



WORLD RELIGIONS: ISLAM

Pastor Charlie



What Do Muslims Believe?

—
Adult Sunday School, Jan 29 & Feb 12 @ 11:00 a.m.
Handke Center - Elk River, MN
www.gcfmn.org

Resources

Answering Islam: the Crescent in Light of the Cross (Geisler & Saleeb)

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus (Qureshi)

What Every Christian Needs to Know about Islam (James White)

You Tube: James White, “Islam A-Z”



The Basics

- There are about 1.6 billion Muslims world-wide and about 40k in MN
- There are about 41 Mosques, 28 prayer spaces, 4 schools, 64 restaurants, and 43 markets in Minnesota.
- Christianity is the fastest growing religions (6.9% per year) but Islam is second (2.7% per year).
- Muslims are complex: spread all over the world – Islam is their religion, culture, and identity.



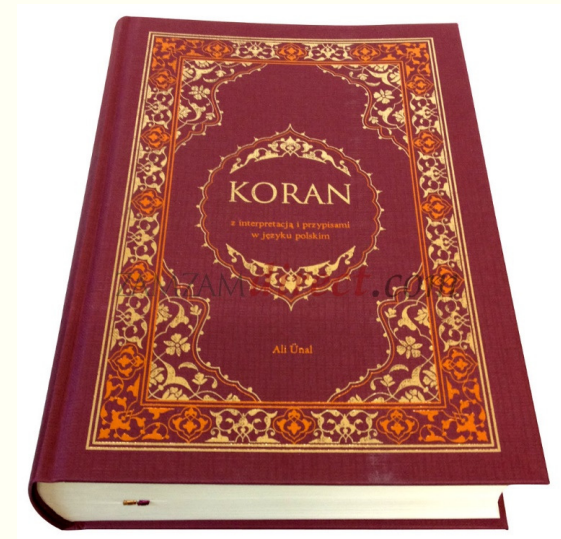
The Basics

- “Islam” means “submission” and “Muslim” means “one who submits.”
- Islam is divided into two major groups: Sunnis (85%) and Shi’ites (15%).
- Sunnis believe that the first four Caliphs took Mohammed’s place.
- Shi’ites believe that the heirs of the fourth Caliph, Ali, replace Mohammed.
- Another difference has to do with Mahdi, “rightly-guided one.”



Sources of Authority

- The Quran or Koran – a collection of Muhammed’s visions, 114 chapters.
- The Hadith – writings of the sayings and works of Muhammed and his first followers.
- The Torah, Psalms, and New Testament – the accept these but teach that they are all corrupt and Muhammed came to correct them.



Muhammed

- He was born in 570 A.D. in Mecca.
- His parents died by the time he was 6.
- He rejected polytheism early on and then claimed to have a vision of God.
- He spent the remaining 23 years of his life meditating, teaching, spreading.
- He was persecuted and thus moved to Medina.



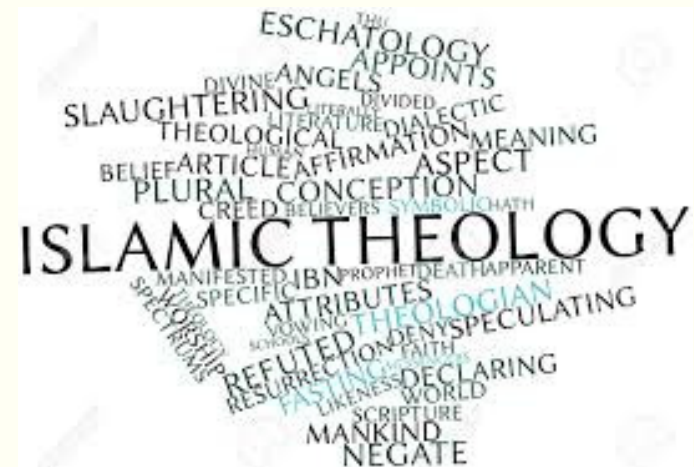
Muhammed's Role

- Muhammed is the final prophet of God
- Through his teaching, Muslims do not consider Islam to be a new religion but the primordial religion of humanity.
- He is the “Seal” of the prophets so that any claimants to prophethood are not accepted by Muslims.



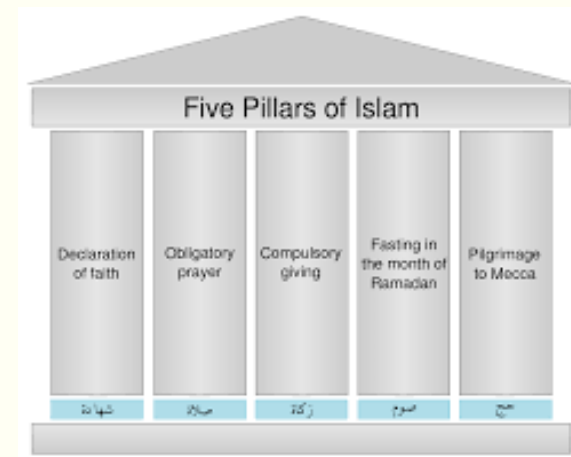
Islamic Theology

- **God:** there is one God, the God of Moses, who is utterly transcendent.
- **Jesus:** he was a great prophet but only one of many.
- **Heaven and hell:** everyone will receive punishment or reward depending on their deeds.
- **Sin and Salvation:** humans are born sinless and good; they have no need of a Savior but they can earn or lose favor with God.



The Five Pillars

- **Shahada:** daily saying of confession.
- **Salat:** five times of prayer each day.
- **Zakat:** giving to the poor.
- **Sawm:** fasting during Ramadan.
- **Hajj:** pilgrimage to Mecca.



Conclusions

Muslims worship a god that is somewhat similar but ultimately different from the God of the Bible in either Testament.

- Galatians 1:6-9
- Hebrews 1:1-4



How to Share the Gospel with a Muslim

Although we have serious disagreements with Muslims, we should love, listen, and pray for them.

- Be informed
- Avoid arguments
- Be ready to answer
- Be respectful
- Be an example
- Be a friend

