

## Nike Research

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# Islam, Religion of Hate

When politicians and news anchors blame bombings on subways as the work of “Islamic extremists,” we are being lied to. The “terrorists” are not extremists, they are centrists. They are not on the fringe of Islam, they are at the center of Islam. Engulfed in the doctrine of political correctness, the media refuses to acknowledge the problem is not “extremism” in Islam, but Islam itself. The deeper the commitment an Arab male has to Islam, the more likely he will become a bombing, head-chopping Islamic terrorist. It is, therefore, important Americans understand the problem—the origins of Islam.

Islam is not a benign religion. Unlike Christianity which promotes holiness and love, Islam is false religion that fosters hate and prejudice.

The word “Islam” means “submission to God.” A member of this religion is called a *Muslim*.

Before Islam spread over Arabia, the region was dominated by polytheism including animistic beliefs which ascribed deity to creatures. Muslims call this the *Sin of Shirk*.

Mecca was a trade and cult center in Arabia. A cubical shrine called the Ka'ba, a holy well called Zamzam, and a sacred precinct surrounding them became a site for pilgrimages. The shrines were associated with stories told by Jews and Christians. Many regarded Abraham as the builder of the Ka'ba and they regarded Mecca as the site where God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son. The son to be sacrificed was not Isaac, the son of Sarah, but Osmol the son of Hagar, cited in the Hebrew Old Testament, and seen as the forefather of the Arabs.

## **MUHAMMAD AND THE BIRTH OF ISLAM**

Islam originated with a self-proclaimed prophet, Muhammad (570-632 A.D.), a member of the Quraysh tribe of Mecca, around 600 A.D. Muhammad was a trader with several children. Having entertained Jews and Christians, Muhammad developed an intense interest in religion. In 610, on Mt. Hira outside of Mecca, Muhammad experienced his “Night of Power” (26<sup>th</sup> of Ramadan) in which he allegedly received his revelation from

God. During these night watches, the angel Gabriel supposedly appeared to him and spoke to him. Over the next three years he shared these revelations with those around him. He believed that he was hearing the words of God (Allah in Arabic). His uncle's son Ali and his friend Abu Bakr believed him. Muhammad heard voices and received visions which are recorded in the Koran (Qur'an means "recitations").

Because Muhammad was tutored by Jews and Christians, some similarities between Christianity and Islam exist such as the belief in one God and eternal judgment. Like Judaism, Islam is a cult (a perversion) of Christianity. However, the differences are far greater than their similarities.

When Muhammad began to reveal his rhymed revelations in public, many people believed that he was inspired by a spirit. But, which spirit?

Muhammad's early revelations called on people to witness that one god had created the universe and everything in it. At the end of time, he argued, their souls would be judged, their sins balanced against their good deeds. All people are called upon to *submit themselves to Allah and accept Muhammad as his messenger*.

### **ISLAM'S RELATION TO ESTABLISHED RELIGIONS**

Muhammad did not completely reject Christian or Jewish teaching. Rather, he assimilated what he liked and discarded what he did not like. Considering his revelations more sacred than the Bible, he demanded people honor his poetic utterances. He saw himself as the last of the prophets and condemned Jews and Christians for not following him. Those who resisted were executed or expelled.

### **GROWTH OF ISLAM**

Muhammad and his followers were forced to flee persecution in 622 from Mecca. He settled in Medina. This flight, the hijra, marks the beginning of the Muslim calendar.

Those who followed Muhammad formed a new tribe called the UMMA, a community defined solely by acceptance of Islam and of Muhammad as his prophet. Here, followers made a break with some of the Jews who had accepted Muhammad's teachings. This is one of the reasons that Muslims began to turn toward the Ka'ba in Mecca to pray.

Muhammad won converts by the power of the sword. His followers attacked cities and threaten people with death if they did not convert to Allah and confess Muhammad as his prophet. Lopping off heads eventually led to the growing strength of Muhammad's Umma. It was "join or die." By the time of his death in 632, a new state was being created based on involuntary religion.

## FRACTURING OF THE UMMA

After Muhammad's death there was debate over succession about who should be the KALIPH—the political-religious leader of the new religious state. Muhammad made no provisions for succession. One group organized around Abu Bakr, one of the earliest believers. But everyone knew that this successor was not a prophet and could not obtain more revelations. War broke out over the legitimacy of this new CALIPHATE.

Abu Bakr summoned those who were closest to Muhammad and ordered them to organize his writings into a book. The verses were gathered together over 20 years. The book was called the KORAN, or “the Recitations.” Muslims regarded it as the word of Allah. Although it is about the same size as the Old Testament, it is not comparable to the Holy Scriptures. The Bible is an historical book written by 39 authors over a period of about 1700 years and its noble content has received acclaim even from its critics (2 Timothy 3:16). The Koran came together in a relatively short period of time by the work of a small number of people for political expediency.

The Bible is an historical document that records God’s revelation over time to the Jewish people. The Koran is primarily a theological and legal book that pronounces judgments about “right and wrong” in regards to the cultural issues of Muhammad’s day. It is a book of suppositions in contrast to the Bible which contains real history. The Koran lacks the majesty, nobility, sophistication and universal appeal of the Bible. Its values are locked in time (6<sup>th</sup> century). For this reason, the Koran is not a popular book outside of the East. It is not easy to read nor does it appeal to the human spirit like the Bible.

The Umma divided after the assassination of the third caliph in 656. There was a faction that believed that the rightful successor from the very beginning was Ali, son-in-law of Muhammad. These people believed that there was no true caliph before Ali. They exalted Ali saying that he had the divine light that was transferred to him upon Muhammad's death. Bitter fighting broke out between the followers of Ali and those who supported the first three caliphs. Blood spilled and heads rolled.

Those who came to believe that Ali was rightful successor to Muhammad were called Shi'ites. These followers believed that God chose an Imam, or leader, to follow Ali. This group held on to messianic dreams of one of their Imam's eventually revealing himself and then unifying Islam behind him. This group split into two factions: **the "twelvers"** believing their will be 12 Imam (found today in small numbers in Iraq, India, and Pakistan and in large numbers in Iran); and a more militant sect of "**seveners**" (a minor sect found in small numbers in Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine).

Those who continued to follow the original caliphate were called the **People of Tradition** or Sunnis. This was the majority faction that dominates Islam.

## FAITH AND PRACTICE OF MUSLIMS

**The Caliphate:** The Islamic caliphate was transformed into a mighty empire by conquest in the centuries after Muhammad's death. It lasted until 1923 when the secular government of Turkey abolished it. The caliphate was the center of Sunni belief. The Shi'ites broke away from it over the centuries.

**Law and Dogma:** The hallmark of Islamic civilization is the **Shari'a**, the law of Islam. The Koran was the highest authority in all matters of faith, theology and law, but it does not answer modern questions. After the death of Muhammad, the UMMA tried to conduct themselves according to the **SUNNAH**, or established practice of the prophet. Impossible to accomplish, Islam slowly developed modern laws to shape social and religious life.

**Five Pillars of Islam:** .These are central practices of Islam since its genesis in 600 A.D.

1. Confession of faith
2. Ritual prayer: Three to four times a day.
3. Fasting during Ramadan
4. Giving alms
5. Pilgrimage (haji) at least once to Mecca

**Books:** Muslims tried to systemize Sunnah into books known as Hadiths. Most cover legal questions outside of the Koran. There is much disagreement over the "true" practice of Muhammad: Sunnis accept six of the hadiths; Shi'ites accept only four.

**Women:** Unlike Christianity which frees women and acknowledges the equality of the sexes, Islam oppressed women. Moses taught sons to honor their mother and father. Islam teaches sons just to honor their father. Over zealous for modesty, women are not allowed to swim, be in bathing suits, or clothing that exposes any skin. For this reason, few women survive boating accidents. Mandatory veiling of women in public was and is a part of Arab urban life. The modern Muslim experiences tension between modern life and the ancient, cultic teachings of the Koran.

Islam believes men are superior to women and are given permission to man-handle them. Polygamy by men is encouraged.

*“Men have a degree over them (women)” (Koran 2:228).*

*“To the male a portion equal to that of two females” (Koran 2:11).*

*“Refuse to share their beds, beat them (wives)” (Koran 4:3).*

*“Your wives are as a tilth (property) unto you, so approach your tilth when or how ye will” (Koran 2:223).*

*“Marry women of your choice two, and three, and four” (Koran 4:3).*

**Slavery:** Islam sanctioned slavery with the provision that Muslims could not enslave other Muslims. Prisoners of war were enslaved resulting in tremendous cruelty to men, women, and children. Only by conversion, could a slave be freed from bondage.

**The Islamic State:** Islam is a pseudo-theocratic, religious state. In an Islamic state, religion, NOT language or ethnicity, defines political identity. Islamic states attempt to be the instrument of God in the administration of justice. Government is thus led by holy men claiming the right to rule by divine authority. The head of state is called a *Khalif* who must be a devout Muslim, not only a political leader, but a spiritual guide. Virtue is not required. Religious orientation is everything, and the authority for action comes from the Koran:

*We have revealed the Book to you with the truth that you may judge between people by means of that which Allah has taught you (Koran 4:105).*

**Freedom of Religion:** Islam does not believe in freedom of religion or in human rights. It punishes non-conformists with a vengeance. Muslims are encouraged by “divine authority” to assassinate non-Muslims and oppress Christians and Jews through taxation and high prices (Koran 9:29).

*“If anyone wants a religion other than Islam, never will it be accepted of him” (Koran 3:85).*

*“But if they turn back, then seize them and kill them wherever you find them” (Koran 4:89)*

*“Seize them and kill them” (Koran 4:91).*

“The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His apostle and strive to make mischief in the land is only this, that they should be murdered or crucified or their hands and their feet should be cut off on opposite sides or they should be imprisoned; this shall be as a disgrace for them in this world, and in the hereafter they shall have a grievous chastisement” (Koran 5:33).

*“ O you who believe! do not take the Jews and the Christians for friends;” (Koran 5:51)*

*“ . . . therefore if they do not withdraw from you, and (do not) offer you peace and restrain their hands, then seize them and kill them wherever you find them” (Koran 4:91)*

*If a man, who is forced by the sword to bow the knee to Islam, but later returns to Christianity, he is to be put to death (Bukhari book 9:57).*

*“and announce painful punishment to those who disbelieve (in Islam)”  
(Koran 9:3).*

Muslims are prone to persecute (seek to injure) those who disagree with them even if they are of the same religion. Remember when Aytollah Khomeine of Iran controlled the state and issued an order to kill Salman Rushdie just because he criticized Islamic political policy. Islam has many cults and extremists sects. Osama Bin Ladin, a wealthy Islamic terrorist, “declared war on the U.S.A. for resisting Islam” (PBS.org). In some of these groups, membership will only be granted after a standing member witnesses the assassination of an infidel by a new recruit. Islam believes that Muslims who kill non-Muslims will be rewarded by Allah with scores of virgins culminating in a heavenly sexual orgy. It should be no surprise that the vast majority of international terrorists who slaughter innocent civilians come from Islamic countries seeking heavenly bliss. Islam is a greenhouse for terrorism.

Unlike Christianity which follows the law of love, Islam follows the law of vengeance and retribution. For this reason, Islam has a long history of blood shed. While Catholic, political-European-Christianity fell into depraved states that abused human rights, particularly during the Crusades, all agree that this abuse was not caused by following Scripture, but because men neglected it! The same cannot be said of Islam. **Islam has produced fanatical extremists, not because they neglected the Koran, but because they followed it!** The Koran encourages Muslims to kill dissenters. Contrast Islam with the teaching of Christ: “Thou shall not kill;” “Love your enemies;” “Do good to those who persecute you.” In Islam, to love God is to kill unbelievers; In Christianity, to follow God is to love your neighbor (even unbelievers) as yourself.

**Justice:** “Justice” is a high virtue for Islam. But, Islam is cruel in its administration of justice.

*Stealing is punished by cutting off the hand: “And (as for) the man who steals and the woman who steals, cut off their hands as a punishment for what they have earned, an exemplary punishment from Allah; and Allah is Mighty, Wise” (Koran 5:38)*

*Adultery is punished by public flogging: “(As for) the fornicatress and the fornicator, flog each of them, (giving) a hundred stripes, and let not pity for them detain you in the matter of obedience to Allah” (Koran 24:2).*

*Drinking is punishable by public flogging (40-80 stripes): (Bukhari Book 8:770)*

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*Resistance to Islam is punishable by death and amputation of hands and feet (Koran 5:33).*

**Conclusion:** The next time you hear the media say “Islamic extremists,” remember that they are not extremists, but centrists; that the problem is not “wayward” Muslims, but devout, hard-core Koran-believing Muslims. Terrorism will never be managed in the West correctly, until the root problem is dealt with—Islam itself.

Unlike Christianity which encourages integrity, love, and freedom, Islam leads to legalism, oppression, and slavery. The greatest virtue in Christianity is love (1 Cor. 13:1ff), but in Islam the greatest virtue is to hate. While Christianity seeks to win converts through gentle persuasion, Islam seeks to win converts through fear and intimidation. Islam is not a benign religion that leads to peace. ***It is a false religion and Muhammad is a false prophet.*** The religion oppresses women, encourages the killing of infidels, and promises a sensual reward for martyrs. It retains members, not because of the reasonableness of the Koran’s dictates, but because of fear the fear of death for dissenting. Converts to other religions are marked, ostracized, and butchered. Islam has a long history of war and bloodshed. All of which is sanctioned by the Koran. Despite its “devout” image, Islam must be exposed for what it is—a religion of hate.

The solution to this religion of hate is the gospel of the Christ and the message of God’s love. Only when Muslims understand and believe the gospel will hate be taken out of the heart. It is, therefore, our sacred duty to help Muslim people understand the love of God, His justice at the cross, and God’s command for Muslim to repent of Islam and to believe in His Son (Acts 17:30).