

Islam and the Challenge Ahead

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⁸But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed*. Galatians 1:8 - 9 (KJV)*

** ανάθεμα - a person or thing doomed to destruction - STRONGS*

Islam's Breeding Ground...

Since 911 the western psyche has been awakened to an age-old competitor for the heart, mind, and soul of humanity. Even in our postmodern western mindset, where the unorthodox, mystical, and eclectic is seen with greater interest than the foundations established by our forefathers, Islam has been met with paranoia, phobia, skepticism, and concern because of its propensity for violence in the most fundamentalist expressions of this religion. The moral ambivalence of our western culture that seeks plurality and religious tolerance at all cost flies in the face of the open challenge presented to us by a religion called "Islam" [Arabic lit. "to submit"] and that admittedly seeks nothing less than world domination. For contemporary Christians, who are compelled by the Bible and Spirit of God to be willing to witness of the truth of Christ to those imprisoned in such false religions as Islam, this is an enormous challenge. The body of Christ is ill prepared and ignorant of the beliefs and practices of this religion that is definitely a doctrine of demons from a scriptural perspective, one that is taking many millions to their eternal damnation. I will briefly cover the simplicity of its teachings and give an admittedly biased analysis of its demands in this article but for now I want to suggest that it is indifference that is driving Islam toward its goal of world domination as much as anything else. At its core Islam is threatening to change the face of modern civilization as we know it. Are we unable or just unwilling to meaningfully address this religion that would encourage its adherents to commit suicide in the hopes of forwarding their religion and securing their potential "salvation" in the process?

My work in Christian missions has taken me to virtually every inhabited continent on earth and has brought me into direct contact with different expressions of this religion that is gaining followers in the U.S. and around the world. It is claimed by some to now be the fastest growing religion on earth and in the U.S. as well. My exposure to it and having witnessed the influences of its seductive sway around the world demanded that I at least I become an educated observer of this ancient and dangerous religion. It is growing in popularity among many different races, people groups, languages and cultures. It is, in my opinion, the greatest threat to world order that we have witnessed in my lifetime because of its global appeal. What is it that is drawing so many to this religion? What do we, as Christians, need to know to correctly address Islam? What does the Bible say about those that would preach any other means of salvation other than the gospel of Jesus Christ in any age? Is it vague or clear on this issue? It appears that much of the concern about Islam today is a reaction to its violence rather than a realization of its inherent evil from a Christian Biblical perspective. Further, the desire to find a way to coexist with them now seems to override our concern even for their eternity.

The neutrality and ignorance of the west in "well intentioned" and "politically correct" openness towards Islam is one of the main reasons it is being embraced even here. This is in stark contrast with the clarity of understanding expressed by those that live with Islam on a daily basis. Let me give you an example close to home. Recently after many months of dialogue I had the privilege of counseling a former Muslim for baptism. He has now clearly come to faith in the biblical Christ for his salvation. He now lives in an Islamic Republic and I have grown to appreciate his desire to seek the true Jesus of scripture in our dialogue over recent months. This is in contrast to the false Jesus taught by Islam and this man is

NOT alone in his desire to know Jesus among the many nations now under Islamic control. He is a graduate student of the English language and he is quick to remind me that in spite of current concerns over countries like Iran for instance, I should never forget that the true God of scripture has used these “Persians” in His plans throughout history for His glory. Unfortunately, He informs me that the Muslims in his homeland do not reflect the same tolerance that we westerners give Islam in our “politically correct” culture. That has been my observation as well in my travels. The legislated religious freedom and indifference of the west does NOT exist in the Islamic republics nor is this freedom ever the goal of Islam in general. In my dialogue with this Middle-eastern brother in Christ as we seek a way to arrange for his baptism, he has warned me that should I have opportunity in my travels to pass within contact range of him for his baptism, that we would BOTH be immediately and summarily executed... if we were discovered there or in any of the surrounding Islamic states to have done so. He was also very disappointed to see that a previous BA article had been neutral in our statements regarding the dangers of Islam in true western like fashion, erroneously suggesting to our readership that neutrality disguised as respect is the way to address Islam. He took particular issue with the assertion that the “Allah” of Islam might be the same “God” of the bible simply because the word “Allah” was used by Arab Christians before it was employed by Muslims. He further reminded me that even though a given word in a particular language might be used by different groups in their religious experience, it is the definition given by the religion itself that determines whether we are speaking of the same god or not! Having been raised a Muslim himself and from my own studies into their particular theology let me assure you that the “Allah” of Islam and the “Allah” or God of the Bible are definitely NOT the same “Allah” God.

This article, rather than being based strictly upon some academic or linguistic introduction to this religion in a theoretical sense, is intended to raise your awareness to the basic and undisputed beliefs of those claiming Mohammed as their prophet and their “Allah” as the only true God. It is offered with the hope that you will be better prepared to offer a Biblical defense against Islam in all of its manifestations and give a clearer testimony of the only way of salvation offered to humanity by faith in the Jesus Christ of scripture alone... the Son of God at the right hand of the Father even now!

What is it that is drawing so many to this religion?

The term “Islam” is derived from the infinitive of the Arabic verb “to Submit” (to Allah’s will). As a religion it is by no means monolithic or unified across its various list of divisions and sects such as Sunnis, Shi’ites, Sufi’s, Wahhabis, Druze, Alawite, Ahmadyas, Sikhs, Bahai, and the Nation Islam etc.. The list reads with somewhat the same flavor as the denominationalism within nominal Christianity. It is a simple religion that sees itself as the legitimate successor to Judaism and Christianity. Islam is by definition the correct name for the religion that the Muslim prophet Mohammed claimed was revealed to him by the angel “Gabriel”. Unfortunately, having read from the Quran, in comparison to the testimony of Holy Scripture, I can assure you that the angel speaking to Mohammed was NOT the Gabriel we know from our Bibles. Even Mohammed and his wife Kadija wondered if it were a demonic experience from the first encounter that left Mohammed in seizures and making noises like an animal... in order to receive his testimony. This admittedly illiterate fellow then began to have others write down the words given him in those encounters (seizures) and later organized them into the “Quran” which they claim is superior to the Bible because it is a more direct or mechanical “recitation” of these messages from this “angel” and the words of his “allah”. It therefore claims that the scriptures of the Jews and Christians are corrupted and not trustworthy while giving confusing lip service to some of their teachings in comparison to the Quran. The Quranic accounts of various events is also quite different than the Biblical account of the Jews and Christians. The Muslims teach a “Jesus” that was not deity, crucified nor resurrected and teach that they have no need of atonement before their “allah”. They redefine the terms “Messiah” and “Prophet” as well as attributing to Mohammed many of Christ’s unique claims; prophet, intercessor, Savior, and Lord. Their strict dogma and fantastic mysterious claims to a spiritual origin and revelation from their “angel” no doubt draws many in for a closer look at this religion to their own destruction.

Although the religion is growing rapidly where poverty and ignorance provide ample opportunity for its promotion the religion is finding allegiance even in the west. The open anti-Christian bias of the liberal and secular intellectual establishment cannot be underestimated in this process though it is beyond the scope of this article to adequately address. The anti-Christian intellectuals in the west apparently now operate by the axiom... “the enemy of my enemy is my friend”. Today, it is not unusual to see historical, humanist, and liberal “Christian” teachings, particularly those that deny the Christ of scripture and His written word in any way, quickly assimilated and embraced by Islam. As a result of this anti-Christian liberal bias that uses historical personalities to attack fundamental Christian beliefs, you can read quotes by famous intellectuals and historical personalities like Thomas Jefferson or Abraham Lincoln from the west in the Islamic training materials today to support their claims. One Islamic training manual, “Know Your Islam” by Yousuf N. Lalljee, opens with this interesting quote from a western Nobel Prize winner that you should recognize; **“If any religion has a chance of ruling over England, nay Europe, within the next hundred years, it can only be Islam... I believe, that if a man like Muhammad were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving its problem in a way that would bring it much needed peace and happiness.” - George Bernard Shaw – [Nobel prize Literature]** Even the recent movies in the west that deny the Deity of Jesus, such as the Da Vinci Code, find great support in Islam for obvious reasons. The anti-Christian media as well as those liberal elements in the west make great allies for Islam.

What do we, as Christians, need to know to correctly address Islam?

I think the answer to this question is obvious in scripture if we simply take the teachings of Islam on face value across the board as to its origin and teaching. We have been taught from the teaching of the Apostle Paul that we are engaged in a Spiritual battle. It is not about intolerance of ideas. It is about truth and lies. It is a life and death issue. We must remember that this religion, born of a lying “angel”, should come as no surprise to us. Paul told the Ephesians centuries ago concerning the spiritual realities of our conflict in this world; ¹²“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” (Eph 6:12 KJV) He told the Corinthians that they should not be surprised that false apostles should come based upon his understanding of the practices of false angels in our world. In second Corinthians he said; ¹³“For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” **2 Cor 11:13 - 15 (KJV)** It should not surprise us that the fastest growing religion on earth is one that was started by a lying “angel” centuries ago. It should also be no surprise that he has made Mohammed his apostle either. Paul warned the Galatians in chapter 1:8,9, in complete agreement with these previous statements, that should even an angel from heaven preach any other gospel than that which is preached in scripture they should be accursed NOT tolerated. This speaks to their condition before God and not our actions to harm them in any way. Our goal is to reach them with the truth that is in Christ alone and NOT to convert them by force. After all, no one can come to the Son except the Father draws Him(John 6:44). However, I wonder if some Christians have forgotten that the same scripture that might never call us to kill for the cause of Christ definitely calls us to be willing to courageously die for the truth of Christ at any moment for our brethren. Jesus laid down his life and we should not be surprised if His call to us to witness of Him to those that are lost might require the same(John 13:34,35; 15:9-14). Therefore, we must NOT be tolerant in any manner toward those that teach clearly against the good news of the gospel of Christ nor should we look into false religion to find truth. We must confront them with the truth of scripture in the hopes that some will escape even from the fires of hell(Jude 1:23).

The Devil’s Fingerprint ?

Finally, I want to spend a little time expressing something that concerns me about Islam that might be a little strange or out of the ordinary line of thought here. However, as I list the basic teachings of this rather simple religion that is gaining popularity around the world and confronts us daily in the news, there is something that concerns me more than a little that may or may not be relevant. You be the judge. Here are their basic teachings. See if you see anything Biblically significant about them;

The 6 basic beliefs of Islam

1. **Belief or Faith in “Allah”** – only ONE true God which has no partners or equals.
2. **Belief in Angels** – Fundamental to Islamic revelation from their angel “Gabriel” to Mohammed
3. **The Holy Books**
 1. The Old Testament Scripture: the Law (*Tawrat*) of Moses; the Psalms (*Zabur*) of David - Now Allegedly Corrupted (*Tahrif*)
 2. The New Testament - the Gospels (*Injil*) of Jesus – Now Allegedly Corrupted (*Tahrif*)
 3. The Koran or Quran – needed for proper worship of God. According to the Quran,
4. **The Prophets**
 1. Muhammad's revelation is considered the greatest of all. He is called the “Seal of the Prophets” among other exalted titles
 2. Their “Allah” has allegedly sent 124,000 prophets although only about 25 are mentioned in the Quran.
5. **Predestination** – Muslims believe everything is predestined by Allah’s will.
6. **Day of Judgment** – The day when all of a person’s acts in this life will be placed on a scale. If their good works outweigh their bad ones, they will go to paradise. If not, they will go to hell.

The 6 Religious Duties of Islam – (though some claim only 5 officially the 6th is well recognized)

1. **Shahada** – Testimony - Reciting the Creed of Islam - “There is no god worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger.”
2. **Salat** – Prayer - The Public prayer. All Muslims must pray five times a day toward Mecca, together on Fridays, first in Muhammad’s house then in a mosque.
3. **Zakat** – Almsgiving - Every Muslim must give a percentage of annual income to charitable work in the Muslim community.
4. **Sawm** – Fasting - During the 28 days of the lunar month of Ramadan. All food, drink, uncharitable words, and sexual activity must cease until after sunset.
5. **Hajj** - Pilgrimage - Once in a lifetime pilgrimage to Mecca. This ritual is performed at a specific time, at specific places in the vicinity of Mecca.
6. **Jihad** – Spiritual Struggle – Some claim this optional - This duty requires muslims to go to war to defend Islam against its enemies. Anyone who dies in holy war is guaranteed eternal life in paradise.

Called to honor the 6th Day – (Friday is the special day of prayer in Islam)

“And Allah turned towards us and guided us to Friday (as the day of prayer) for us. In fact, He (Allah) made Friday, Saturday and Sunday (as days of prayer). In this order would they (Jews and Christians) come after us on the Day of Resurrection. We are the last of (the Ummahs) among the people in this world and the first among the created to be judged on the Day of Resurrection. (Sahih Muslim, Book 4, [Number 1862](#); see also Numbers 1858-1861, 1863)

I recognize the speculative and conjectural nature of what I am suggesting to you in light of the simplicity of the statements of belief I have listed. However, isn’t it just a little strange that the religion that is growing fastest around the

world and threatens to bring us to the brink of world war is one that was allegedly brought by an “angel” and one that can legitimately be summarized as having 6 basic beliefs, 6 religious duties, and was taught to worship on the 6th day? Do you see a pattern here or at least a red flag? The 6,6,6, here may be speculative, insignificant, or even inflammatory to some but it strikes me nonetheless as relevant. Could it be we are witnessing the rise of something of biblical proportions? Even though the mark of 666 mentioned in Revelation 13:18 may NOT be completely applicable until the reality of the “Beast” comes, is the apparent affinity to the number six in Islam at least indicative of the real identity of the angel that gave them their religion? The willingness of some even in historical “Christian” circles to desire to embrace Islam causes me great concern in this context as well. Recently an Episcopalian Priest has referred to herself as a Muslim and a Catholic priest in Europe has called for the use of the term “Allah” as God in their services to apparently somehow open the doors to the Muslims. God only knows what could be next as Islam is embraced by the religious confusion that engulfs many even in “Christianity” because of their neglect in remembering our “book” the Holy bible!

Beyond the strange and speculative repetitions of sixes in the beliefs of this religion is the incontrovertible fact that Islam is a dogmatic religion that condemns millions to the lake of fire and threatens the very civilization we have come to know. It is a simple religion that enslaves peoples from all backgrounds and nations. If the testimony of its origin is to be taken seriously, it is a religion brought to this earth by a spiritual being that represents a god that deals with his servants in a master-slave relationship. There is no mercy, no atonement, and no grace in a religion where even its “apostle” Mohammed was unsure of his own salvation (according to their own commentary *Hadith – Sahih al-Barukari*). Islam is an anti- “Christ of scripture” religion that denies His deity and His claims to be the Son of God. It denies His sacrificial death and resurrection. From the story of its beginning in a cave where it threw down Mohammed in seizure like trances, it represents a demonic manifestation that is intended to confuse and threaten God’s very elect and it now feeds upon the politically correct neutrality and ambivalence of our day. It can and should only be met with the truth of the living Christ of scripture and in the power of His love that would tell them of the deadly nature of their religion and point them to the truth in THAT Christ alone. The fingerprint of the devil is in the anti-Christ teachings of Islam and should cause us to listen carefully to the clear warnings of Jesus for the last days;

²¹For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²²And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened. ²³Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe *it* not. ²⁴For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; **insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.** ²⁵Behold, I have told you before. **Matt 24:21 - 25 (KJV)**

We have been told and the Apostle Paul has clearly stated the relationship of the True God of Scripture to even a religion preached by an angel and embraced by millions. They are accursed if they preach any other gospel than that of the Jesus Christ of scripture. I pray that our heavenly Father will give us the courage to face the challenges ahead so that those He will call out of all the confusion of the religious Babylon today, including Islam, might hear His voice clearly and worship His Son to their own salvation as He demands(Phil 2:9-11).

Recommended reading;

- ◆ ***Answering Islam: The Crescent and the Cross*** by Norman L. Geisler Phd. and Abdul Saleeb – Baker Books
- ◆ ***Reaching Muslims for Christ*** by William J. Saal – Moody Press
- ◆ ***The Dark Side of Islam*** by Dr. R.C. Sproul and Abdul Saleeb – Crossway Books
- ◆ ***Unveiling Islam: An Insider's look at Muslim life and Beliefs*** – by Ergun Caner Phd. & Emir Caner Phd. - Kregel Publications
- ◆ ***More than Prophet: An Insider's Response to Muslim Beliefs about Jesus and Christianity*** – Emir Caner Phd. & Ergun Caner Phd. – Kregel Publications
- ◆ ***Christian Jihad: Two Former Muslims Look at the Crusades and Killing in the Name of Christ*** – Ergun Caner Phd. & Emir Caner Phd. – Kregel Publications
- ◆ ***The Facts on Islam*** by John Ankerberg Dmin. & John Weldon Phd. – Harvest House Publishers
- ◆ ***Islam Unveiled: Disturbing Questions About the World's Fastest Growing Faith*** by [Robert Spencer](#) – Encounter Books