



Thank you for downloading
CQ Rewind - Summary Only Version!

Each week, the **Summary Only** version provides you with approximately 4 pages of brief excerpts from the program, along with Scripture citations.

If you would like to receive the
CQ Rewind FULL EDITION at no charge, simply sign up at
www.ChristianQuestions.net.

The **FULL EDITION** of approximately 10-12 pages includes comprehensive excerpts from the program, fully quoted Scriptures, graphics, illustrations, and even extra study points that time prevented us from covering during the live program.



Are Muslims and Christians Compatible? (Part 2)

Luke 6:28: (NASB) *Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.*

A few weeks ago, we began looking into Islam to try and understand what its principles are as we witness the effects of radical Muslim extremists on our world today. We examined Islam's peaceful approach to life and some of the similarities to Judaism and Christianity. This morning we will ask: What about Jihad? Who exactly was Mohammed? Who was the promised seed? What about Sharia law? What's the difference between Sunni and Shiite?

What is Jihad?

In dealing with such a difficult question, we will look at the opposite ends of the spectrum regarding answers and definitions, remembering that we as Christians would want to be fairly represented by those who may disagree with us.

Jihad means "physical warfare," *Idiot's Guide to Islam*

- *Muslims and Arabists often inform us that Jihad means "spiritual struggle." Is this true? The word jihad in the Arabic language has its root in the word that means struggle, endeavor or strife. Unfortunately, those who explain it in spiritual terms are deliberately deceiving and misleading the public about its actual meaning based entirely on the Koran...Jihad means only physical warfare in the cause of Allah.*

How do we react to this radical approach to Jihad? Luke 6:27-31: We choose to stand in a different way because of the strength of our position, not because of weakness.

What does jihad mean? *Fadel Soliman*

- *...the misconception, not only among the non-Muslims, but even among the Muslims that any war fought by any Muslim for any reason - whether it be for personal gain, whether it be for fame, or politics - is NOT Jihad! Jihad comes from the root Arabic word which means to struggle. It means to strive against one's own evil inclination. It also means to strive to make the society better. It even means to strive in the battlefield of self-defense. It even means to strive, to fight against oppression and tyranny. Jihad means to strive; it means to struggle.*

Are there any similarities between these two opposing views? Romans 12:1-2

Jihad in the Koran never spiritual, *Idiot's Guide to Islam*

- *Not once in the Koran can anyone find the word Jihad mentioned by itself and meaning spiritual struggle. All the derivatives of the word represent acts of war and aggression to support the belief in Allah and Mohammed as the messenger of Allah.*

Romans 7:21-25: What is the Christian focus? To struggle for Christ-likeness by using the power of God's grace. How did Mohammed himself apply Jihad? Much more on this coming up...

There are about 940 million Sunni Muslims and about 120 million Shiites, with up to 90% of the Shiite minority concentrated in Iraq, Iran and Lebanon.

Doctrinal difference between Sunni and Shiite, *meccacentric.com*

- *As is quite frequent in the history of religions, originally there was a political split...and the Shia do have certain beliefs that are distinct from Sunni Muslims, most conspicuously in their concept of the source of authority in religion. Sunni Muslims accept the Koran, the Hadith¹ and other lesser sources as sources of religious authority. The Shiites say, "No, we accept the Koran and will accept some of the Hadith as a secondary authority, but we are really more interested in the interpretations of the Law as delivered by the prophet's descendants through his daughter Fatima"...so sometime in the 2nd or 3rd century of Islam we find appearing a theory of infallibility in Imams.*

Within Christianity we also have these difficulties: There was an organization put in place to avoid this problem: Ephesians 4:11-16: The purpose of this was to provoke growth and maturity in all of the body under Christ and no other head. This doesn't put a kind of Clergy/Laity system that separates one part from another. No one is looked upon as better than another.

¹ Hadith: The sayings and deeds of the prophet Muhammad recorded by his followers. They are considered authoritative and perfect.



There are great divisions between both Christians and Muslims. One of our challenges as we critically look at Islam is to try to understand it better from their perspective.

12th Imam, meccacentric.com

- *The 12th Imam disappeared...he just vanished. According to mainstream Shia belief, he didn't die, he was "occulted" in the hidden realm and he will reappear as the savior of the Muslim world at the end of time. He will be the "Mahdi," the divinely guided savior. Mainstream Shia believe this Imam, who is in the state of occultation, is in mystic communication with the appointed hierarchical leadership of the Shia Muslims.*

This infallibility concept does remind us of prophecy, though this prophecy does not apply to Islam: 2 Thessalonians 2:3-7

What about Sharia Law and the treatment of women?

Here is an area where we admittedly have a very hard time. Though we don't agree, we can see and understand the different applications of Jihad; we can identify with the issue of sectarian belief and I can respect, but disagree with the believed source of Islam. Here, here is where we simply do not grasp the practical applications that are seemingly accepted by many Muslims.

Honor Killings, *Fox News*

- *Eight years ago, the United Nations was confronted with its own research showing that thousands of Muslim women are murdered in "honor killings" every year. The UN's response? A watered-downed resolution condemning "honor killings." Even then, 22 Muslim countries did NOT vote for the resolution. They include Pakistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iran among others. Today countries like Syria and Jordan give "slap on the wrist" punishments to men who kill in the name of honor. Muslim leaders say honor killing is NOT condoned by Islam, but still you've seen Muslim men commit these crimes in the name of their faith. Perhaps the first step in stopping these honor killings is to quit honoring them and for every group or regime associated, fairly or unfairly with the practice, to make clear that honor killings are a despicable oxymoron. Only when that happens will this practice end.*

(Source: Dominic Casciani, Home affairs reporter, BBC News) What is Sharia? Sharia law is Islam's legal system. It is derived from both the Koran, as the word of God, the example of the life of the prophet Muhammad, and fatwas - the rulings of Islamic scholars. But Sharia differs in one very important and significant way to the legal traditions of the Western world: it governs, or at least informs, every aspect of the life of a Muslim.

She's Buried Chest High (Poem) (Please refer to the complete poem shown in the Full Edition Rewind.)

Do we stand for that which is right? 2 Timothy 1:7-9 Do we stand as Christ showed us to stand? Matthew 5:38-45 Do we leave vengeance where it belongs? Romans 12:17-21: It is our responsibility to love the sinner but not the sin.

Who Was Muhammad? Muhammad of Arabia, founder of Islam, was born about A.D. 570 and died in 632. After organizing a community of disciples in Medina, he later chose Mecca as his holy city. By the time of his death, virtually all of Arabia was Islamic. Under the caliphs, militant faith in Allah, and in Muhammad as his prophet, spread quickly into Asia, Africa and even Europe.

Trustworthy caravan manager, *The History Channel*

- *Muhammad had become a caravan manager in his native city, leading trading trips in the land as far away as Syria. But he was also aware that the old values of charity and community were breaking down in Mecca. Muhammad was deeply respectful of the religion of his ancestors. He was a frequent visitor to the Ka'aba² and attempted to lead a life of fairness and respect for all. We don't have lots and lots of information about the prophet before he was called to be a prophet, but that information which tradition has passed down indicates someone who on one hand was very good at what he did - caravan manager. His nickname was "al-Amin," meaning "the Trustworthy Person."*

² Ka'aba: A cube shaped building in Mecca containing a stone laid there by Abraham and Ishmael. All Muslims face this cube when praying.



Who was the "promised seed" of Abraham? Ishmael? Genesis 16:4-12 Isaac? Genesis 17:15-21
It is breathtaking how accurately prophecies are fulfilled!


 **First "angelic visit," *The History Channel***

- In the year 610AD, at the age of 40, the humble business manager and family man took himself to a retreat in a mountain cave. Day and night Mohammed remained in the cave to fast and pray. One night, as flames danced on the darkened cave wall, Mohammed's life changed forever. Suddenly an angel in the form of a man appeared and commanded him to proclaim. Mohammed was terrified and confused and said he had nothing to proclaim. The angel clasped Mohammed in a suffocating embrace. Harder and harder he squeezed until it seemed the last breath of life would be wrung from his body. "Proclaim in the name of thy Lord, who created man from a clot of blood. Proclaim that thy Lord is most bountiful."*

But do angels have interactions like that with human beings?

A quick comparative look at a couple of angelic visits in the Bible: Genesis 32:24-28 Second example of an angelic visit in the Bible: Daniel 9:20-23: Scripturally, angelic visits to God's chosen ones were very different than what Mohammed claimed - they are not violent or threatening but informative and focused.

What are some of the differences between Mohammed and Jesus?


 **Jihad - raids and struggle to survive, *The History Channel***

- Mohammad had spoken about jihad while the Muslims still lived in Mecca. But the new revelations now stressed a different side of jihad. It came at a time when Muslims in Medina were fighting for survival, for most had not been permitted to leave Mecca with any valuables. When Mohammed's followers arrived in Medina, of course they were in a sense exiles from their hometown. They were unemployed with no obvious source of income... so they began to make raids. God had given Muslims the order to struggle, and now God's revelations allowed that struggle to include the right to survive.*

Jihad later meant being the aggressor to survive. It unfolded into being less of a personal struggle. This is how Mohammed carried the Koran to the people.

Let's contrast that with how Jesus brought his message to the people: Matthew 5:3-12: This is exactly the opposite of the aggression promoted by Mohammed. God provided; they did not need to pillage. Jesus never was the head of state or a political leader in any way. His message wasn't to take over but was preaching the kingdom of heaven. It was an entirely different approach.

The Koran declares: "Fight in the way of Allah those who fight against you, but do not aggress. Allah does not love the aggressors... Fight against them until there is no dissension, and the religion is for Allah. But if they desist, there shall be no aggression except against the harmdoers." (Surah 2:190, 193) The Muslim is not to be an aggressor, but is justified and commanded to respond with force to the aggressor. However, to appreciate what this means, and under what conditions this course of action is warranted, we must understand what is regarded as "aggression" against a Muslim.

 **Jihad - attacking and war for Islam, *The History Channel***

- Following the Koran's approval of defending their community, Mohammed chose a traditional Arab solution - defend yourself by attacking. Mohammed would lead an army to raid the most important Karaish caravan of the year. Mohammed's plan was to intercept the caravan as it approached the wells of Badr, near the Red Sea. But before his forces got to the wells, word of the Muslim army reached Mecca. Karaish leaders were outraged that Mohammed would attempt to capture a caravan. One thousand men marched out of Mecca to meet the Muslim army. Mohammed now knew the Karaish would force him to fight. The night before the battle, the prophet had no idea his men were willing to die in what had now become war. But after listening to stern speeches, his followers vowed to offer their lives for Islam.*

What are some core differences between Islam and Christianity?

Islam: National conquest of the world vs. Christianity: Personal conquest of heaven



))) Three years of war, *The History Channel*

For three more years the Karaish army would try and destroy the Muslim community. They would win some battles, but always Mohammed and his followers struggled and survived as their numbers continued to grow. As the Meccan army struggled home after a final unsuccessful battle, their leader was at last forced to admit every man in a sense now knows that Mohammed has not lied. Medina and the Muslim community were finally safe from attack. The prophet was now poised for the final step in the pursuit of his destiny. That step would be his return to the holy city of Mecca.

It is important to realize the culture of war and the provocation of Mohammed in all of this as contrasted to a Christian approach: Philippians 3:7-11

Islam: Controls all of life vs. Christianity: The law of liberty

))) Only four wives each, *The History Channel*

- *Mohammed's wives were a diverse group. One was a Jew, one was a Bedouin, and one was even his cousin. Most were chosen for various political reasons, but a few, such as his third wife Ayesha, were clearly matters of the heart. Mohammed now told his followers that revelations from God said each man was permitted to take no more than four wives and the husband was required to treat them all as equals. "If you fear you will not be able to maintain justice between your wives, then marry only one..." (By the way, Mohammed had eleven wives.)*

1 Corinthians 8:9-12: We are to have a spiritual conscience. Although we have liberty to make key choices, we are not to use it to override others if we are going to hurt others and their consciences. We are to contribute mightily to those in the faith around us.

Islam: Letter of the Law vs. Christianity: Spirit of the Law

We Christians are told that the *spirit* of the law is more important than the *letter* of the law. We are to do what the law is meant to accomplish for the good of all. The law was meant to bring us to Christ as a template of how to live. Galatians 3:23-29

Islam: Enforcers of God's Justice vs. Christianity: God will repay

))) Victory in Mecca and the Kaba, *The History Channel*

- *Mohammed had achieved extraordinary success. His followers had grown in less than 20 years from a handful to thousands. But he could not complete his mission so long as the holy site of the Ka'aba remained home to idols. In January of the year 630, Mohammed set out for Mecca at the head of an army of ten thousand. As the Muslims approached the holy city, Meccan people made no attempt to resist. It was clear that the old gods of the Karaish were powerless in the face of Islam. The prophet had no desire for blood. He issued an amnesty as a symbol of his wish to unite all people as the children of one god. The only victims he sought remained sitting in the Ka'aba. The prophet entered the holy structure and proceeded to lead the destruction of all 365 idols as he recited the verse: "The truth has arrived and vanquish falsehood."*

Christianity is about the city of your heart, not taking over a physical city.

Are we compatible? Only in the sense that we can both have integrity and be contributors to the society around us. When it comes to matters of religion, however, there is a difference. We should have respect for their belief. We apply all that Jesus taught us about righteousness, loving our neighbors, and loving our enemies all in the same way. If we are persecuted for it, then so be it. That way we give honor to Christ. Remember vengeance belongs to God. If something goes wrong in your life from the hand of another, know that God knows and in His time will take care of it. Don't be fooled by anything else. Romans 12:17-21

***So are Muslims and Christians compatible...?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!***