

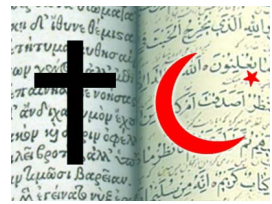


Thank you for downloading the
CQ Rewind - Summary Only Version!

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.com.

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.



Is the Same God Behind Islam and Christianity?

2 Timothy 1:8: (NASB) *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God.*

Religion is a powerful thing. It wields a sword of conviction with which humanity will go to face great challenges. Depending on its purity, the results of this conviction can be very good or very bad. Religion can also wield a spear of bigotry that can be passionately thrown at a perceived enemy who is far away. Unfortunately, Christianity and Islam both carry such weapons and have both been known to use them for harm. Is it possible that God is behind both of these religions?

First, we need to define Islam and overlay it with biblical, specifically New Testament, principles: *The following is a Muslim perspective. Throughout the program, we will be quoting Muslim websites and are not attempting to read directly from or interpret in any way the Koran:*

What is the religious concept of Islam? Islam is the crowning of the teachings of all the prophets of God. In other words, Islam is the culmination or ultimate level in the evolution of religious teachings for mankind. The religion of God (Islam) became perfected and completed - "perfected" because of the human errors, interpolation and mythology that had crept into the records of the previous Revelations, and "completed" because mankind was ready in maturity and facility to receive a comprehensive guidance for both this world and the next - through Prophet Muhammad.

Let's begin to compare Islam with Christianity.

Islam: The *letter* of the Law (the Law as stated by Muhammad with references to the Old Testament Law) **Christianity:** The *spirit* of the Law (The Old Testament Law) Galatians 3:23-29

What does Islam teach? Islam offers mankind a perfect code of laws; methodically teaching people to strive to practice moral culture, to be kind to all, not to waste, to be magnanimous and tolerant and to live in peace with others in order to attain universal brotherhood... Islam attaches equal importance to life in this world and in the next. It is not merely a religion, but a perfect code of life to be observed by man.

Islam: Controls every aspect of life **Christianity:** Is a law of liberty 1 Corinthians 8:9-12

Observation: Islam is fashioned primarily after the Old Testament Law but seems even more particular. It is a physical set of laws and only in a small way fashioned after the New Testament.

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 as far away as the land that is today's 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 Kaaba and attempted to lead a life of fairness and respect for all.*
- *We don't have lots and lots of information about the prophet Muhammad before he was called to be a prophet but that information in which the tradition is passed down indicates somebody who was on the one hand very good at what he did, caravan manager. His nickname among other things was Al-Amin, "the trustworthy person."*

What about Jesus? Jesus as a 12-year old boy after three days in the Temple: Luke 2:47-52: There is a similarity with Muhammad in that Jesus increases in wisdom and stature as a young man.



Marriage and daughters, *The History Channel*

- *In the year 595, Muhammad was hired by a wealthy woman of Mecca named Khadijah to organize and guide a caravan for her. He accepted and returned with a handsome profit. The trip would begin a new life for Muhammad and Khadijah.*
- *He was an international business executive whose boss was a woman, and he was obviously very eligible and she proposed to him directly.*



- *Khadijah in many ways is an interesting historical figure. She is a self-made woman who decided to propose to Muhammad who is not a prophet at that time. He was, reports say, fifteen years her junior. They apparently had a very loving relationship.*
- *Muhammad and Khadijah had five daughters.*

Jesus, his origin and stature: [John 3:16-17](#) **Muslim perspective on Jesus:** Jesus was a very elect and highly esteemed messenger of God. No Muslim is a Muslim if he does not believe this. Jesus is not God's son.

Islam: Believes that Jesus existed **Christianity:** Believes in Jesus

What about Jesus' message? [1 Timothy 2:5-6](#) **Muslim perspective on Jesus' message:** Jesus was sent by God as a messenger to the Jews in order to return them to the pure and true religion of Moses, and to relieve them of some of the regulations which had been placed upon them in ancient times. He taught them to have faith as well as works. Neither can stand alone.

What about Jesus' crucifixion? [Philippians 2:7-8](#) **Muslim perspective:** Jesus was not forsaken to the Jews to be abused and killed, however, it was "made to appear so to them." God saved Jesus by raising him up unto Himself. Jesus was not crucified.

Observation: Muhammad's early life and ministry was always very physical - in and about the world as we know it. Jesus' entire earthly existence was about God and saving a sinful world. It was a spiritual focus.



Taking the Koran in Context, The History Channel

- *Since September the 11th we've heard Osama Bin Laden reciting some really blood curdling verses from the Koran, but what Bin Laden fails to do is to mention or recite the verses that in every case succeed these ferocious verses which say: "but forgiveness is better."*
- *If one wants to take one part of the story, one of the chapters, and develop the conception of the prophet upon that single chapter, well of course it is going to be very distorted and the prophet is going to be understood as a man of violence and a man of hate.*
- *When people commit violence and injustice in the name of Islam, they are committing violence and injustice against Muhammad and God.*

The Qur'an honors Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David and Jesus but traces Islam through Ishmael. Muhammad claims to be a messenger of Allah who has clearly revealed all things. Orphaned as a baby, Muhammad was deeply influenced by the loving care of his poor uncle Abu Talib who raised him for most of his childhood. Muhammad became a caravan driver and financial manager, and at age 25 married his 40-year-old employer, a wealthy widow. This marriage allowed Muhammad a little more luxury and leisure time to devote to contemplation.

Who was the "promised seed" of Abraham according to the Scriptures? Was it Ishmael? [Genesis 16:4-12](#) or Isaac? [Genesis 17:15-21](#) What about the Bible? [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

Muslims believe in the books of the previous prophets including the "Torah" which was sent to Moses, the "Zaboor" (Psalms) which were given to David, the "Injeel" (Gospel) which was given to Jesus, and the Qur'an which was given to Muhammad. However, Muslims are told that the previous Scriptures were tampered with by mankind and the Bible should only be accepted in as far as it is confirmed by the Qur'an. It is to be treated with respect; however any statements which clearly oppose those of the Qur'an are to be rejected as the work of mankind.

Observation: The necessity to pick and choose which Scriptures to keep creates an overwhelming burden upon Islam in establishing its claim to authenticity. Jesus is the honored "son" of Isaac, yet he comes from what they consider to be a false and incoherent line.

We would say that the God of Islam is not the same God of Christianity. Islam takes the principles of the God of Abraham but changes them to something different. (But to be fair, there are "Christian" groups that do the same thing!)

(Please see the full edition CQ Rewind for the comparison between the Five Pillars and the Beatitudes) The Five Pillars of Islam are core beliefs that shape Muslim thought, deed, and society. A Muslim who fulfills the Five Pillars of Islam, remains in the faith of Islam, and sincerely repents of his sins, will make it to Jannah (paradise). If he performs the Five Pillars but does not remain in the faith, he will not be saved.



Observation: Islam meticulously orders your life whereas true Christianity gives us the tools to individually set our lives in order according to Christ.

We notice the only "aggressiveness" in those five pillars is towards peace! A Muslim with those beliefs wants good for the world around them.

 **Old Testament, New Testament and Jihad, *The History Channel***

- *Although the religious foundation of Islam included Jesus' message of peace, it had also taken on the Jewish tradition of justice. The Koran's verses that flowed from Muhammad's mouth were now beginning to include a message justifying armed defense of the community.*
- *Permission is given to fight because they are wronged. Verily, Allah is most powerful for their aid. They are those who have been expelled from their homes.*
- *Muhammad's plans for the defense of the community now began to include the word "jihad." It is a term often cited by those who oppose Islam, as evidence of the religion's reliance on violence and war, but the true meaning of jihad is something quite different.*
- *Jihad comes from the Arabic root: jahada, which means "struggle." It is consistently referred to as a struggle for the sake of God. If the jihad is financial, you respond financially. If the jihad is violent, you respond violently and these become ways again of reestablishing peace.*

Jesus taught us to *turn the other cheek and pray for those who persecute you*. Is jihad a struggle to gain preeminence now or a struggle to lose one's will in selfless humility? Do we as Christians have a "jihad" we must fight? Historically, Muhammad began to apply jihad in a physical sense, in war.

 **One of the historical uses of jihad, *The History Channel***

- *Muhammad had spoken about jihad while the Muslims still lived in Mecca, but the new revelations now stressed a different side of jihad. They came at a time when Muslims in Medina were fighting for survival, for most had not been permitted by the Quraish to leave Mecca with any valuables.*
- *When Muhammad and his followers arrived in Medina, of course they were then in a sense exiles from their hometown. They were, to put it bluntly, unemployed. They didn't have any obvious source of support.*
- *They weren't date farmers and all the available land in this agricultural settlement was already spoken for, so they began to make raids.*
- *God had given Muslims the order to struggle. Now God's revelations allowed that struggle to include the right to survive.*

The struggle - the "jihad" of Jesus' own experience: Isaiah 53:3-7: Jesus' struggle was to strive to be like a lamb at his first advent and then like a lion at his second. Is jihad a struggle for lands, people and power, or a struggle to lay down one's very life? For Jesus it was to lay down his life.

 **Jesus, head of state and jihad, *The History Channel***

- *There is an immense contrast between Jesus and Muhammad largely stemming from the fact that unlike Muhammad, Jesus was never head of state.*
- *Muhammad was now a political leader. That meant he was making decisions affecting the work force, the economy, trade, and the safety and security of Medina. To protect the struggling young community, Muhammad knew the basic politics of Arabia would need to change and that meant the threat of the Quraish would have to be met. Increasingly Muhammad would turn to a solution the world has come to fear and all too often associate with Islam. He would turn to armed conflict. Since the days in Mecca, God's revelations had called for Muslims to prepare themselves to struggle to build a moral and righteous life. The Arabic word for this moral struggle is "jihad." Jihad would soon be needed if the Muslim community was to survive. For when the prophet and his followers had left Mecca, it was clear to all that a day would come when they would have to defend their beliefs in battle. Now that day was fast approaching.*

Jesus was never head of state or political. Historically, Christianity has been used as a political pawn and as a complete misrepresentation and manipulation of Jesus Christ for a physical reward. Islam promoted its way of life through sheer numbers and when necessary, through force. **How is it that true Christianity promotes its way of life?** Romans 10:12-15: The word of the Gospel - salvation for all - is how Christianity is promoted. It does not need a physical army, but rather a witness through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Jesus teaches us about our struggle - our jihad:** Matthew 5:38-45




Observation: The Muslim struggle encompasses, among other things, nationalism and politics; whereas the Christian struggle is only about personal transformation.

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

- *Armed with the Koran's approval of defending their community, Muhammad chose a traditional Arab solution: defend yourself by attacking. Muhammad would lead an army to raid the most important Quraish caravan of the year. Muhammad'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. Quraish leaders were outraged that Muhammad would attempt to capture their caravan. A thousand men marched out of Mecca to meet the Muslim army. Muhammad now knew the Quraish would force him to fight. The night before the battle the prophet had no idea if his men were willing to die in what now had become war, but after listening to stirring speeches his followers vowed to offer their lives for Islam.*

In many ways Sharia (Islamic law) follows the Old Testament principles of an overseeing eye on all of the different sections of life. The main difference is the absence of God in the actual laws, their interpretation and their application. This is a major difference. **When we look at the Bible, here is what is promised for the future:** Hebrews 8:6-9: Jesus, through his sacrifice, builds on the old Law and new and better Law. The Law was not able to permanently reconcile people to God. It was there to identify sin for us. It showed godly principles and actions but it could ultimately not save humanity. Islam is "new" but the same - not new and different. Hebrews 8:10-13: The New Covenant will be implemented from the "inside out," not from the "outside in," as the Old Law was and as Islam also attempts to do. Islam is not in the progression of what the Almighty God put in place for us in Scripture.

 **ISIS, UK Imams Against ISIS, July 11, 2014, *imamsonline.com***

- *Brothers and Sisters, if I could tell you in one sentence about ISIS, I would say they are evil, they are corrupt, they are self-seeking, self-centered, vicious people. Don't get mixed up with them. You don't know who are behind them.*
- *I think the best way to describe ISIS is that they're cowboys. They don't represent the religion and aren't qualified to represent their religion.*
- *ISIS is not justified. We condemn that. There are ten conditions in the Khalifa. In theology it is important that without them or in the absence of one of them, the person is not a qualified person for Khalifa. None of these conditions exist in Al Baghdadi or other people who claim that.*
- *As a Sunni Muslim I do not accept the Khalifa of ISIS. I consider ISIS as a terrorist organization and they are trying to create corruption within the Muslim world.*
- *We are Muslims united against ISIS, against terrorism, against atrocity, against pain and suffering.*

Matthew 5:13-16: As Christians, we are not supposed to be politically driven and try to change the systems of the world through the current governments. We are to let our light so shine before men in such a way that they see our good works to glorify God in heaven. Sometimes the light we give will expose their darkness and we will be persecuted. Our mission is to transform our characters to the likeness of Christ so that we, if faithful, can with Christ engage in the transformation of the world in the Day of Judgment. It will give all mankind an opportunity to see what is good and right. That is what Jesus died for. Islam has a very different, physical approach, but the vast majority of those who practice the religion live in peace and tranquility with others.

*So, is the same God behind Islam and Christianity?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*