

**An Attempt to Understanding the Differences
Between Islam and Christianity
December 2016**

Our governments, schools, media and many Christian denominations tell us that there is no real difference among the Abrahamic religions of the Jews, Muslims and Christians. Islam teaches that Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammad (Peace and Blessings be Upon Him - PBUH) all received the same revelations from God. Then alleges that the 'People of the Book' (Jews and Christians) corrupted the scriptures for political ends and then called them 'inspired'. "Say (O Muhammad) 'O people of the Book! You have nothing (as regards guidance) till you act according to the Taurat (Torah), the Injeel (Gospel), and what has (now) been sent down to you from your Lord (the Qur'an).' Verily, that which has been sent down to you (Muhammad) from your Lord increases in many of them their obstinate rebellion and disbelief. So be not sorrowful over the people (Jews/Christians) who disbelieve.'" (Qur'an 5:68) (Among others claiming corruption are: Quran 5:43 5:44 5:45 5:46 5:47, 6:114-115, 10:94, 18:27)

The Christians believe in the God of Abraham and Isaac. Isaac is the only son of Abraham and Sarah and Sarah was Abraham's only wife. Isaac's descendants were the 12 tribes of Israel. From the Israelites came Mary the mother of Jesus, God Incarnate: for God took on a flesh as Jesus, His only Son, Fully God and Fully Human. God's revelations ended with the death of the Apostle John (~ 95 AD).

Jewish/Christian scripture- Genesis: After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, **your only son Isaac**, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, **your only son**, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided. "The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, **your only son**, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice. "(Genesis 22:1-2, 7-18). (Oral 1440s BC. - Written 1200s - 960s BC.)

Christian scripture- In 55~57 AD, Saint Paul, the Christian Apostle, wrote: "It is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the freeborn woman. The son of the slave woman was born naturally, the son of the freeborn through a promise. Now this is an allegory. These women represent two covenants. One was from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; this is Hagar. But the Jerusalem above is freeborn, and she is our mother. For it is written:

*Rejoice, you barren one who bore no children;
break forth and shout, you who were not in labor;
for more numerous are the children of the deserted one
than of her who has a husband.* (Isaiah 54:1)

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are children not of the slave woman but of the freeborn woman. For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery." (Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 3)

The Muslims believe in the God of Abraham and Ishmael. Ishmael was Abraham's first-born son. His mother was Abraham's wife Sarah's Egyptian slave, Hagar. Sarah thought herself barren, and was obligated to give her

husband an heir, so Hagar bore Abraham's son. Islam claims that in the Christian scriptures Abraham, having had only one son, is false. For a man's children are his, never the women's. Then Isaac first-born son Esau was tricked into selling his birthright to his brother Jacob for a bowl of soup. Jacob deceived Isaac on his deathbed to steal Esau blessing by pretending to be Esau. This trickery led the descendants of Isaac from the true teachings of Abraham's God, Allah. One of Esau wives was the daughter of his uncle Ishmael. Esau had 12 sons, the Arab nations. The Islamic Allah is the God of Abraham and his first born-son, Ishmael. There is no God but Allah and Muhammad (PBUH) is His Messenger. Allah's last prophet was Mohammad (610-632 AD).

Islamic scripture – As-Saffat: "I will go to my Lord! He will surely guide me! "O my Lord! Grant me a righteous (son)!" **So We gave him the good news of a forbearing son.** Then, when (the son) reached (the age of) (serious) work with him, he said: "O my son! I have seen in a vision that I offer thee in sacrifice: now see what is thy view!" (The son) said: "O my father! Do as thou art commanded: thou will find me, if Allah so wills, one of the steadfast!" So when they had both submitted (to Allah), and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead (for sacrifice), We called out to him "O Abraham! ... "Thou hast already fulfilled the vision!" - thus indeed do We reward those who do right. For this was a clear trial- And We ransomed him with a momentous sacrifice: And We left for him among generations (to come) in later times: "Peace and salutation to Abraham!" Thus indeed do We reward those who do right. For he was one of Our believing Servants. And We gave him the good news of Isaac - a prophet,- one of the Righteous. We blessed him and Isaac: but of their progeny are (some) that do right, and (some) that obviously do wrong, to themselves." (Qur'an 37:99-112). (Written in the 630s - 680s AD; Revealed in the fifth and sixth years of the Prophet's Mission 617-619 AD).

The Christian's believe that the Bible (the books) is the inspired word of God to His people.¹ The scriptures are told from the viewpoint of the inspired authors who lived at that time, but teach God's truths to all generations. Their faith journey started 4,000 yrs. ago with Abraham and continued with his son Isaac and Isaac's decedents. Their progression was from shepherds, to migrants, to slaves, to nomadic warriors, and then to an agrarian society. Many of the Jewish scriptures were passed down orally from 1800s to 900s BC and were then written down, the Pentateuch in the 960s BC and the others 900 to 120 BC. Jesus died in 33 AD and the Christian scriptures were written between the 40s and 100 AD. The Bible is not in date order, but arranged by Jewish, then Christian scripture, then by literary style then roughly longest book to the shortest.

The Jewish and Christian scriptures are almost identical to the copies we find of them from ancient sources. There is little discussion in the historical documents about violent conflicts in the Jewish and Christian communities regarding scriptures. Jewish scriptures match the Dead Sea Scrolls as well as pre Roman era scrolls. The oldest Hebrew writing is from the 1200s BC. The oldest scripture, a silver scroll, is dated 600 BC. Christian scriptures match the ones from before 180 AD. The oldest Gospel fragment is dated 80 AD.

One Islamic tradition is that the Qur'an (recitation) was revealed to Muhammad, 1,400 yrs. ago, by the angel Gabriel in Arabic (610-632 AD). Muhammad then recited the revelations orally to his companions who also memorized them. Muhammad died in 632 AD. He did not leave a written mushaf or 'collection of pages' of his revelations. The Qur'an is not in date order, but arranged roughly longest surah (chapter) to the shortest.

Another tradition of Muhammad's revelation is recorded in al-'Ayyashi's Tafsir. In it the Holy Qur'an, the Books of Ibrahim, Torah, the Gospel, and the Psalms were revealed as a whole during the month of Ramadan at the Ka'ba. Allah (God) put the complete books into Muhammad's soul on the Night of Destiny. Over the years the angel Gabriel helped Muhammad release the verses. He then wrote down and memorized the verses. When he died, Muhammad left the complete Qur'an written down along with specific instructions where to place every verse. These instructions put the Qur'an's Surahs together.

There are many contemporary historical sources about Jesus, among them, first-century historians Thallus (50s - 60s), Tacitus (80s), Flavius Josephus (80s) and Pliny the Younger (98). They all connect Jesus with the Christian faith. Some describe Jesus' followers believing that He resurrected from the dead and is God. There is little historical evidence of violence being used to resolve disputes in the Jewish or early Christian communities.

Contemporary writings including Muhammad, scriptures, Islam and Muslims are few. In a letter from July 634 AD, the following appears. "I said to him: 'What can you tell me about the prophet who has appeared?' He replied, groaning deeply: 'He is false, for the prophets do not come armed with a sword. Truly they are works of anarchy being committed today and I fear that the first Christ to come, whom the Christians worship, was the one sent by God and we instead are preparing to receive the Antichrist. Indeed, Isaiah said that the Jews would retain a perverted and hardened heart until all the earth should be devastated.'" (*Doctrina Jacobi* V.16, 209. [p. 57]).

On the front flyleaf of a Syriac manuscript (636 AD or later) containing the Gospel of Matthew and Mark are scribbled a few lines about the Arab conquest, now very faint. The following entries are the most readable: "In January (the people of) Hims took the word for their lives and many villages were ravaged by the killing of Muhmd (first mention of Muhammad?) and many people were slain and (taken) prisoner from Galilee as far as Beth." The West called Muslims, Mohammedans 'followers of the prophet Muhammad' (also Muhammadan, Mahomedan, Muhmd, Mahomedan or Mahometan). More early writings at: www.christianorigins.com/islamrefs.html.

During the first Umayyad Caliphate of Muawiya I, 661-680 the coins of the empire depicted Muawiya holding a cross with a crescent moon above it. In the 680s an anonymous non-Muslim writer wrote about a man named Muhammad, who was the leader of a group called "sons of Ishmael". He said the group was sent by God to fight the Persians. They called Abraham the father of their race and they centered their worshiped in Mecca he mentions the Ka'ba. No other details were given.

In 696, the fifth Umayyad Caliph Abd al-Malik, proclaimed Islam to be the state religion of his empire. al-Malik initiated the collection, standardization (language) and writing of the scriptures. Hajjaj ibn Yusuf, the Governor of Iraq, oversaw this early work. Verses that conflicted or did not fit in were destroyed: sometimes soldiers had to secure them. The work was not finished during their lifetimes. They "gathered together every single copy... and caused to be omitted from the text a great many passages," wrote al-Kindi, a Christian in the 810s. He noted political motives to remove and add verses. Not all the alternative Qur'an Verses were destroyed some contradictory verses are still found. The University of Birmingham carbon dating on the oldest Arabic scripture verses places it between the years 568 and 645.

The earliest non-Islamic source including both Muhammad and scriptures was in 710 AD, 78 yrs. after he died, by the Christian Monk of Beth Hale. In a debate with an Arab noble he mentions Muhammad. The discussion has the Qur'an and The Cow as separate books. Al-Baqrah, The Cow, is now surah of the Qur'an and Muhammad's 68th of 114th revelations.

In the 730s -740s AD St. John of Damascus viewed their objections to Christian beliefs and their scriptures as the "superstition of the Ishmaelites" and as a heresy of Christianity. He does not refer to the Qur'an by name, but to particular surahs of the Qur'an by their names and as separate books, among them The Cow, The Women, The Food and Camel of God. John writes that "Muhammad mentions the text of the table" the Christian Eucharist (Qur'an 5:112-115). John called them Hagarians (Hagar, a female slave of Abraham), Ishmaelites (Ishmael, Abraham's and Hagar's son) and Saracens (people of Syria and Iraq), but not Muslims.

Among the earlier and non-Arabic writings that are similar to the Qur'an is the Jewish: Torah, Mishnah Sanhedrin (Jewish Law) and Targum of Esther, the Christian: Saracen's (Syrian and Iraqi), Ethiopia and Egyptian Hymns, Lectionaries, Seven Sleepers of Ephesus and the Infancy Gospel of Thomas (*Injilu 't Tufuliyah*).

Some of the Qur'an is also very similar to the writings of the Gnostic Ebionites sect. The Ebionites followed The Gospel of Hebrews (130s AD), which was an abridgement of the Christian's Gospels written in Aramaic. It includes passages from Matthew, Mark, and Luke that emphasize the compassion and humanity of Jesus while denying His divinity. The Ebionites alleged that Peter and Paul's teachings (33-68 AD) were heretical. Muslims teach that Paul's (34-68 AD) teachings were heretical.

The Ebionites followed the dietary and health practices of Judaism and placed much emphasis on rituals such as *ablution, fasting, and circumcision*. The Ebionites believed that *Christ was merely a prophet, that Jesus was a man, not God, and that the Holy Spirit descended upon Him at His baptism and remained, until just before*

His crucifixion. They venerated Jerusalem as the house of God. Muslims also believe: *Jesus is only a prophet, not God, He was not crucified*, emphasis on rituals of *ablution, fasting and circumcision* and they venerated Jerusalem by praying towards it until 624 AD when they turned toward the Ka'ba, in Mecca to pray.ⁱⁱ

Waraqah bin Naufah, was an Ebionite and a relative of Khadija, Muhammad's first wife (he had 11). When he was told of Muhammad's first revelation, "Recite in the name of your Lord who created- Created man from a clinging substance. Recite, and your Lord is the most Generous Who taught by the pen Taught man that which he knew not". (Qur'an 96: 1-5). He proclaimed "There has come to him the greatest Law that came to Moses; surely he is the prophet of this people". He said "this people", specifying only the Meccans or Arabs?

The Council of Jerusalem was held around 50 AD to formulate Christian doctrine and policies. The earliest Christian catechism, a doctrinal guidebook, *Didache*, was written in the late 40s – early 50s, about 15 years after Jesus's Resurrection. The Hadith, the Islamic understanding of the Qur'an teachings, first appeared in the 750s, 115 years after Muhammad's death. Many of the early Hadiths, 750s - 890s, disagree. Many sects had their own Hadith and even within the sects there are conflicts about the correct Islamic interpretation of the Qur'an. Historical evidence shows that violence resolved many of these disagreements. Today each group has their own Hadith and violence among and within Islamic sects is still common.

The Christian communities have been reviewing, discussing and re-evaluating their scriptures for centuries. The debates between Christian groups have been generally peaceful before and since the European Christian sect wars (1520s-1720s). Many of the wars were more political partisan than actual conflicts over religious doctrine.

The violent conflicts between the Sunni, Shia, Al-Madiyya, Sufism, Tijjaniyya, Baha'i and other sects of Islam are both over religious doctrine and political partisan. They have been ongoing since the 650s. Most Islamic communities and governments, there are over 40 countries; still do not allowing open discussions to take place about their Prophet, Holy Books or Islam's legal-political-military doctrine known as Sharia Law (path or way of religion). Among the books that no open discussion is tolerated on are: the Qur'an, Hadith, Taurat, Sunnah, Injil and Zabur. (See examples below.)

- January 1985, A Sudanese theologian, Mahmud Muhammad Taha, was executed for apostasy (a total desertion of or departure from one's religion), by the Sudanese government. He proposed that the messages Allah gave Muhammad had two sections of Holy Commands. The first was while he preached in Mecca; religious forewarning (610 - 622) the second when he lived in Medina; both political and religious (622 - 632). In Mecca, Allah gave Muhammad (PBUH) the religious principles for all to live by. The messages of Medina, were only to apply to that time and place, no other times or places.
- June 1991 An Act for the enforcement of Sharia Law passed the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) and received the assent of the President: Islam has been declared to be the State religion of Pakistan and it is obligatory for all Muslims to follow the Injunctions of the Holy Qur'an and Sunnah to regulate and order their lives in complete submission to the Divine law; And whereas Islam enjoins establishment of social order based on the 'Islamic values of bidding what is right and forbidding what is wrong.'
- September 2014, The Iranian government hanged Mohsen Amir-Aslani, for his activities, which the authorities deemed, were heretical. He led sessions reading and reciting the Qur'an and providing his own interpretations of some of the Islamic scriptures passages. His talk about Jonah got him arrested.
- March 2015, The Kelantan State Assembly of Malaysia passed stricter Sharia law penalties for seven offences, theft, robbery, adultery, sodomy, liquor consumption and apostasy (the law only applies to those rejecting Islam).
- March 2015 the Saudi Arabian Sunni government (‡ see link below) sent 'memos' to mosques across the country ordering religious leaders to use their sermons to create fear about the Iranian supported, Shia rebels in Yemen as a way to build support for the Saudi-led military campaign there.
- December 2015 an Egyptian State Court confirmed Muslim scholar Islam al-Behairy one-year jail term for "insulting Islam" on his television show. He called for reforms in "traditional Islamic discourse." al-Behairy advocated a reform in the ancient Islamic preaching's and centuries-old interpretations of the faith moving it from the 7th to 21st century.
- December 2015 Sudan: Government officials arrested Elshikh Kadoud, a Muslim man who read the Bible on his own and converted to Christianity, Kadoud was charged with "apostasy" after his own father reported him to Sudanese authorities.
- January 2016 Sunni Saudi Arabia executed 47 people among them Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr. Sharia based laws found them guilty of heretical acts.
- January 2016 Nigeria. - A Kano sharia court sentenced an Islamic Tijjaniyya cleric, Abdul Inyass to death for blasphemy after nine months of secret trial.
- January 2016 Islamic State allows execution of the mother of a soldier in public because she had encouraged him to leave their army. Also "They [ISIS] tormented them [Christians] in horrendous ways and many of them died [from the torture]"

during their captivity.... They used to put them inside what resembled coffins and then set them on fire from the inside.”- Karam Sa’ad sergeant in the Iraqi army.

- January 2016 Egypt - An Egyptian court jailed female writer, Fatima Naoot, for three years for insulting Islam on her Facebook page, she criticized the slaughter of animals during a major religious festival with the “Happy Massacre” post.
- January 2016 Pakistan- Pakistani lawmakers withdraw a bill aimed at curbing the practice of child marriage after the Council of Islamic Ideology, a constitutional body that gives advice to parliament on the compatibility of laws with Sharia declared the legislation un-Islamic.
- February 2016 Pakistani Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) has declared it un-Islamic for courts to use ‘Khula’ (right of a woman to seek divorce) without the consent of a husband to dissolve the marriage.
- February 2016 Egypt over 40 Coptic Christian churches have been closed since 2011 because they were deemed security threats to the Egyptian state.
- February 2016 Saudi court sentences Raif Badawi to 1,000 lashes and 10 years in jail for denying the existence of Allah and ridiculing the Qur’an on Twitter. The canning was carried out in May and witnessed by a crowd shouting “Allahu akbar”.
- February 2016 England Rochdale Imam Jalal Uddin was murdered by fellow Muslims because he had made efforts to turn youngsters away from radical Islam.
- April 2016 Takengon, Indonesia ordered 30 strokes of public caning for Remita Sinaga for selling alcoholic beverages.
- April 2016 Islamic Republic of Mauritania Supreme Court upheld Mohamed Cheikh Ould Mohamed M'khaitir death sentence for apostasy.
- September 2016 Yazd, Iran – Shi’ite’s killed Farhang Amiri, an activist for the Islamic sect of Baha’i for apostasy.
- October 2016 India's top athlete Heena Sidhu declined to go to the Asian Airgun Shooting Championship in Tehran because of the Sharia law requirement of all female athletes to wear the hijab while in Iran
- November 2016 Jakarta, Indonesia - Tens of thousands of Muslims demand arrest of Christian governor for blasphemy, Battle with police, attack journalists and set cars on fire.
- November 2016 Minnesota U.S. District Judge Michael Davis “We have a (Islamic terrorist) cell here in Minneapolis.”
- November 2016 Egypt, Egyptian parliament report responds to UK parliament's November 7th defense of political Islam "the UK parliament made a very artificial and marginal differentiation between Islamist movements that exploit democracy to reach power on the one hand, and Islamist movements that seek the path of violence and armed jihad to impose their radical ideology on societies, on the other." And "if Europe and the West are really keen to stem the tide of religious terrorism and the political hijacking of Islam, they should correct their understanding of all political Islam movements which claim they have a licence from God to implement his laws on earth and impose the state of the caliphate on the world.”
- Pakistani Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, principal architect of the 9/11 attacks: Not "practical" to defeat America with terror attacks, must do it through immigration and out-breeding the infidels. Washington Examiner. November 23, 2016
- December 2016 Indonesia: Police escorted Islam Defenders Front (FPI) as check whether stores had ordered employees to wear any Christmas attire such as Santa hats. For promotional purposes, many companies ask their employees to wear holiday season garb. The Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) issued an edict banning companies from forcing staff to wear such items, deeming it haram (any act that is forbidden by Allah).
- December 2016: Shiite Islamic Group Hezbollah is operating a “virtually unopposed drug trafficking operation” in South America with links to the terrorist group Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), reports the Citing Michael Braun, DEA operations chief and the US House Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing. Financing the Islamic cause on Non-Muslims: “Muhammad is the apostle of Allah. Those who follow him are merciful to one another, ruthless to unbelievers” (Qur’an 48:29). Muslims must not use any drugs: "O You who believe! Indeed, intoxicants, gambling, [sacrificing on] stone alters (to other than Allah) and divining arrows are but defilement from the work of Satan, so avoid it that you may be successful." (Quran: 5:90)
- December 2016: Riyadh Saudi Arabia Man Fined \$8,000 and Sentence 1 year in jail fro tweeting to gather support to end Muslim kingdom’s guardianship system that gives men wide controls over women.
- U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom’s USCIRF 2016 Annual Report of the countries that do not allow it 13 (76.5%) are Islamic and 3 (17.7%) Communist or Socialist.

“Indeed, the penalty for those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger and strive upon earth to cause corruption is none but that they be killed or crucified or that their hands and feet be cut off from opposite sides or that they be exiled from the land. That is for them a disgrace in this world; and for them in the Hereafter is a great punishment”. (Qur’an 5:33 among others are: 9:23, 58:22, 60:4)

The Qur’an gives Muslims the doctrine of abrogation; Allah’s revelations to Prophet Muhammad are conditional. Subsequent verses annul the earlier verses. “We do not abrogate any verse or cause it to be forgotten unless We substitute for it something better or similar; do you know that Allah has power over all things?” (Qur’an 2.100) “When we substitute one verse for another - and Allah knows best what He reveals - they say 'you are but a forger’” (Qur’an 16.103).

Most of the verses that have been abrogated are those from Mecca (86), which encourage the Prophet and the faithful to be patient with the unbelievers and to remember that Muhammad is warning us, leaving the punishment of the noncompliant to God. The substituted verses, on the other hand, are those from Medina (28), which command the Prophet and the faithful to establish an Islamic culture throughout the world, by any means. Islamic tradition has less than 300 being converted to Islam in Mecca during the 13 years Muhammad preached there. Moving to Medina and changing Islam from only a religion to a political, military and social system that has a religious element to it, Muhammad acquired thousands of followers in about 10 years (see January 1985 Mahmud Muhammad Taha above). Some Medina verses 4:93, 9:5, 9:113, 9:29, 52:21 that nullified Mecca's.

Christians believe and teach that there is only one God and that He is a Trinity: "The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, and yet there are not three gods but one God". The Trinity is one God with three essences. This relationship models to the Christian community God's love. That Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, who resurrected on the third day after His crucifixion. Since the earliest surviving writings, among them St. Paul's in the mid-40s - 60s AD and the *Didache* this Triune dogma was always the Christian belief.

"For I am God, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:22). Jesus said: "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one'" (Mark 12:29). "The Father and I are one" (John 10:27). "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit". (Matthew 28:19). Christians never called Jesus's mother Mary, the only child of Joachim and Anne of the Levite tribe who lived in Nazareth, a god. Note that there is **one God** and three persons/names. ⁱⁱⁱ

Muslims claim that Isa (Jesus) was not crucified. Allah would not allow His prophet to be killed, so He deceived the Romans and Jews. Due to a similar physical appearance, the Jews mistook the tortured body for Isa's body. "They killed him not, they crucified him not, but it was likened unto them" (Qur'an 4:156)

The Qur'an teaches that Isa is only a prophet and not the Son of Allah, for Allah had no son. Isa did not resurrect (Qur'an 3:55). "Instead, Allah raised him (Jesus) to Him; Allah is Almighty, Most Wise" (Qur'an 4:158). It also explains that the Christians believe that there are three gods: father, son and mother Miriam. The Names Mary and Miriam are interchanged in the Qur'an. In the Bible Miriam (~1300 BC) is the sister of Moses and Aaron of the Levite tribe. "At length she brought the (baby Isa) to her people, carrying him (in her arms). They said: 'O Mary! Truly an amazing thing hast thou brought! O sister of Aaron! Thy father was not a man of evil, nor thy mother a woman unchaste!'" Qur'an 19:27-28. "And when Allah will say, 'O Isa, Son of Mary, did you say to the people, Take me and my mother as gods besides Allah?' He will say, 'Exalted are You! It was not for me to say that to which I have no right. If I had said it, You would have known it. You know what is within myself, and I do not know what is within Yourself. Indeed, it is You who is Knower of the unseen. I said not to them except what You commanded me - to worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. And I was a witness over them as long as I was among them; but when You took me up, You were the Observer over them, and You are, over all things, Witness.'" (Qur'an 5:116-117). Note that there are **three gods** and three persons/names.

Christians believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, Anointed One, "Son of the Living God" (Matthew 16:16). This is why they call themselves Christians. In Islam Isa (Jesus) is called a Nazarene because he came from Nazareth and those who follow Him Nazarenes. Among the thirteen Qur'an verses that claim Jesus is not the Christ is, "Say: 'GOD is One, the Eternal God. He begot none, nor was He begotten. None is equal to Him.'" (Qur'an 112:1-4) (among others are: Qur'an 4:157, 4:171, 5:14, 5:17, 9:30, 19:35, 98:6)

Muslims proclaim Allahu Akbar, which means, "Allah is greater". The pagan gods were all called allah. Allah was the title of the Arabic pagan pre-Islamic supreme deity, moon- allah. Arabic speaking Jews and Christians would never say Allahu Akbar, for doing so implies there is more than one god.

Before the legalization of Christianity in the Roman Empire, 313 AD, about 100,000 Christians who would not deny that Jesus was the one and only God were killed. Jesus said: "But whoever will have denied me before men, I also will deny before my Father, who is in heaven". (Matthew 10:33) "...indeed the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is doing a holy service to God. They will do these things because they have never known either the Father or me." John 16:2-3 "Anyone who tries to preserve his life will lose it; and

anyone who loses it will keep it safe.” Luke 17:33 Over 80,000 Christians are now martyred each year by totalitarian and theocracy governments and terrorist groups (mostly Islamic and Communist), (Czech News Agency, May 2015 & Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary).

The Qur’an teaches that it is allowable for Muslims to Kithman, to deny their faith, to protect them and to avoid harm to other Muslims, since their true faith was not really shaken. This Taqiya (deception) is also allowed if it hides to the unbeliever the Qur’an’s message of intolerance of the unbeliever’s religion and Islam’s determination to replace the unbeliever’s culture. “Let not believers take disbelievers as allies rather than believers. And whoever [of you] does that has nothing with Allah, except when taking precaution against them in prudence. And Allah warns you of Himself, and to Allah is the [final] destination”. (Qur’an 3:28)

The sixth Imam of the Shia Muslims, Jafar Sadiq (702 – 765), said: “One who exposes something from our religion is like one who intentionally kills us”. “You belong to a religion that whoever conceals it Allah will honor him, and whoever reveals it, Allah will disgrace him”. The Imam is instructing Muslims to hide purposefully what they truly believe in order to mislead outsiders as to the true nature of Islam. In 2016 Egyptian Al Azhar professor, Dr. Salim Abdul Galil, explained that this means that it is permissible for Muslims to pretend to be “one of them,” the infidels, but only on the outside. He then explained this verse as meaning Muslims must never befriend or aid non-Muslims, especially against fellow Muslims. Muslims may wear and pray to the cross, to deceive Christians (Kithman).

Renowned 1300s Islamic scholar Ibn Kathir taught, "Believers are allowed to show friendship outwardly, but never inwardly". "O you who believe! do not take the Jews and the Christians for friends; they are friends of each other; and whoever amongst you takes them for a friend, then surely he is one of them; surely Allah does not guide the unjust people". Qur'an (5:51) "Let not the believers Take for friends or helpers Unbelievers rather than believers: if any do that, in nothing will there be help from Allah: except by way of precaution, that ye may Guard yourselves from them..." Qur'an (3:28) "Whoever disbelieves in Allah after his belief... except for one who is forced [to renounce his religion] while his heart is secure in faith, But those who [willingly] open their breasts to disbelief, upon them is wrath from Allah, and for them is a great punishment". (Qur'an 16:106) "There has already been for you an excellent pattern in Abraham and those with him, when they said to their people, 'Indeed, we are disassociated from you and from whatever you worship other than Allah. We have denied you, and there has appeared between us and you animosity and hatred forever until you believe in Allah alone...'". Qur'an (60:4) Muslim are allowed to feign friendship if it is of benefit. If needed show acceptances of the un-believers, pretend to be part of their land. When believers have the advantage, stop the Taqiya and crush or convert the unbelievers. Those Muslims who truly befriend unbelievers will abide in hell. Among the many Qur'an verses that about this are: 1:5-7, 2:24, 3:10, 3:118, 3:85, 5:80, 7:44, 9:23, 21:98, 22:19-22, 53:29, 58:22, 60:4, 66:6.

Since the separation of Western governments from the Christian faith, punishment for Apostasy stopped. Apostasy is still a capital crime in the Islamic faith. This is confirmed by both the words and deeds of Muhammad. The only freedom of belief in Islam is the freedom to become Muslim. Many Islamic counties still enforce the death penalty for Apostasy. (See earlier paragraph on Islamic counties and laws)

Verses that seem to demanding death for apostates are: “What is [the matter] with you [that you are] two groups concerning the hypocrites, while Allah has made them fall back [into error and disbelief] for what they earned. Do you wish to guide those whom Allah has sent astray? And he whom Allah sends astray - never will you find for him a way [of guidance]. They wish you would disbelieve as they disbelieved so you would be alike. So do not take from among them allies until they emigrate for the cause of Allah. But if they turn away, then seize them and kill them wherever you find them and take not from among them any ally or helper.” (Qur'an 4:88-89) “But if they repent and establish worship and pay the poor-due, then are they your brethren in religion. We detail Our revelations for a people who have knowledge. And if they break their pledges after their treaty (hath been made with you) and assail your religion, then fight the heads of disbelief - Lo! they have no binding oaths - in order that they may desist”. (Qur'an 9:11-12) Other Surahs that also seem to be demanding death for apostates are Qur'an verses 2:217, 9:73-74, and 88:21, 5:54, and 9:66. Bukhari verses 52:260, 83:37, 84:57, 89:271, 84:58, 84:64-65, Abu Dawud verse 4346 and Reliance of the Traveller, Islamic Law o8.1.

Christian Saint Abo was a Muslim who converted to Christianity. He was killed for apostasy in 786. During his trial he said: “You are quite right saying that I am a Saracen by blood, born into that race on both father’s and mother’s side. I was educated in the religion of Muhammad, and lived according to it as long as I remained in ignorance. But when the Almighty had mercy on me and selected me from among my brothers and relatives and saved me through His Son Jesus Christ my God, and granted me a more perfect understanding, then I quitted my former faith, as being a manmade creed based on fables thought up by human subtlety and invention. So now I cling to the true faith of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, as revealed to us by Jesus Christ. In that faith I have been baptized and now worship, for this is the True God, and now I am a Christian unwavering in my conviction.”

Under Sharia law Christians and Jews are permitted to follow their faiths as non-Muslim subjects that agree to ‘willingly pay’ the Jizya or tribute in exchange for protection and safety, and are subject to all Islamic laws. Non-Muslims are not allowed to testify against Muslims in court (Qur'an verses 3:110, 4:141). Among the laws they are regularly accused of breaking are blasphemy of Islam or Muhammad and Ghiba (slander). Ghiba means to mention anything concerning a Muslim that he would dislike, “whether about his religion, body, everyday life, self, disposition, property, son, father, wife, servant, turban, garment, gait, movements, smiling, dissoluteness, frowning, cheerfulness, or anything else connected with him”. (*Umdat al-Salik*, r2.2) It doesn’t say anything about these ‘disliked’ statements having to be true or false only that one has to dislike it being exposed or alleged. (Reliance of the Traveller r2) “One must go on jihad at least once a year. One may use a catapult against them when they are in a fortress, even if among them are women and children. One may set fire to them or drown them. If Jews and Christians are enslaved, their marriage is revoked. One may cut down their trees and must destroy their useless books. Jihadists may take as booty whatever they decide.”

”The dhimmi (Non-Muslim) is obliged not to mention Allah or His Apostle. Jews, Christians, and Majins must pay the jizya and on payment must hang their head while the official takes hold of his beard and hits him on the protuberant bone beneath his ear. The dhimmi may not ride a horse or mule; he may ride a donkey only if the saddle is of wood. He may not walk on the good part of the road and must wear an identifying patch, even women. Dhimmis must hold their tongue.....”Al-Ghazali, one of the most celebrated scholars in the history of Islamic thought (1058-1111). Among the many forbidden actions of those who did not convert to Islam are:

- Closing doors to Muslim passers-by and travellers requiring board and lodging for up to three days
 - Teaching the Qur'an to non-Muslim children. {Because it would be taught incorrectly}
 - Displaying their religion publicly- No non-Islamic religious literature or displays of symbols in the roads or markets.
 - Trying to resemble the Muslims by imitating any of their clothing or hairstyle.
- Sheltering or hiding anyone considered to be an enemy of the Muslims
- Converting anyone to their religion.
 - Preventing anyone from converting to Islam.
 - Sitting should a Muslim wish to sit.
 - Mounting on saddles.
 - Bearing or carrying any kind of arms.
 - Building or repairing places of worship or monks’ residences
- Raising voices when following the dead
 - Burying their dead near the Muslims
 - Building houses taller than those of the Muslims
 - Striking a Muslim
 - Selling fermented drinks
 - Engraving Arabic inscriptions on their seals.

The ancient Roman, Greek and Semitic societies considered woman and children to be property of the male members of the family. Women without a male relative that ‘wanted to care for them’ ended up as slaves, prostitutes or both. The Jewish community was not as hard on the widows and orphans “You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry. (Exodus 22:22-23) among the other verses are: Deuteronomy 24:1, Judges 4, The book of Ruth, Psalm 82:3, 68:5 and 10:17–18. In the 1100s BC Deborah was Judge of Israel, “Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at the time.” Judges 4:4. She led the Israelites both in peace and in war.

How Jesus dealt with women was counter cultural, He did not treat them as inferior to men. Jesus let women know they were inherently worthy of God’s love. It took many years for truths He taught to take hold. More than 50 verses in the Christian Bible teach this among them: Matthew 5:28, 19:1-12, 19:3, 19:8 Luke 2, 7:11-17, 7:36—50, 10:38-42, 13, 13:16, 20, 23:27-29 and Mark 10:11-12

Muhammad and the Islamic religious community teach women are of lesser value than men. Among things women are denied under Islamic law are: Equality in Divorce rules. Giving equal testimony in court (Qur'an 2:282) having the right to a monogamous marriage (Qur'an 4:3). Marrying outside the faith (Qur'an 2:221, 5:5) (Note Verses 5:73, 9:3 and 9:30 Jews and Christians are outside the faith.) "The male shall have the equal of the portion of two females" (Qur'an 4:11) "Men have authority over women because Allah has made the one superior to the other, and because they spend their wealth to maintain them. Good women are obedient. They guard their unseen parts because Allah has guarded them. As for those from whom you fear disobedience, admonish them and forsake them in beds apart, and beat them". (Quran 4:34) The women's power is her ability to seduce men with her body. To prevent her aggression on men she must be covered (wearing a Hijab, Niqab, Sheila, Burqa or Abaya) and have her actions restricted. To be tolerated a women must dehumanize herself. In December 2106 Saudi Arabian woman arrested for being in public for not being covered. There are over 40 other teachings in the Qur'an, Hadith, Taurat, Sunnah, Injil and Zabur that govern women and are followed in Sharia Law.^{iv}

Christian Theologian Thomas Aquinas's *Summa contra gentiles* (1264) argued for the truth of Christianity against other belief systems. Part of his critique of Islam included the questionable character and methods of its founder, Mohammed. Islam appealed to "ignorant, brutish, carnal men and spread not by the power of its arguments or divine grace but by the power of the sword". Mohammad, "seduced the people by promises of carnal pleasure to which the concupiscence of the flesh goads us. His teaching also contained precepts that were in conformity with his promises, and he gave free rein to carnal pleasure". Aquinas contrasts the spread of Christianity with that of Islam, arguing that much of Christianity's early success stemmed from widespread belief in the miracles of Jesus, whereas the spread of Islam was worked through the promise of sensual pleasures and the violence of the sword.

American, Thomas Jefferson in 1785 wrote the Acts for Establishing Religious Freedom in Virginia. In it he said, "Almighty God hath created the mind free...all attempts to influence it by temporal punishments...are a departure from the plan of the holy author of our religion [i.e., Jesus], who being lord both of body and mind, yet choose not to propagate it by coercions on either, as was in his Almighty power to do, but to exalt it by its influence on reason alone..." Since Jesus gives humans freedom to accept or reject Him, it is wrong for us to compel belief. All religious force does Jefferson wrote is to "beget habits of hypocrisy".

In 1786 Jefferson and John Adams negotiated with Tripoli's ambassador Sidi Haji Abdrahaman to stop the capture of American ships and enslavement of US citizens. Abdrahaman told them that according his holy book, the Qur'an "all nations which have not acknowledged the Prophet were sinners, whom it was the right and duty of the faithful to plunder and enslave." After their meeting Jefferson and Adams understood peace was not possible with the Mohammedans; the choices total victory, a never-ending conflict or willing submission to Islam.

In 2015, the Danish queen, *Margrethe II*, said, "It is vital that we give Islam a opposition". On 11/10/2015, the Maronite Catholic Rite's Patriarch of Antioch (Lebanon), Cardinal Bechara Boutros al-Rahi said "I have often heard from Muslims that their goal is to conquer Europe with two weapons: their faith and their birthrate." His argument is that Islam has a clear, two-pronged strategy to take over Europe: religion and procreation Many verses teach not to give charity to non-Muslims and that non-Muslims are inferior (over 20). "Never be a helper to the unbelievers" (Qur'an 28:86). February of 2016, the European Parliament discussed a resolution on the systematic mass murder of religious minorities (Christians) by ISIS/Deash. Countries (Among these are: Spain, Canada, Netherlands and Russia) have at one time debated laws or petitions to ban the Qur'an because of its message of intolerance of other religions and its message of Islamic dominance over all other cultures. The argument is that Hitler's book *Mein Kampf* and the Qur'an both instruct its readers to create a society that limits individual rights and gives a central class (Religious or Fascist elite) complete control of the society. They then instruct their adherents to conquer the world. *Mein Kampf* is banned in some European countries.

There are passages in the Qur'an which 'invite people to violence', said Anglican Reverend Canon Ashende, one of Britain's Queen Elizabeth's chaplains. The Muslim faithful are instructed to be merciful to fellow Muslims and ruthless to non-Muslims, unbelievers. In March 2015, he expressed his concern about more than

100 passages in the Qur'an. Among them are: "O Prophet! Urge the believers to war. If there be of you twenty steadfast they shall overcome two hundred, and if there be of you a hundred (steadfast) they shall overcome a thousand of those who disbelieve, because they (the disbelievers) are a folk without intelligence (Qur'an 8:65)". "O believers, fight the unbelievers who are near to you; and let them find in you a harshness; and know that Allah is with the Godfearing" (Qur'an 9:123). Some others are: 2:191-193, 2:217, 4:34, 4:89, 5:38, 8:12, 8:39, 8:60, 9:111, 9:29, 9:123, 9:5, 32:13, 47:4, 48:29. Reverend Ashende also said that the Bible does not have comparable passages, there are violent passages, but no single open-ended and universal command to all believers to wage war against all unbelievers and subjugate them. Rutgers University 2016 display of Jesus crucified on a dartboard, Milwaukee's 2015 museum portrait of Pope Benedict XVI fashioned from colored condoms and the New York's 1987 Crucifix in a Jar of Urine were disrespectful of Christians, did not have violent protests. The Muhammad cartoon contest in Texas and the French satirical weekly *Charlie Hebdo*, pictures of Muhammad both used traditional art forms, both had violent armed protests.^v

Coptic Christians from Egypt, whose people are routinely persecuted by Muslims, have a saying to this effect: "God will protect the Bible. But the Muslims need to protect the Qur'an." This is why after the slayings in the satirical magazine in Paris, one of the shooters was heard to say, "Now we have avenged the Prophet." Today's Christians peacefully protest anti-Christian bigotry, but don't kill anybody over it. "Vengeance is Mine," says the Lord, "I will pay them back." (Deuteronomy 32:35) In Christianity, God will right all wrongs in the end. He will be the judge and He will hold all accountable.

Professor Ayatollah Muhammad Taqi Misbah Yazdi, Member of Iranian Assembly of Experts (1990-), wrote "Thus, jihad is one of the indisputable principles of Islam and all Muslim sects—Sunnis and Shi'ahs—unanimously agree on it without having any dissenting opinion, and the reason behind the waging of war and jihad against the leaders of unfaith was that they hindered the guidance and enlightenment of their people and the message of the Apostle(s). As such, in order to remove these obstacles, the Messenger of Allah was duty-bound to wage war against them. Given these facts, how can one say that Islam does not permit and deem necessary to wage war and jihad? Can we dismiss and conceal the Qur'anic verses about jihad and the struggle against the faithless, the hypocrites and enemies of Islam?"

Yes, war and resistance against the enemies of God is one of the indisputable principles of Islam. It is true that in the decrees on jihad Islam has enjoined the observance of the highest humanitarian principles, but at the same time, it emphasizes that we have to fight the obstinate and those who consciously oppose the truth, the religion of God."

In Islam, it is up to the individual to uphold the honor of Islam, Mohammad, and the family honor; Muslims should avenge any slights against these. If when facing Allah one has not defended these Islamic truths Allah may choose to shun him as an unbeliever.

"Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued." (Qur'an 9:29) Concerning this verse, Pakistani politician and Islamic scholar Maulana Maududi wrote: "The purpose for which Muslims are required to fight is not, as one might think, to compel the unbelievers into embracing Islam. Rather, its purpose is to put an end to the suzerainty of the unbelievers so that the latter are unable to rule over people. The authority to rule should only be vested in those who follow the True Faith; unbelievers who do not follow this True Faith should live in a state of subordination. Anybody who becomes convinced of the Truth of Islam may accept the faith of his/her own volition. The unbelievers are required to pay *jizyah* (poll tax) in return for the security provided to them as the *dhimmi*s (Protected People) of an Islamic state. *Jizyah* symbolizes the submission of the unbelievers to the suzerainty of Islam."

Over half of the Qur'an teaches Muslims how to control non-Muslims and coerce them to convert to Islam. The 92nd Surah proclaimed is At-Tawbah or Repentance it declares that Islam must be triumphant over all other religions. At-Tawbah is the 9th Surah in the Qur'an. (Among its verses that teach this is 9:3, 5, 23, 24, 28, 29, 33, 36, 37, 39, 41, 60, 111, 121 and 123.) Fazlur Rahman, a well-respected Muslim scholar writes: "Islam insisted on the assumption of political power since it regarded itself as the repository of the Will of God which had to be worked on earth

through a political order ... To deny this fact would be both to violate history and to deny justice to Islam itself.” Non-Islamic literature, media or inter personal communication is not tolerated. Due to this limited information many Muslims do not have the access to anything other than the teachings of Islam, so dissent is limited.

1950s Muslim apologist, Sayyid Qutb, describes Islam as being both politically and militarily expansionist from its very beginning, so that Allah's justice could rule the world, if Islam does not control a society, then injustice dominates it. In November 2014 Pakistani Muslim leader, Munawar Hasan, said only the “culture of jihad” can solve society’s problems, “Jihad should replace democracy to overcome challenges”. The Fascists had Aryans as their master race and the Muslims have Islam as their master faith.

The Muslim Turkish military influenced the Christian Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople. Some of the Patriarch appointments were manipulated by military threats. This pressure was one factor in the split between the Catholic and Orthodox churches in 1054. The split did not stop dialogue between them. This changed when the Byzantine Empire collapsed suddenly in 1453, when a soldier ‘forgot to lock’ one gate of the fortified city of Constantinople. With the Turks in control of the capital city, the rest of the empire collapsed. Under pressure from Muslims, the Orthodox Church repudiated their union with Catholic Church. When the Ottoman’s gained control of Jerusalem they divided up the Christian Holy sites and churches to create rifts between the Christian groups. In 1524 they turned the room Jesus held the Last Supper in, into a Mosque. “The imperial notion, by its very definition, posits the domination of one ethnic, religious, or national group over another, and the Ottoman Empire was no exception.” –Ephraim Karsh (*Islamic Imperialism*).

None of Jesus Christ’s teaching demand His followers to wage war. He told them: “Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt. Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. If people do not welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere. “ (Luke 9:3-6) On the way they entered a Samaritan village to prepare for his reception there, but they would not welcome him because the destination of his journey was Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?" Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they journeyed to another village.” (Luke 9:53-56) and “But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.” (Matthew 5:39). “But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two.” (Matthew 39-41). Among the many other verses are: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8. Philippians 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 2:13Romans 10:4; Galatians 3:24-26; Ephesians 2:15 Matthew 22:37-40; Galatians 6:2 Luke 3:142 Peter 3:9 1 John 5:3 Romans 5:8, John 18:36, Matthew 21:12-17, John 2:12-16 and John 8:1-11

Christian’s believe using violence to achieve power or wealth is a sin. They must promote peace whenever possible and be slow to resort to the use of arms. Jesus teaches: "blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew. 5:9). But they must not be afraid to do so when it is called for. Evil must not be allowed to remain unchecked. The legitimate use of force is a Just War, "let him who has no sword sell his mantle and buy one" (Luke 22:36). A Just War cannot be vengeful and victory cannot be retaliatory.

In 260, Paul of Samosata, Patriarch of Antioch, concluded that Jesus Christ was a created being, not uncreated as God was, the doctrine of Samosatene. Around 320 Presbyter Arius continuing Samosata’s argument, also denied that the Son, Jesus, is of one essence, nature, or substance with God, the Father, and therefore not like Him, or equal in dignity, or co-eternal, or within the real sphere of Deity. The Son was "unlike" the Father. Arius defined God as simply as one who was existing from all eternity, not originated and that God created the Son to be out of nothing. Arius’s teaching gained a great number of followers and was called Arianism.

Arianism was the first great Christian heresy. St. Athanasius led the argument against this heresy. In 325 Arius and Athanasius debated at the Council of Nicaea. The Christians put in writing the teachings it’s always held as true, that God is a Trinity. No one was killed during this religious dispute. Arius ideas lived on in the Gnostic communities in the Arabian Desert “He begot none, nor was He begotten.”(Qur’an 112:3)

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) died in the year 632. There was a dispute among his followers over who should be the rightful successor to the prophet. Many wanted the Companions to determine who would succeed him. A smaller group believed that leadership should stay within the family of the prophet.

The two main groups of Muslims formed.

- Sunni from Sunnah: The teachings, deeds and sayings and disapprovals of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), as well his companions. (85-90% of Muslims 2015)
- The Shia: followers of Ali husband of Muhammad's daughter, Fatimah. (10-13% of Muslims 2015)

Sunnis believed that leadership should fall to the person who was deemed best, by the elite of the community. The Shia believed that leadership was from Muhammad's family, the Ahl al-Bayt (the People of the House). Today both factions based their claims on the Quran, Hadith, which describes the words, actions, or habits of the Islamic prophet, Muhammad, and Sira, the traditional name for biographies Muhammad. This ongoing political/religious conflict began in 632; this Sunni-Shia conflict has killed more than 100 million people.

Mohammad's teachings demand his followers to engage in warfare. "And when We wish to destroy a town, We send Our commandment to the people of it who lead easy lives, but they transgress therein; thus the word proves true against it, so We destroy it with utter destruction." (Qur'an 17:16) "There is no blame for the blind, nor is there blame for the lame, nor is there blame for the sick (that they go not forth to war). And whoso obeyeth Allah and His messenger, He will make him enter Gardens underneath which rivers flow; and whoso turneth back, him will He punish with a painful doom." (Qur'an 48:17) Many contemporary apologists claim that Jihad means 'spiritual struggle.' Why then are the blind, lame and sick exempted? This verse also says that those choose not to fight will go to hell. Among other similar verses Qur'an 2:191-193, 2:244, 2:216, 3:56, 3:151, 4:74, 4:76, 4:89, 4:95, 4:104, 8:12, 8:15, 8:39, 8:57, 8:67, 8:59-60, 8:65, 9:5, 9:14, 9:29, 9:30, 9:38-39, 9:41, 9:73, 9:88, 9:111, 9:123, 18:65-81, 21:44, 25:52, 33:60-62, 47:3-4, 47:35, 48:17, 48:29, 61:4, 61:10-12, 66:9

Many Christian refugees and immigrants from Islamic countries are worried that what has happen and is currently happening in their homelands is now beginning in their new homes in the West. The Muslims conquered 70 percent of the Christian lands when the Christian Crusaders, 1096 – 1291, slowed the advance. After 1,061 yrs. 622-1683, the Muslim western conquests were finally stopped on September 11, 1683, at Vienna, Austria. On November 13, 1918 the World War One Allied troops occupied Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Caliphate Islamic Empire/Islamic State, ending it.

The Muslim acknowledgment of Western military power in the 1700s stopped the attacks on the Western Christian lands. Over 200 years of peace replaced the image of aggressive Islamic warriors with a non-threatening backward people. Parts of the Ottoman Empire was administrated by the French and British after WW I. Since that time the Westerns governments have not use their military power to stop the renewal of the Muslim western advance. The appeasement given to Hitler's actions in the 1930s was also shown to the Arabs in the 1920s and 30s. The British acquiescence to Palestinian Arab violence and intimidation showed the Muslim world the west's weakness. In 1928 the radical Muslin Brotherhood group started in British controlled Egypt. On 12/24/2015, British Prime Minister David Cameron said "Aspects of the Muslim Brotherhood's ideology and activities ... run counter to British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, equality and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs."

On December 7, 1931 Palestinian leader Haj Amin al-Husseini convened the World Islamic Conference uniting all Muslims from all Islamic countries except Turkey to fight the West. The Muslim Imams' contended that secularism weakens the West and without a firm faith they will lose. In December of 1941 Adolf Hitler and al-Husseini met in Berlin to discuss plans for Palestine after the Nazi's win. al-Husseini (American Jewish Congress called him "Hitler's henchman") also helped Himmler to recruit over a 100,000 Bosnian's Muslims to fight for Germany in the SS. The Bosnian troops also played an instrumental role in the Jewish extermination.

The Arab Palestinian involvement with the German Nazis was not addressed in the peace treaty to end WWII or in the Nuremburg Trials; thus the Islamic momentum was not hindered. Since the failure of the Western governments to maintain the respect of Muslims there has been an erosion of Western society. The West stop referring to Muslims as Mohammedans in the early 1960s because Muslims objected to the term, saying

‘Mohammedan’ is a misnomer, ‘which carries the implication of the worship of Mohammed, as Christian and Christianity imply the worship of Christ.’ Muslims have been imposing their Islamic culture on the West without a push back. Western Secular/Christian/Jewish groups do not oppose Muslim migrants who choose not to assimilate into their Western society: Hijrah, Migration, Jihad (see link below). Lebanon, 1950s-1980s, took in Muslim refugees out of Christian charity and then was overwhelmed by the Hijrah Jihad. In a similar way the West could lose their homes and way of life.

Shmuel Berkovits, book “*How Dreadful Is This Place!*” wrote that Muhammad, when in Medina, loathed Jerusalem and what it stood for. Muhammad made a point of eliminating pagan sites of worship and sanctifying only one place – the Kaaba in Mecca – to signify there is only one deity. In the 14th century, Islamic scholar Taqi al-Din Ibn Taymiyya ruled that sacred Islamic sites are to be found only in the Arabian Peninsula and that “in Jerusalem, there is not a place one calls sacred.” The Supreme Muslim Council in Jerusalem, in 1925, published “Guide Book to Al-Haram Al-Sharif (Temple Mount),” listed it as Jewish and as the site of Solomon’s temple. It states on page 4: “Its identity with the site of Solomon’s Temple is beyond dispute. This, too, is the spot, according to universal belief, on which David ‘built there an altar unto the Lord.’” Jerusalem’s Temple Mount was opened to the public until 2000, when the Palestinians continued their Intifada, or “uprising” (began by al-Husseini in 1928) by throwing stones at Jewish worshippers.

On September 11, 2001 Islamic Warriors (or Jihadist) attacked the Twin Towers in New York City. On November 13, 2015 Islamic Warriors attacked multiple sites in Paris. Historical dates have great meaning to political Islam (see five paragraphs above).

Islamic terrorism, aggression and revolutions throughout the world are the results of the West lack of showing a resolve to protect their own ways. Islamic military and terrorists groups have stated that they have infiltrated the refugee population. The UN's 2015 report shows that over 70% of the refugees are males 18-35, in the past refugees populations have been the elderly, women, children and others unable to protect themselves, not large groups of military age men.

Eighteenth-century Muslim preacher and scholar, Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab (1703–1792) began the Sunni revivalist movement now called Wahhabism. In 1803 the Saud Wahhabis, in their ongoing effort to extinguish all lifestyles they considered not Islamic attacked the city of Ta’if, killed all the men and enslaved all the women and children. Today’s Saudi Kingdom’s fundamental Wahhabis’ build Mosques in Western lands to help establish their brand of fundamental Islam throughout the world. The Islamic State (ISIS or ISIL^{vi}) follows the fundamental teachings of al-Wahhab. Today worldwide 96% of victims of Islamic terrorists are Muslims ‘who do not follow the correct path’. Over 70% of the ongoing military conflicts involve Muslims. Muslims make more than 85% of the terrorist attacks. Four Sunni Muslim groups were responsible for 66% of the 17,958 terror killings in 2013 (CNSNews.com).

Sheikh Ramadan Al-Buti of Syria was one of the most respected traditional Sunni scholars, was killed in 2013 by a suicide bomber. Al-Buti, states that the claim that Islam is a peaceful religion was a ‘falsehood’ imposed upon Muslims by westerners to render Islam weak. He argued that when non-Muslims fear Islamic jihad, their initial inclination is to accuse the religion of being violent. However they then change tack, and craftily feed to Muslims the idea that Islam is peaceful, in order to make it so. He laments the gullibility of ‘simple-minded Muslims’, who: “... readily accept this ‘defense’ as valid and begin bringing forth one piece of evidence after another to demonstrate that Islam is, indeed, a peaceable, conciliatory religion which has no reason to interfere in others’ affairs. ... The aim ... is to erase the notion of jihad from the minds of all Muslims.” Islam did not stand for the absence of war, but for one of its intended outcomes: surrender leading to the ‘safety’ of captivity. Muhammad said to his non-Muslim neighbors *aslim taslam* ‘surrender (i.e. convert to Islam) and you will be safe’. In its original meaning, a Muslim was someone who surrendered in warfare.

In 2016, Sheikh Adel al-Kalbani a former imam of the Grand Mosque in Mecca said: “We (Saudi Arabia) follow the same thought [as ISIS] but apply it in a refined way,” he said. “They draw their ideas from what is written in our own books, from our own principles.”

Muslims shed theirs and others blood to get Allah's attention. Christians believe that God shed His blood, as His Son Jesus, to get our attention. Many Christian leaders teach that Christians could never win a 'military war' with Islam, only a 'spiritual war'^{vii}. They want Christians only to engage in defensive, non-vengeful military actions and peaceful missionary actions. History shows that Christian's faith has never been successful using warfare, while Islam advance has mostly been with warfare. The Qur'an 8th Surah Al-Anfal (The Spoils of War) has verses on how Islam and its believers can prosper by the spoils of Jihad.

Catholic Cardinal Raymond Burke, patron of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the Vatican's former Prefect of the Apostolic Signatura said, *Nostra Aetate*, the Second Vatican Council's declaration on the Catholic Church's relationship with other religions, "is not a dogmatic document,"^{viii}

Nostra Aetate: "The Church regards with esteem also the Moslems, They adore the one God, living and subsisting in Himself; merciful and all-powerful, the Creator of heaven and earth, who has spoken to men; they take pains to submit wholeheartedly to even His inscrutable decrees, just as Abraham, with whom the faith of Islam takes pleasure in linking itself, submitted to God ... they await the day of judgment when God will render their deserts to all those who have been raised up from the dead. Finally, they value the moral life and worship God especially through prayer, almsgiving and fasting." Most Catholic Church teachings are theological truths, but not dogma (a principle or set of principles laid down by an authority as incontrovertibly true).

Cardinal Burke said much of today's Christian response to Islam is influenced by a ***religious relativism*** and holds "we're all worshipping the same God" and "we all believe in love."

Cardinal Burke: "It is necessary For the Church, and for her members, to understand correctly what Islam is and what the Qur'an teaches". "Islam is not just another religious practice that can coexist in harmony with other religions."

"Islam is a religion that, according to its own interruption, must also become the State. The Qur'an, and the authentic interruption given by various experts in quranic law, is destined to govern the world. In reality, there is no place for other religions, even though they may be tolerated, as long as Islam has not succeeded in establishing its sovereignty over the nations and the world. It is important for Christians to realize the radical differences between Islam and Christianity in matters concerning their teachings about God, about conscience, etc."

If "God is love," how can He be "the same God that commands of Muslims to slaughter infidels and to establish their rule by violence?" This religious relativism equates Catholic and Muslim teaching on the nature of God doesn't "respect the truth" about what, each religion teaches, he said. "This is not helpful." "Let's examine carefully what Islam is and what our Christian faith teaches us," said Burke, because they're not the same thing. "Nothing has changed in the Islamic agenda from prior times in which our ancestors" had to defend Christendom from Muslim attacks. "They saw that Islam was attacking sacred truth." Burke concludes, "I don't believe it's true that we're all worshipping the same God."

If you really understand Islam, you understand that the (Christian) Church really should be afraid of it." "To say that we all believe in love is simply not correct." "Everything that I've said about Islam, including especially what's in the book, is based on my own studies of the texts of Islam and also of their commentators," - Cardinal Burke and Guillaume d'Alançon's *Hope for the World: To Unite All Things in Christ*. (8/29/2016).

"... in 1789, the U.S. Congress passed the Bill of Rights. ...As founders of Former Muslims United, we now pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor to achieve for former Muslims their unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We claim these rights as the foundation for our right to freedom from Shariah (law). We urge you to join us" Ex-Muslim Nonie Darwish an Egyptian-American human rights activist.

Claims that the atrocities of the Islamic State have "nothing to do with Islam" are harming efforts to confront and combat extremism, the Anglican, Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Rev Justin Welby, November 2016.

English atheist Richard Dawkins, author of '*The God Delusion*', concludes after reviewing Islam, if we have to use a religion it cannot be Islam. In 2010 he said, "There are no Christians, as far as I know, blowing up

buildings. I am not aware of any Christian suicide bombers. I am not aware of any major Christian denomination that believes the penalty for apostasy is death. I have mixed feelings about the decline of Christianity, in so far as Christianity might be a bulwark against something worse.” He then cites some examples: July 7, 2005 four Islamic suicide bombers struck in central London killing 52 people and injuring more than 770. Sana Khan and Mohammed Rehman were arrested in their attempt to bomb targets in England on the 10th anniversary of the 2015 attacks.

Killed in Major Islamist terrorist attacks some attack numbers are estimated and do not include all killed (wounded not included). {<https://www.thereligionofpeace.com/attacks/attacks.aspx?Yr=200>}

- 2001(Sept-Dec.) 176 Attacks Killing 6,485 (2,977 US 9/11)
- 2002-13 24,027 Attacks Killing 123,552 (Average 2,000 attacks killing 10,200 per year)
- 2014 3,001 Attacks Killing 32,863
- 2015 2,862 Attacks Killing 27,594
- 2016 1,274 Attacks Killing 11,774

Some of the Western acquiesces to Islamic demands and/or behaviors:

- Many public schools and universities are granting Muslims: prayer times, rooms and ritual foot baths.
- Sharia Law being used by some secular courts to conform to Islamic culture.
- Movie ‘Bad Guys’ are not Muslim so as to not offend Islamic groups.
- Debate in Europe about allowing Muslim men to have multiple wives.
- Michigan, US allows male Islamic migrants to list multiple wives as ‘family members’.
- To ease concerns about Muslim migrants stop keeping or limit statistics on rape.
- German Water Park will segregate usage times of men and women/children to limit sexual assaults.
- Muslims that are involved in violent actions for religious reasons are called ‘mentally disturbed’.
- To encourage the non-Muslim majority to accept Islamic migrants/refugees do not use the words terror and Islam together.
 - Do not identify Muslims when identifying the attackers example: Norway’s Muslim migrant called Norwegian.
 - Refugees in Germany go on ‘vacation’ to war-torn homelands
- Reduced number of Christian Military Chaplains not to offend Muslims in units or in deployment location.
- Bristol City Council cancels Observation of St. George day, patron saint of England (started in 1222 AD).
- US Army General David Petraeus, Calling attacks on Islamist Jihad: “Anti-Muslim bigotry aiding Islamist terrorists”
- May 2016 Egyptian Grand Imam Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb considered to be one of the most moderate Imams, justified anti-Semitism on Qur’anic grounds and the Islamic State’s burning of a Jordanian pilot was allowed, Qur’an 5:33. al-Tayeb was welcomed by the Pope Francis. The Pope claimed that the relationship between Christians and Muslims were improving. He also said that Christianity and Islam were spread by Conquest. The Pope noted “it is also possible to interpret the objective of Matthew’s Gospel, where Jesus sends his disciples to all nations, in terms of the same idea of conquest.” Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 23:37-40) “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to **obey everything I have commanded you.** And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)
- August 2016 England recommended that Christian Clergy not to wear identifying clothing when traveling in public.
- On Nov. 29th, 2016 White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said that although there was evidence that the attacker might have been inspired by extremism, motives are still under investigation and not to blame Islam for the Nov 28th Ohio State attacks: “If we respond to this situation by casting aspersions on millions of people that adhere to a particular religion or if we increase our suspicion of people who practice a particular religion, we are more likely going to contribute to acts of violence than we are to prevent them.” “Also on Nov 29th Islamic State claims responsibility for Ohio State University jihad attack.
- Syad Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, killed 14 at Christmas luncheon, 12/2/2015. “She didn’t think that a Muslim should have to participate in a non-Muslim holiday or event,” said San Bernardino police Chief Jarrod Burguan 12/1/2016.
- 12/4/2016 Unite Kingdom - Three archbishops from war-torn Iraq and Syria have been refused permission to enter the UK despite being invited to London to meet Crown Prince Charles. They were denied entry because they did not have enough money to support themselves and they might not leave the UK. Islamic Leaders who have openly called for death to homosexuals, non-Muslims and those who ‘defames Islam’ have been allowed in.
- 12/5-2016 YouTube Censors Video “Born to hate Jews” As ‘Hate Speech. In it a Pro-Israel Muslim explains how Islam’s teaching to hate Jews is wrong.
- 12/6/2016 “Over last eight years, no foreign terrorist organization has successfully planned and executed an attack on our homeland.” - President Barack Obama. The Islamic State has repeatedly called for attacks by so-called “lone wolves,” San Bernardino, Fort Hood, Ohio State were not by’ foreign organization’

- 12/12/2016 Fr Sante Braggiè said there would be no crib in the cemetery in the northern city of Cremona because it may anger Muslim graves.

Roughly 150 million Non-Muslims killed by jihad 622-2015 AD. 107,700 year.

Roughly 2.3 million Muslims, Jews and Christian killed in the Christian Crusades 1096-1291 AD, 11,500 year.

From the Hadith, describing the words, actions, or habits of the Islamic prophet, Muhammad (PBUH), and Sira, the traditional name for biographies of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The Prophet (PBUH) said: Three things are the roots of faith: to refrain from (killing) a person who utters, "There is no god but Allah" and not to declare him unbeliever whatever sin he commits, and not to excommunicate him from Islam for his any action; and jihad will be performed continuously since the day Allah sent me as a prophet until the day the last member of my community will fight with the Dajjal (Antichrist) - Abu Dawud 14:2526

"When the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) appointed anyone as leader of an army or detachment he would especially exhort him... He would say: Fight in the name of Allah and in the way of Allah. Fight against those who disbelieve in Allah. Make a holy war... When you meet your enemies who are polytheists, invite them to three courses of action. If they respond to any one of these, you also accept it and withhold yourself from doing them any harm. Invite them to (accept) Islam; if they respond to you, accept it from them and desist from fighting against them... If they refuse to accept Islam, demand from them the Jizya. If they agree to pay, accept it from them and hold off your hands. If they refuse to pay the tax, seek Allah's help and fight them." (Muslim 19:4294).

Among the others with similar message are: Sahih Bukhari (52:256) Sahih Bukhari (52:65) Sahih Bukhari (52:220) Abu Dawud (14:2527) Muslim (1:33) Bukhari (8:387) Muslim (1:30) Bukhari (52:73) Bukhari (11:626) Muslim (1:149) Muslim (20:4696) Muslim (19:4321-4323) Muslim (31:5917) Muslim (31:5918)

Ibn Ishaq/Hisham 484: - "Allah said, 'A prophet must slaughter before collecting captives. A slaughtered enemy is driven from the land. Muhammad, you craved the desires of this world, its goods and the ransom captives would bring. But Allah desires killing them to manifest the religion.'"

Saifur Rahman, The Sealed Nectar p.227-228 - "Embrace Islam... If you two accept Islam, you will remain in command of your country; but if your refuse my Call, you've got to remember that all of your possessions are perishable. My horsemen will appropriate your land, and my Prophethood will assume preponderance over your kingship." From one of the several letters Muhammad sent to a ruler of another country. The significance is that the recipients were not making war or threatening Muslims. Their subsequent defeat and subjugation by Muhammad's armies was justified merely on the basis of their unbelief.

Ishaq/Hisham 992: - "Fight everyone in the way of Allah and kill those who disbelieve in Allah." Muhammad's instructions to his men prior to a military raid. Among the others with similar message are: Bukhari 1:35 Tabari 7: Tabari 9: Tabari 17: Ibn Ishaq/Hisham 990Ibn

The Western World finished separating its governments from religion by the 1800s. Today violence among or between Jewish or Christian sects or toward other religious or cultural groups is very rare or non-existent. Muslim countries also need to separate religion from their governments (theocracies). Doing so would fundamentally change the Islamic religion.

There are things that are shared by Christianity and Islam among them: Both religions profess a belief that there is only one God. The Messiah, Jesus, will come at the end of the world, the Day of Judgment, to judge us. That God created the angels, both good and bad. Mary, the 19th chapter of Qur'an is about Miriam (Mary) the mother of Jesus. Both Christians and Muslims venerate Mary. Mary is the model of Christian discipleship. In Islam Mary's the most righteous woman and the only woman mentioned by name in the Qur'an. In the Western countries Christian and Muslim apologists discuss these common beliefs when sharing their faith. Many Christian apologists have limited success when they bring up God as a father or that God is a Trinity (Dr. Scott Hahn, Nabeel Quresh, etc). It is illegal in most Islamic countries for Christians to discuss their faith with their Muslim neighbors.

Christians believe that God is omnipotent and His power is unlimited. He chooses to limit Himself with His love. God made us in His image. We were given the free choice to limit ourselves with love. We are weak and sin, this is caused by our conscious choice to put ourselves before God and others. Our desire for wealth, power, sexual pleasure, etc. can be overcome with Jesus Christ our Savior's intercession in our lives, by living the Gospels' message and daily prayer. God walked among us as a man, the Christ, to teach us how to live with love and to follow His truths. Jesus died for us on the cross to demonstrate this for all humanity. He then rose from the dead proving He is God. Christianity teaches us to love each other as God has loved us, to put others before ourselves and defend the truths He revealed to us, faith, hope and charity for all. Christians believe you can't earn God's love; He's already given it freely.

The Christian Triune Abrahamic God trusts us to choose to live, as He desires us to live, loving each other as He loves us.

While the Muslims also believe that God is omnipotent and unlimited, they maintain Allah would never limit or lower Himself, as they claim Christians believe. Islam teaches that Allah is the Master and we are His servants. Because we cannot refrain from sin, to make it to Heaven we must pray daily and follow a restrictive lifestyle that does not tempt ourselves or others to not to live righteously as Mohammed, the perfect example, lived. Muslims believe that we must be submissive to Allah like a slave submits to his master, to ensure no punishment.

This correct way of life, Sharia law, would ensure on us Allah's boundless mercy and kindness on believers, if He so wills it. It is necessary to die a Muslim in order to receive mercy and go to Paradise. It is also necessary to only love Muslims since they are Muslims and not to love disbelievers since they are disbelievers. "If anyone desires a religion other than Islam (submission to Allah) 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)" (Qur'an 3:85)

The Islamic Abrahamic God, Allah, does not trust us to choose to live, as He desires us to live, with obedience to Him and His prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) teachings.

Christians believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, the Judges, David, Solomon, the Prophets and John the Baptist. All of them point to God, Jesus the Savior, who walked among us, fully human, and fully God. Mary the mother of Jesus said yes: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to Your word." Obedience with love is Kinship.

Muslims believe in the God of Abraham and Ishmael. The major prophets of Islam are: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (PBUH). Abraham and his slave, Hagar, were Ishmael's parents. Ishmael is the father of the Arab Nations. Obedience without love is Slavery.

Among the many differences between the religions I feel the most important are: The Christian Triune God is a God of Love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Muslim Allah is a Master God, a single God. Christians follow the teachings of Christ and then try living as He lived. Muslims follow the teachings that Allah gave Muhammad and then try to live a life following Muhammad's example of obedience to Allah. Another is who chooses. The Jews and Christians believe that God Is Present Everywhere. God is always with us. We choose to separate ourselves from God. The Muslim believes that Allah is not present to us unless Allah chooses to be with us. **If the Abrahamic religions of the Jews, Christians and Muslims do worship the same God, then Muhammad's Islamic teachings purposely sets up a discord between God and His Muslim people.**

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ISBN-13: 978-0982413708 4th edition (2009)

Translated: Usama K. Dakdok

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Publisher: Image

ISBN-13: 978-0385479677 Publication: 1995

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Publisher: Oxford University Press

ISBN-13: 978-0195283921 Publication: 08/16/1990

The Didache: A Window on the Earliest Christians

By Thomas O'Loughlin

Publisher: Baker Academic

ISBN-13: 978-0801045394 Publication: 11/01/2010

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ISBN-13: 9781586176969

Publisher: Ignatius Press Publication: 12/3/2012

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Publisher: Ignatius Press

ISBN-13: 978-0898709285 Publication: 11/01/20

Christmas in the Koran: Luxenberg, Syriac, and the Near Eastern and Judeo-Christian Background of Islam

By Ibn Warraq

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ISBN-13: 978-0310515029

Publisher: Zondervan Publication: February 11, 2014

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Publisher: The Pen vs. The Sword Publication: 2004

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Publisher: Dickinson University Press Publication: January 3, 1985

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Notes

ⁱ The Christian's Catholic Church teaches: By natural reason man can know God with certainty, on the basis of His works. But there is another order of knowledge, which man cannot possibly arrive at by his own powers: the order of divine Revelation. Through an utterly free decision, God has revealed Himself and given Himself to man. This He does by revealing the mystery, His plan of loving goodness, formed from all eternity in Christ, for the benefit of all men. God has fully revealed this plan by sending us His beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ⁱⁱ Tradition has Muslims turning toward the Ka'ba, in Mecca to pray in 623 AD; some scholars contend that during the early Abbasid period 750's-800s they turned toward Mecca.

ⁱⁱⁱ To Israel, his chosen, God revealed himself as the only One: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD; and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." (Deuteronomy 6:45) Through the prophets, God calls Israel and all nations to turn to him, the one and only God: "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.. . To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. 'Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength.'" (Isaiah 45:22-24 & Philippians 2 2:10-11) Catechism of the Catholic Church #201

Jesus himself affirms that God is "the one Lord" whom you must love "with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength". (Mark 12:29-30) At the same time Jesus gives us to understand that he himself is "the Lord". (Mark 12:35-37) To confess that Jesus is Lord is distinctive of Christian faith. This is not contrary to belief in the One God. Nor does believing in the Holy Spirit as "Lord and giver of life" introduce any division into the One God:

We firmly believe and confess without reservation that there is only one true God, eternal infinite (immensus) and unchangeable, incomprehensible, almighty and ineffable, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; three persons indeed, but one essence, substance or nature entirely simple. Catechism of the Catholic Church #202

^{iv} Some additional Islamic teachings on women are: "Treat women well, for they are [like] domestic animals with you and do not possess anything for themselves." From Muhammad's 'Farewell Sermon', Tabari Vol 9, Number 1754. "The entire woman is an evil. And what is worse is that it is a necessary evil." The fourth Caliph, Ali (656-661 AD). A respected Quran 13th century commentary, Tafsir al-Qurtubi, explains that, "Women are like cows, horses, and camels, for all are ridden." The revered 1110's AD Islamic scholar al-Ghazali, writes that the role of a Muslim woman is to "stay at home and get on with her sewing. She should not go out often, she must not be well-informed, nor must she be communicative with her neighbors and only visit them when absolutely necessary; she should take care of her husband... and seek to satisfy him in everything... Her sole worry should be her virtue... She should be clean and ready to satisfy her husband's sexual needs at any moment." (<http://www.centerforinquiry.net/isis>) "A'isha said [to Muhammad]: 'You have made us equal to the dogs and the asses'" "These are the words of Muhammad's favorite wife, complaining of the role assigned to women under Islam. Sahih Muslim (4:1039) Muhammad married A'isha when she was 6-years-old and consummated his marriage with her when she was 9. During a 2012 Egyptian television talk show a cleric slammed Christianity for teaching gender equality: "the Christian religion does not differentiate between women and men, but it confirms their perfect equality: it gives them an equal share in inheritance, it bans divorce, and it bans polygamy." See Books & Web Sites above **

See also

Qur'an:

4:11, 4:176, 2:28, 2:22, 5:6, 2:223, 4:3, 53:27, 4:24, 33:50

Hadith:

Sahih Bukhari (6:301 6:301 2:29 62:8 62:58)

Abu Dawud 2:704, 2155

Ishaq 593, 593, 969

Al-Tirmidhi

Tabari VIII:117, IX:137

Article 1041 of the Civil Code of the Islamic Republic of Iran states that girls can be engaged before the age of nine, and married at nine: "Marriage before puberty (nine full lunar years for girls) is prohibited. Marriage contracted before reaching puberty with the permission of the guardian is valid provided that the interests of the ward are duly observed."

^v "O believers, fight the unbelievers who are near to you; and let them find in you a harshness; and know that Allah is with the Godfearing" (Qur'an 9:123). Links: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/milwaukee-art-museums-embrace-of-condom-portrait-of-pope-draws-disgust-b99527618z1-310570591.html> http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/13/piss-christ-sale_n_5317545.html

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^{vii} 10/07/1571 Battle of Lepanto The victory of the Holy League prevented the Islamic Ottoman Empire expanding further along the European side of the Mediterranean. Lepanto was the last major naval battle in the Mediterranean fought entirely between galleys. Christians prayed all along the coast and while rowing the ships of the Christian fleet. Historians contend that a Turkish victory could have led to Western Europe being overrun with this defeat along the coast of Italy.

9/11/1683 Battle of Vienna. The combined forces of the Holy Roman Empire and the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, won the battle. Christians not fighting prayed for the intercession of God to protect them. The victory of the Holy Roman Empire and the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth prevented the Islamic Ottoman Empire expanding through the European Balkan territories. The Battle of Vienna was the last major battle between Christian Europe and the Muslim Ottoman Empire until World War I. Historians argue that a Turkish victory could have led to Europe being involved in a years of wars with the Ottoman Empire or a peace treaty allowing large parts of Western Empire to be part of the Islamic word.

^{viii} Most Catholic Church teachings are theological truths, but not dogma. Cardinal Avery Dulles pointed out that in the 800 pages of the Second Vatican Council documents, there is not one new statement for which infallibility is claimed. A dogma is a definitive article of faith (*de fide*) that has been solemnly promulgated by the college of bishops at an ecumenical council or by the pope when speaking in a statement *ex cathedra*, in which the magisterium of the Church presents a particular doctrine as necessary for the belief of all Catholic faithful.