Element #2 – The second element of faith is belief in angels and jinn. Jinn are spirit beings capable of both good and evil actions and of possessing human beings. Above the jinn in rank are the angels of God. Two of them are believed to accompany every Muslim, one on the right to record his good deeds, and one on the left to record his evil deeds.

Element #3 – The third element is belief in Allah's holy books, 104 of which are referred to in the Qu'ran. Chief among these are the Law given to Moses, the Psalms given to David, the Gospel (or Injil) given to Jesus, and the Qu'ran given to Muhammad. Each of these is conceived to have communicated the same basic message of God's will to man. Obvious discrepancies between the Jewish and Christian Scriptures and the Qu'ran were accounted for by Muhammad in his suggestion that the Bible had been tampered with by Jews and Christians.

Element #4 – The fourth element of faith is belief in Allah's prophets, through whom Allah appealed to man to follow His will as revealed in His holy books. Among them were Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. But all agree that Muhammad was God's final and supreme prophet—the "seal" of the prophets.

Element #5 – The fifth element of faith is belief in the absolute predestinating will of Allah. The Koran seems to support the idea that all things (both good and evil) are the direct result of Allah's will. Those who conclude that Islam is a fatalistic religion have good reason for doing so.

Element #6 – The final element of faith is belief in the resurrection and final judgment. At the end of history, Allah will judge the works of all men. Those whose good deeds outweigh their bad deeds will enter into paradise. The rest will be consigned to hell. One's position with regard to Allah is determined by his success in keeping His laws.

*How could Islam and Christianity be seen as similar religions
when looking at the six basic elements of faith?*

Exodus 20:1-5 – And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me..."

Six Pillars of Islam

We now draw our attention to the six basic pillars of the Islamic faith. The Pillars of Islam are seen as items that they must accomplish to enter into paradise with Allah for eternity.

Pillar One – Recite the Shahadah

The first pillar is recitation of the creed: "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet." It is commonly held that to recite this creed in the presence of two witnesses is to constitute oneself a Muslim—one in submission to God. Remember that the word Islam simply means "submission."

Second Pillar – Pray

The second pillar is the regular practice of prayers. Sunni Muslims are required to recite specific prayers accompanied by prescribed motions five times daily. (Shi'ites do so only three times a day.) All male Muslims are also enjoined to meet for community prayer (and sermon) each Friday at noon.

Pillar Three – Fast

The third pillar is almsgiving. Born an orphan himself, Muhammad was deeply concerned for the needy. The Qu'ran requires that 2.5% of one's income be given to the poor or to the spread of Islam.

Pillar Four – Give Alms

The fourth pillar of Islam is the fast during the month of Ramadan (the ninth lunar month of the Muslim calendar, during which Muhammad is said to have received the first of his revelations from God, and during which he and his followers made their historic trek from Mecca to Medina). During this month, Muslims in good health are required to forego all food and liquid during daylight hours. This fast promotes the Muslim's self-discipline, dependence on Allah, and compassion for the needy.

Pillar Five – Make the Pilgrimage

The fifth pillar is the pilgrimage to Mecca. If possible, every Muslim is to make a pilgrimage to Mecca once during his life. It can be made properly only on a few days during the last month of the Muslim year. The pilgrimage promotes the ideas of worldwide unity and equality among Muslims. But it also contains many elements of prescribed activity that are of pagan origin.

Pillar Six – The Jihad

A sixth pillar, that of jihad, is often added. The term *Jihad* means "exertion" or "struggle" in behalf of Allah. Jihad is the means by which those who are outside the household of Islam are brought into its fold. Jihad may be by persuasion, or it may be by force or "holy war." The fact that any Muslim who dies in a holy war is assured his place in paradise provides strong incentive for participation!

Questions to Consider

- How could this be seen as a religion of works?
- How is this different than Christianity? Explain.

Ephesians 2:8 – For it is by grace you have been saved,
through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God...

Agenda of Islam

The Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran was the modern day Islamic spokesman who revived Muhammad's vision of world conquest. He taught that the re-establishment of Israel was a Satanic miracle allowed by Allah because of the lukewarm stance of the Muslim masses. He called for a renewal of true Islam to accomplish three purposes:

1. To overthrow the "secular" rulers of Islamic countries (like Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt), just as he had done in Iran.
2. To take back the land of Palestine for Allah, exterminating Israel in the process.
3. To conquer the rest of the world for Allah.

What are different ways these three purposes could be carried out? Explain.

Role of Islam in Prophecy

We have come to the basic understanding that Islam began in what is now the Saudi Arabia area. We also understand that a major country that seems to play an important Biblical role in the fulfillment of prophecy is Iran. **What is the national religion of Iran?** It is Islam and the president of Iran is claiming to be an instrument of worldwide destruction and chaos starting with Israel and the United States.

Ezekiel 38-39 speaks of this prophecy where the end time invasion of Israel that will be led by Russia and its allies: Persia (modern day Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan), Ethiopia, Put (Libya), Gomer (Western Turkey), and Beth-togarmah (Eastern Turkey). As you can see, all of these are countries with a Muslim majority. Ezekiel 39 reveals that these forces will be destroyed supernaturally by God upon the hills of Israel ([Ezekiel 38:18-23](#) and [39:3-6](#)).

Could Islam give rise to the Anti-Christ?

Islam: Is it just another false religion gaining momentum in the end of times?

Bibliography

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