

The Foundation of Islam

Belief and Practice

Hebrews: 1:1-2

Introduction

Muhammad and the rise of Islam

Who is Muhammad?

570 AD-Born in Mecca

Orphan (Sur 93:6-8)

595 AD -Marriage to Khadja

610 AD- Religious experience

615-616 AD-open claim of Prophethood

610-622 AD- 13 yr ministry in Mecca-peaceful

620-622 AD-migration north to Medina

624 AD-Islamic community established

622-632 AD-in Medina-10 yrs radical-attack Meccans

632 Death of Muhammad

Terms:

Islam-_____

Muslim-_____

Qur'an-_____

Sura—_____

Aya-_____

Hadith/Ahadith, Sunna-_____

Shari'a-_____

Two major Sects:_____

The Qur'an (Koran), the main source

_____ chapters

_____ Sections

_____ Verses

_____ Order

Tawhid, the Unity of God; *Risala*, the Prophethood; *Akhira*, the hereafter;

Muhammad is the final prophet and that Islam is the only acceptable faith.

Memorization

Ahadith, Books of Traditions

Islam as a belief system

A. FAITH: *Iman*: Articles of faith are to believe in:

God, His angels, His books, His messengers, the Last Day, and the divine decree of good and evil.

1. *God*:

His Names: Allah is the name of His being.

His nature: God is One. Tawhid is the greatest word in Islam.

He has revealed himself 'through Scriptures' only

Unknowable

It is not the revelation of a Father by a Son, but of a Lord to and through a servant.

Christian Perspective:

2. *Angels*:

4 prominent angels:

1. *Gibrail* brought revelation to the prophets (Sura 2:97-98).
2. *Mika'il* is in-charge of sustenance to all living beings (rain, sun, crops etc).
3. *Israfil* will blow the trumpet on the Day of Judgement.
4. *Izrael* angel of death, *Malakul Mawt*

Angelic activities according to the Qur'an: (Sura 50:17-18; 8:50; 40:7; 74:31; 35:1; 39:75; 69:17).

Belief in Satan and Jinn -Muhammad taught:

1. Created from fire.
2. The devil enters into a person like blood into his body.
3. Every child of Adam except Jesus is touched by the devil at birth.
4. Satan is one of the Jinn (Sura 18:50), but elsewhere he seems to be one of the angels (Sura 2:31-34). Satan called Azazil
5. Like humans Jinn eat and drink and have families.
6. Muhammad preached to them (Sura 72:1-2, 11-15) and some believed.

Christian view of Angels

3. *Books*

1. 104 books were given. 100 are lost. The other four are *Torah*, *Zabur*, *Injil* and the *Qur'an*.

2. There are about 120 passages in the Qur'an referring to the Torah and Injil. Several of the passages confirm and declare them as having 'guidance and light'. (Surra 5:44-46)

4. Prophets:

From Adam to Muhammad – 124 thousand prophets
Some special with books and others without

5. The last day:

Many names: *Qayama, Sa'a, Hisab, Hashr* . . . ,

Tribulation

Sunrise in the West

Appearance of the Antichrist (Dajjal)

Return of Christ

6. Belief in Predestination

Generally, a Muslim believes in an absolute decree of good and evil.

B. PRACTICE : *Din*, Known as the five pillars of Islam.

1. Shahada: Declaration of faith by recital of the Creed

There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His Apostle:

Christian: John 17:3, Romans 10:9

2. Salah (Salat): Five compulsory prayers

Daily duty; performed individually or in congregation at a mosque during 5 specific times-public

Christian: Col 4:2, I Thes 5:17, Luke 18:1 Matt 6:5-6

3. Zaka (Zakat): welfare contribution or almsgiving

Annual 2.5% of accumulated wealth and assets.

Khums: 5th of assets.

Given to Muslims only

Christians: Matt 6:1-4, Luke 21:1

4. Sawm (Fasting)

30 days of fasting during the month of *Ramadan* (Qur'an 2:183).

Abstention from food, drink and sexual activities from *dawn to dusk*.

Celebration of a feast '*Eid al-fitr*'

Christian: Matt 6:16-18

5. Hajj (Pilgrimage)

Every adult Muslim to perform *subject to certain conditions*, once in a lifetime.

Celebration of a feast '*Eid al-Adha*'

Jihad ? *Jahada* – struggle *Qatala* – to kill.

This narrowly escaped being the sixth pillar.

The world is divided into two realms: *Dar al-Islam* (abode of Islam) and *Dar al-Harb* (abode of war). Hence the object of Jihad is to turn *Dar al-Harb* into *Dar al-Islam* (2:190-193, 216; 4:91; 9:5, 29; 47:4).

War against non-Muslims

Question: *In what ways are the pillars of Islam different to or similar to Christian teachings?*

(Some starting points: John 4:21-24; 17:3; 1Tim. 2:5-6; Matt. 6:1-17, 34).