

Islam 101

History

In Mecca, in the Arabian Peninsula – now known as Saudi Arabia – according to Islamic tradition, a man named Mohammed began receiving revelations from the angel Gabriel which came directly from god, known in Islam as Allah. Born in 570 A.D. Mohammed received revelations from approximately 610 A.D. until his death in 632 A.D.

When Mohammed made his revelations known to local Jewish scholars in Mecca, declaring himself a prophet, he was rebuked. During the first five to seven years, only a handful of people came to Islam. Eventually, Mohammed was driven out of Mecca and fled to the town of Medina. There, Mohammed made agreements with the local tribes, gained support, and raised an army. Many people were converted to Islam, and when Mohammed secured enough power, Mohammed returned to Mecca to conquer it. In Islam, Mohammed is considered the perfect example of a Muslim, therefore, anything he did is considered worthy of emulating. Significant examples include: Mohammed's marriage to six year old Aisha and consummation of the marriage when she was nine; Mohammed's killing of 500-700 Jews of the Qurayzah in Medina who were beheaded by sanction of Mohammed himself; and Mohammed's command to wage Jihad against non-Muslims until they accept or submit to Islam. All of these are accepted in Islam as authorized behavior.

The compilation of the revelations is contained in the Qur'an, which, in Islamic parlance, is considered "the uncreated word of God (Allah)." Because it is direct divine revelation, it can never be changed or annulled.

The Hadiths are the collections of the words and deeds of Mohammed as witnessed by those who traveled with him. There are many Hadith scholars and thousands of individual Hadiths. Hadiths are rated based on their "chain of transmission" which determines the authenticity of the individual Hadith. The most authoritative Hadith scholars are men named Bukhari and Muslim. Strongly authenticated Hadith by Bukhari is second in its authority in Islam only to the Qur'an itself.

Islam is not just a religion, but a "complete way of life governed by Islamic Law (Shari'ah)."

Islam is the social, cultural, military, political, and religious life of a Muslim governed by Islamic Law. Theology is subordinate to the requirement to adhere to the Shari'ah.

Islamic Law was formed from the Qur'an and the Sunnah (the 'way' of the Prophet) as detailed through the Hadiths.

Four Schools – In *Sunni* Islam, there are four doctrinal schools of law; the *Hanafi*, *Maliki*, *Shafi'ite*, and *Hanbali*. Sunni Islam makes up 85-90% of the Muslim world. It is to be noted that *Takfirism* and *Wahhabism* arise exclusively out of the *Hanbali* school of Islamic law, the form of Islamic law that is official in Saudi Arabia. Shia Islamic Law states it uses the four Sunni schools as the basis for its law – there are irreconcilable differences between Shia and Sunni law.

Ijma – or scholarly consensus, is the doctrine that holds that when the grand *mujtahids* came together at one time and one place to discuss one issue where they unanimously agreed (based on four criteria), then the issue agreed upon ruling becomes an absolute rule in Islamic law that cannot be contravened or annulled. The four schools of jurisprudence agree in approximately 75% of the law. "Jihad" and relations between Muslims and non-Muslims are issues where there is scholarly consensus.

Abrogation – is an Islamic legal doctrine that holds that what was revealed later in the period of revelation to Muhammad controls or overrules those things that were revealed earlier where disagreement exists. Therefore, the peaceful verses of the Quran (“...there is no compulsion in religion”) are abrogated by chronologically later violent verses (“...fight and slay them (unbelievers) where you find them.”).

Jihad – from *Reliance of the Traveller (Shafi’ite Islamic Law)*, means to “war against non-Muslims ... to establish the religion (of Islam).” Also understood as “just war” or “holy war.” No other definition of ‘jihad’ has ever existed at any point in history in any authoritative Islamic Law. When Muslims cannot fight the jihad against non-Muslims, they are required to fight with the pen or mouth. If even this is not possible, Islam requires them to fight with their “heart” and hate/despise the unbelievers for the sake of Allah.

Islam divides the entire world into the Dar al-harb and the Dar al-Islam.

Dar al-harb – the world of the sword, the infidel and perpetual war. Countries that are non-Muslim reside in the *dar al-harb*. Individuals from the *dar al-harb*, are designated as *harbi*, “enemy person, person from the territory of war.”

Dar al-Islam – the Land of Islam and peace. Peace on earth does not come until the entire world has been made of *Dar al-Islam*. Islam is under permanent *jihad* obligation to reduce the *dar al-harb* to non-existence.

Shaheed / Martyr – a Shaheed or Muslim martyr is a person who is killed while fighting the infidel, or the non-Muslim. When a Muslim dies, he is prepared for burial and buried within a short time, as prescribed by Islamic Law. He awaits the Day of Judgment at which time all the good and bad deeds of his life are weighed on a scale. If the bad outweigh the good, the person is cast into hell. If the good outweigh the bad, that person still must go through the fires of hell to be purified, and then he goes to Paradise/Heaven. A Shaheed is buried as he was killed so Allah can see he is a Martyr and is taken to Paradise/Heaven immediately. It is the only guaranteed way in Islam for a Muslim to get into Heaven.

Zakat – mandatory financial giving and one of the Five Pillars of Islam. Per Islamic Law, which comes directly from Sura 9:60 in the Qur’an, a Muslim must give 2.5% of their financial earnings – after expenses as calculated by a “Zakat Calculation” table – to eight (8) categories equally. Category seven (7) is “The Cause of Allah” and is defined as Jihad. This means that all Muslims are required, by Islamic Law, to support jihad – which the West calls terrorism.

The **Five Pillars of Islam** is the basic requirements of all Muslims and includes:

Shahadah – the statement of faith; there is no god but god (Allah) and Mohammed is his messenger.

Salah – five daily prayers

Zakat – almsgiving

Sawm – fasting

Hajj – pilgrimage to Mecca

The aforementioned information is understood as authoritative Islamic doctrine and taught at the most prestigious Islamic Institutions in the world. This is also taught in Islamic Schools at the elementary school level around the world, to include the majority of Islamic Schools in the

United States. To imply this information is not correct is to make a statement that the majority of the Muslim world understands and teaches an incorrect version of Islam.

Islam and Christianity Compared and Contrasted

Basics

	ISLAM	CHRISTIANITY
Name of Religion	Islam	Christianity
Meaning of the name:	Submission to the will of Allah	The practice of faith of believers in Jesus Christ
Name of a believer	Muslim	Christian
Date of Founding	622 AD ¹	Circa: 30 AD
Name of Founder	Muhammad	Jesus of Nazareth
Major Holy Book	Quran or Koran.	Bible: Old and New Testaments
Status of the Holy Book	Allah's literal word and final revelation, dictated by the angel Gabriel to Muhammad. Muhammad passed it on in oral form. A slightly imperfect copy of a perfect copy in Paradise.	The inspired inerrant word of God, but Christ Himself is the Eternal Word.
Purpose of the Holy Book	The Quran reveals Allah's guidance for living in this world in the political, judicial and economic realms.	The Bible reveals the nature of God (attributes, characteristics and works), the nature of man, God's means of redemption and the relationship between man and God.
Name of Worship Center	Mosque	Church
Relation of Mosque/Church and State	Integrated	Separated
Religious leader	Imam, or Mullah	Pastor
Practice of the religion	Muslims should mimic the teachings of the Quran and Muhammed, should practice the five pillars of Islam (belief in one God, prayer, pilgrimage, fasting, and alms) and engage in jihad.	Christians must obey God's words, should love the Lord their God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength, and love their neighbor as their self.

Doctrine

Concept of Deity	Strict monotheism (tawhid): One God in One person. Allah is	Trinitarian monotheism: One God in Three persons: The Trinity of
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	absolutely sovereign, unknowable and thus legitimately arbitrary in the exercise of mercy.	the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is knowable and approachable.
Son	Jesus was a prophet and did not die on the cross. Allah secretly substituted another. Jesus was virgin born but did not pre-exist	Jesus was the Son of God, God incarnate and died as the necessary sacrifice for sins. Jesus was virgin born and pre-existed
Holy Spirit	No concept of the Holy Spirit with Muhammad is the comforter	The Holy Spirit is the Comforter and dwells in every believer
Birth status of a child	All babies are born in a pure state of submission to Allah. However, as they mature they are often taught other beliefs. Rejects original sin.	A baby is born with a sin nature, separated from God. Believes in original sin.
Basis of determining who goes to heaven or hell	Once a person reaches puberty, his/her account of deeds is opened in Paradise. To attain paradise, at death, the good deeds (helping others, testifying to the truth of God, leading a virtuous life)... must outweigh their evil deeds.	Believing in the finished work of Jesus Christ, His life, death and resurrection.
Definition of Apostasy	Conversion to another religion	Defection from God's truth
Basis of forgiveness of sin	People receive forgiveness of sins by praying at the right time, cursing Jews and Christians with the angels, fighting for Islam.	People receive forgiveness by confessing and repenting of sin believing that the sacrificial work of Jesus was sufficient.
Means of salvation	Works without any certainty that Allah will be satisfied unless one dies as a Shaheed which guarantees eternity in Paradise	By faith through Grace alone
Reaction to Apostasy	Other believers are obligated to murder	Separation from
Relationship to unbelievers and their actions	You should kill pagans, apostates, and those of the house of war.	You should love all, even your enemies.
Creation	Allah created the universe by means of a Big Bang and the principles of evolution. The universe is many millions of years old. Man is a later creation by Allah	Literal 7 day creation or young earth spoken into existence by God and sustained by Christ
End times	Jesus (Isa) will return to overthrow al-Dajjal in the battle of 'Aqabat Afiq' in Syria, or at the Lud gate in Jerusalem according to	Jesus will come to rescue Israel, defeat the Antichrist, judge the nations and the wicked in Israel, and rule over the messianic

	another account. Jesus will "kill all pigs and break all crosses", confirming Islam as the only true religion. After 40 years Jesus will die and be buried next to Muhammad in Medina.	kingdom
Future of Israel	Eternally destroyed	Eternally restored
Events at Death	For a Shahid (martyr), no washing of the body, no shroud, immediate burial in the clothes they were wearing and immediate entrance into Paradise. For all other Muslims, washing, shrouding, burial on their right side facing Mecca. With death comes the Torment of the Grave which is the beginning of the assessment of their works which will ultimately determine if they enter Paradise on the Day of Judgement.	

Characters

Adam	Created from clay, free from all major sins and faults but was expelled from heaven after the fall in the spiritual Garden of innocence, also in heaven. Adam was not created in the image and likeness of Allah. Adam is considered to be a prophet.	Created on earth from the dust of the earth. Adam disobeyed God in the temporal Garden of Eden and is responsible for original sin. Mankind was created in the image and likeness of God.
Eve	Created uniquely for Adam while in heaven.	Created from the rib of Adam in the Garden of Eden after Adam names the creatures and none was found compatible with him.
Abraham	The Quran records the account of Abraham's struggle with his father over idol worship. Abraham tries to convince his father not to worship idols and only manages to get himself rejected. Abraham leaves his father to become a true worshipper of Allah and in return for his faithfulness Allah gives Abraham two sons, Isaac and	The Bible records God's command to Abram to leave Ur and to proceed to a new land. In this context, God establishes a covenant with him which is reaffirmed (Gen 12, 15, 17 and 22).

	Ishmael. Abraham is revered as a prophet and described as a “Friend of Allah.”	
Sarah	Named as the first wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac	Named as the first wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac
Hagar	Not mentioned in the Quran	Named as the second wife of Abraham and the mother of Ishmael
Isaac	Isaac is viewed as a righteous man and as an additional gift from Allah.	Abraham was tested by God when he took Isaac his second born to sacrifice him on Mount Moriah
Ishmael	Abraham was tested by Allah when he took Ishmael, his first born to sacrifice him on Mount Horeb. Abraham took Ishmael to Mecca where they built the first house of worship, the Kaaba per Allah’s command.	
Moses		
Zacharias		
Mary		
Jesus		
Paul		

1 Most religious historians view Islam as having been founded in 622 CE. However, many if not most of the followers of Islam believe that: Islam existed before Muhammad was born and that the origins of Islam dat back to the creation of the world