

# Islam

Islam is an incredibly difficult religion to discuss and understand for many reasons. Obviously, Islam is the most inflammatory issue in our culture right now. When we hear the word 'Muslim,' if we're honest, we think of terrorists and jihad. We have been told many times that "Islam" means "peace." That is not true. "Islam" means "submission," not peace.<sup>1</sup> We have been told that Islam is a peaceful religion<sup>2</sup>, but, unfortunately, even though most Muslims are peaceful, Islam is by definition a religion of war, barbarism and violence.

Part of the problem that I find within my own mind is that I tend to elevate the Koran and Islam as a religion above the other cults or heresies in the world today. We've been told that "we're all sons of Abraham" so many times, I think that we start to buy into that and start respecting Islam on some levels. This evening we want to take a few minutes to just look at Islam and remind ourselves that it is a profane perversion of spirituality, a pagan doctrine of salvation by works.

The Koran is broken into 114 chapters, known as 'Suras' which we will be referencing several times this evening.<sup>3</sup> Tonight we want to give you a lot of data to consider as you grow in your faith in Jesus Christ, and in your compassion for Muslims.

So, let's talk about Islam...

*Sura 2.216 - "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 God knoweth, and ye know not."*

*Sura 8.12-13 - "Remember thy Lord inspired the angels (with the message): 'I am with you: give firmness to the believers. I will instill terror into the hearts of the unbelievers. Smite ye above their necks and smite all their fingertips off them. This because they contended against God and His Apostle. If any contend against God and his Apostle, God is strict in punishment ... O ye who believe! When ye meet the unbelievers in hostile array, never turn your backs to them. If any do turn his back to them on such a day – unless it be in a stratagem of war, or to retreat to a troop (of his own) – he draws on himself the wrath of God, and his abode is hell, – an evil refuge (indeed)! It is not ye who slew them; it was God."*

*Sura 9.29-31 - "Fight those who believe not in God nor the last day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by God and His Apostle, nor acknowledge the religion of truth, (even if they are) of the people of the Book [Christians and Jews], until they pay the jizya [tribute] with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued. The Jews call Uzair [Ezra] a son of God, and the Christians call Christ the Son of God ... God's curse be on them."*

<sup>1</sup> Fast Facts On False Teachings, Carlson & Decker – pg. 109

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.allaahuakbar.net/mutazalites/index.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koran#Format>

Between 622AD and 632AD Muhammad killed tens of thousands of men, women and children for material gain or because of religious intolerance. At one time he decapitated 1000 Jewish men for their faith.<sup>4</sup>

In 1998, 13 Christians in Nigeria were arrested by the Islamic government and put on trial for praying publicly.<sup>5</sup>

In 1998, In Istanbul, 1,000 Christians were arrested, interrogated and tortured by the local Islamic police during an "investigation" of the murder of 2 Egyptian men.<sup>6</sup>

In 2001 a group of militant Muslims hijacked 4 planes and successfully flew 3 of them into the intended targets of World Trade Center Tower 1, World Trade Center Tower 2 and the Pentagon. The fourth plane crashed in Pennsylvania after the hijacked passengers fought against the terrorists. Thousands were killed in the attacks.<sup>7</sup>

In 2002 a Pakistani church was terrorized and attacked during a morning service. A militant threw 8 grenades into the church, killing 5, wounding dozens.<sup>8</sup>

In 2002 Muslim groups in Indonesia worked to prevent Christians from rebuilding their homes after they had been destroyed by militants who were angry with Christianity.<sup>9</sup>

In 2002 a Jordanian Christian woman lost custody of her children when she refused to raise them as Muslim.<sup>10</sup>

In 2002 the Nigerian government shut down 24 Christian schools for failing to implement a governmental decision that all Christian schools must provide Islamic religious studies as part of their curriculum.<sup>11</sup>

In 2002 Pakistan suffered a series of violent slayings of Christians by Muslims in March, May, August, September and October.<sup>12</sup>

In 2005 Jewish shop owners in Bethlehem were subject to repeated violence and harassment by Muslims in an effort to end tourism in the city.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Fast Facts On False Teachings, Carlson & Decker – pg. 110-111

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.bible.ca/islam/islam-kills-christians-news.html>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September\\_11%2C\\_2001\\_attacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11%2C_2001_attacks)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.bible.ca/islam/islam-kills-christians-news.html>

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> Ibid

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3190798,00.html>

Islam is a formidable presence in our world today and Islam is intolerant of any other belief system. In Islam there is no separation of church and state, no difference between sacred and secular. The quote from our chapter this week says it best:

*Islam is a peculiarly Arabian religion because Islam is a religion and culture, and as a religion and culture they are one.*<sup>14</sup>

We have been fed a long list of lies concerning this religion and must once again become grounded in our understanding of the religion and the desperate need for salvation that every Muslim has.

We want to give you a small sense of the inconsistencies, the heresies and the dangers of Islam.

We are constantly bombarded by incorrect information regarding Islam. The god that Muslims worship is not interchangeable with the God of the Bible. I hope that our chapter for this week revealed that to you. Allah is not the same as Jehovah. Islam teaches that Jesus did not die on the cross and, even if He did, there was no atoning work of salvation in His life, or death. In fact, Islam teaches that there is no vicarious atonement, but that each person must earn his or her way into paradise. Muslims do not believe in the Trinity, even though the Koran often refers to Allah in the plural sense. They believe that Allah has only revealed 99 of his names and that he is, in general, unknowable. Islam teaches that men are not born with original sin, they are born pure. Islam teaches that all the men that they call 'prophets' were sinless and infallible. This includes Adam, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, etc.<sup>15</sup> Islam is not a sister religion to Christianity or Judaism, it is absolutely contrary to both.

The Koran is rife with errors just like every other uninspired religious text.

1. The Koran teaches that Christians believe that Mary is the 3<sup>rd</sup> member of the Trinity. (Sura 4:171)<sup>16</sup>
2. The Koran teaches that Jews believed that Ezra is the Son of God.<sup>17</sup>
3. The Koran forbids believers to marry idolatrous women (Sura 2:221), and calls Christians idolaters and unbelievers (Sura 9:28-33), but still allows Muslims to marry Christian women (Sura 5:5).<sup>18</sup>
4. The Koran has a conflict over the order of creation: First earth and then heaven (Sura 2:29), heaven and after that earth (Sura 79:27-30).<sup>19</sup>
5. The Koran has an inconsistency concerning the story of Noah and his ark. According to Sura 21:76, Noah and his family is saved from the flood, and Sura 37:77 confirms that his seed survived. But Sura 11:42-43 reports that Noah's son drowned.<sup>20</sup>

That is a short list of many errors, difficulties and inconsistencies in the Koran. But let's talk about a bigger issue: It's called "Abrogation." Abrogation means to abolish, to put aside, or to put and

<sup>14</sup> Fast Facts On False Teachings, Carlson & Decker – pg. 103

<sup>15</sup> [http://muslim-canada.org/islam\\_christianity.html](http://muslim-canada.org/islam_christianity.html)

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.bible.ca/islam/islam-bible-koran-errors-catholic-mariolatry-trinity-father-son-mary.htm>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.bible.ca/islam/islam-bible-koran-errors.htm>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.answering-islam.org/Quran/Contra/#internal>

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

end to. Now, the Koran has many areas that fall into what scholars call the "doctrine of abrogation."<sup>21</sup> What this means is that Allah cancelled out earlier revelations, earlier commands and teachings, and replaced them with new commands and teachings. Of course, this issue is often avoided or explained away, but I think it is a good issue to discuss.

*Sura 2.106 – None of our revelations do we abrogate or cause to be forgotten, but we substitute something better or similar: knowest thou not that Allah hath power over all things?*

*Sura 16.101 – When we substitute one revelation for another, and Allah knows best what he reveals, they say, "Thou art but a forger," but most of them understand not.*

*Sura 13.39 – Allah doth blot out or confirm what he pleaseth; with him is the mother of the book.*

Now, a Muslim scholar wrote an excellent article on this issue that I am referencing here. You can check it out by looking at my footnotes.

Here are some of the issues he discovered.

### 1. The issue of alcohol and gambling

*Sura 2.219 - They ask thee concerning wine and gambling. Say: "In them is great sin, and some profit, for men; but the sin is greater than the profit." They ask thee how much they are to spend; Say: "What is beyond your needs." Thus doth Allah Make clear to you His Signs: In order that ye may consider.*

*Sura 4.43 - O ye who believe! Approach not prayers with a mind befogged, until ye can understand all that ye say,- nor in a state of ceremonial impurity (Except when travelling on the road), until after washing your whole body. If ye are ill, or on a journey, or one of you cometh from offices of nature, or ye have been in contact with women, and ye find no water, then take for yourselves clean sand or earth, and rub therewith your faces and hands. For Allah doth blot out sins and forgive again and again.*

### 2. Concerning Jews and Christians.

*Sura 2.62 - Those who believe (in the Quran) and those who follow the Jewish (scriptures) and the Christians and the Sabians, - Any who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and work righteousness, shall have their reward with their Lord: on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.*

*Sura 5.69 - If only they had stood fast by the Law, the Gospel, and all the revelation that was sent to them from their Lord, they would have enjoyed happiness from every side. There is from among them a party on the right course : but many of them follow a course that is evil.*

<sup>21</sup> [http://answering-islam.org/Authors/Farooq\\_Ibrahim/abrogation.htm](http://answering-islam.org/Authors/Farooq_Ibrahim/abrogation.htm)

*Sura 3.85 - If anyone desires a religion other than Islam (submission to God), never will it be accepted of him; and in the Hereafter he will be in the ranks of those who have lost (All spiritual good).*

There are other issues of conflict and abrogation in the Koran that we do not have time to discuss here.

Scholars of the Koran try to explain away these and other issues and try to present Islam as a tolerant, personal religion that encourages piety and spirituality. Unfortunately, Islam was never intended to be those things and simply does not teach them.

Though most Muslims are not fundamentalists, *all* the governments that are set up by Islam are radical, barbaric, brutal and completely intolerant of any other religion. Islam is not a religion of peace.

Now, you have probably heard the statistic that Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world, and that is simply not true. Everyone is using this number: 235%. 235% for Islam and 47% for Christianity. These numbers are absolutely false.<sup>22</sup> Now, while there *are* over 1 billion Muslims in the world today, Islam is plainly not the fastest growing religion in any region outside of the middle east. Those numbers were taken from a 1983 Reader's Digest survey which noted that over the previous 50 years Islam had increased 235%, without taking birthrates and cultural additions into account. Islamic nations and cultures have some of the highest birthrates in the world, double that of Christian birthrates.<sup>23</sup>

Many Muslim groups claim that they are still the fastest growing religion, but the truth is that, even with birthrate included, the Bahai religion and the Zoroastrian religion are growing at a significantly faster rate. Islam is present in 204 of the 238 countries around the world, and Christianity is present in ALL countries around the world.<sup>24</sup>

Studies show that Christianity is and always has been the world's largest religion and that on the individual level, Christians are out-converting Muslims 2 to 1. In fact, when studied rationally, with real-world statistics, more Christians are added to the world every day than any other religion on earth.

When you break down the growth rate of religions continent by continent things don't get any better for the Muslims...

In Europe, though Islam has a growing influence, Buddhism takes the cake as the fastest growing religion.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.bible.ca/islam/islam-myths-fastest-growing.htm>

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

In Asia, though Islam is 25% of the population and Christianity is only 10%, Christianity is still spreading faster, even while Muslim birth rates are higher. In fact, in Asia, Christians are 13 times more effective at making new converts than Muslims.<sup>26</sup>

Another false statistic we've been fed is the number of Muslims in the United States. Islamic organizations have long been championing the number of Muslims in the USA at 6-8 million. 2 independent studies in 2001 proved that the number of Muslims in our nation is at most 2.8 million.

So what does all this mean? I'm glad you asked. It is important that we have a basic understanding of what Islam actually teaches. Though most Muslims are not fundamentalist, history has proven that every Islamic government works to destroy all other belief systems through legislation, violence and terror. It is important to have a rational understanding of Islam so that our compassion and burdens for Muslims grow. We need to see them as oppressed people, because that is what they are, especially when under Islamic rule. And, we need to fight the trend of accepting Islam as a legitimate religion, akin to Christianity or Judaism.

Muslims are oppressed. Islamic governments (like Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, and Afganistan to name a few) rule with what is called Shariah Law.<sup>27</sup> Living under Shariah Law is harsh and deadly. For example, under Shariah Law, thieves are to be imprisoned and have their hand(s) or feet amputated and adulterers are to be stoned to death.<sup>28</sup> 75% of female Muslims worldwide are subjected to female circumcision.<sup>29</sup> Islam teaches that Muslim men are permitted to beat their wives when they act in a manner that is less than satisfactory.<sup>30</sup>

We could go on and on, but there is no need for further examples of Islamic brutality.

So why all this discussion? Because every day we are encouraged to accept Islam more and more.

Recently a Catholic bishop in the Netherlands is encouraging all faiths to start calling God 'Allah.'<sup>31</sup> CNN is running a special called "God's Warriors" in which they discuss the similarities of Islam, Judaism and Christianity, in an effort to prove that the religions are related and equal.<sup>32</sup>

We should never elevate Islam, the Koran or Muhammad over any other heretical teaching or cult group. Muslims are the same as Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses or Secular Humanists. They need Jesus Christ, not our tolerance. We should reach out to Muslims, not to Islam. Does that make sense?

A good way to do that is to pray, pray, pray. Most of us don't know any Muslims, but that doesn't mean that we won't be given an opportunity to tell a Muslim about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shariah\\_Law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shariah_Law)

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Fast Facts On False Teachings, Carlson & Decker – pg. 106

<sup>30</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam\\_and\\_domestic\\_violence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_and_domestic_violence)

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,293394,00.html>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2007/gods.warriors/>

Beyond that, there are a couple of resources that I recommend. Dave Hunt has a number of good articles and writings on Islam that would be a good place to start. You can get a list of his articles and books at [www.theberean.org](http://www.theberean.org) or by doing a Google search of "islam Dave Hunt."

Also, I have begun reading a book entitled "Glad News! God Loves You My Muslim Friend" by Samy Tanagho. It is a book written to Muslims, directing them to the Bible and to Jesus Christ from where Muslims are at. If this topic interests you, it would be a great purchase.

