

The Doctrines of Islam
Serendipity Sunday School Class
12/30/01 - 01/06/02

Selected Scripture Verses

- 1 John 4:1-6
- Matthew 7:15-23
- 2 Peter 2: 17-22
- John 3:16-21

Origins of Islam

- Islam first appeared beginning in 610 A.D. on the Arabian peninsula. Mohammed (born 570 A.D., died 633 A.D.) was the self-declared prophet of God.
- According to Mohammed, God's prophecies were revealed to him over a period of 23 years by the angel Gabriel.
- Mohammed's stated purpose was two-fold: to reveal Allah as the one true God, and to refute the "false doctrines" of Christianity and Judaism.
- Mohammed's teachings were recorded by secretaries during his lifetime and compiled into the Qur'an after his death; Mohammed himself was illiterate.
- Islam declares itself the last and greatest revelation of God, building on the Jewish and Christian traditions and "correcting" the misconceptions and false doctrines that have been handed down.

Basic Teachings of Islam

- Islam makes exclusive claims as to its divine inspiration and infallibility; all other religions are regarded as false doctrine and idolatry, including orthodox Judaism and Christianity.
- Islam claims its roots in the ancient Judeo-Christian traditions in an attempt to show that Allah is the same God revealed in the Old and New Testaments, but flatly denies that God exists in the three persons of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
- The relationship between God and his people is that of a master to his slaves. There is no sense of intimacy or the possibility to have a personal encounter with God.
- Islam claims that all the prophets from Adam to Jesus were Muslims, and that God's covenant blessing was passed from Abraham to Ishmael.
- Islam affirms the virgin birth and prophetic nature of Christ, but denies his crucifixion and resurrection; to attribute deity to Christ is to commit the greatest of all sins.
- Islam denies original sin and claims that all men are born sinless, capable of saving themselves through works. There is no atonement in Islam, and no need for one.
- Islam claims that the Bible is in fact an earlier revelation of Allah, but that it has been severely distorted through the passage of time. The Qur'an claims to be the final, superior, authoritative revelation of God.
- Converting from Islam to another religion is a crime that often carries the death penalty. Even questioning the teachings of Islam carries severe penalties; so too does owning or reading a Bible.
- *Jihad*, or struggle, is part of the duty of a Muslim to bring about the spread of Islam. This is most often carried out through control, intimidation, persecution, and murder. According to the *Voice of the Martyrs*, about 160,000 Christians are killed every year for their beliefs — most in Islamic countries. "Peace" is only promised for those who

submit to the authority of Allah.

- Heaven is the promised destination for martyrs of the faith. It is described only for men, and only in terms of appeasing their ultimate sexual fantasies. Heaven is not described in terms of communion with God or the saints, nor is a clear plan of salvation revealed for women of the faith.
- Only through martyrdom does a Muslim have assurance of salvation. Otherwise, one is depending upon completing enough good works to appease Allah. There is no atonement for one's past sins, only an opportunity to "make up for it" through good works.
- Hell is described as a place of eternal torment where Allah unleashes his wrath. It is the promised destination of all non-Muslims, as well as Muslims whose works are not sufficient to merit entrance into heaven.
- Muslim men are allowed to take as many as four wives and an unlimited number of concubines. Ideally, girls are given in marriage before they reach puberty. Men are allowed to have sexual contact with girls as young as infants, but must take care not to injure them.
- Women are not allowed to initiate divorce, but a man can divorce his wife for any reason by saying "I have divorced you" three times.
- Sex with animals is allowed, provided that the animal is killed following the sex act.
- There is no separation of church and state -- Islamic doctrine becomes Islamic law. Only Muslims can be citizens of Muslim countries; the testimony of a non-Muslim against a Muslim is not allowed. Acting contrary to the teaching of the Qur'an can be regarded as treason.

Summary Points

- Islam sets itself up in direct opposition to Christianity. The Bible teaches that grace offered through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the only way to receive forgiveness for sins; Islam claims that salvation is based on good works alone and that the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus was a fabrication.
- Not all Muslims seek to do violence to Christians, but those who do are fully justified by the teachings of the Qur'an. Mohammed -- who is held up to be the supreme example of obedience to Allah -- led the first slaughter of 700 Jews in the city of Medina. That persecution continues today, both within the borders of Islamic countries and around the world.

References

- *The Dark Side of Islam*. R.C. Sproul with Abdul Saleeb. Available on audiocassette (R1433) through Ligonier Ministries, 1-800-435-4343.
- *Jesus vs. Jihad, Exposing the Conflict Between Christ and Islam*. Marvin Yakos. Available at Christian Words and Works.
- *Understanding Islam, An Introduction to the Muslim World*. Thomas W. Lippman.
- *Islam*. Ruqaiyyah Maqsood.
- *Answering Islam, the Crescent in the Light of the Cross*. Norman L. Geisler and Abdul Saleeb. Available through Ligonier Ministries, 1-800-435-4343.