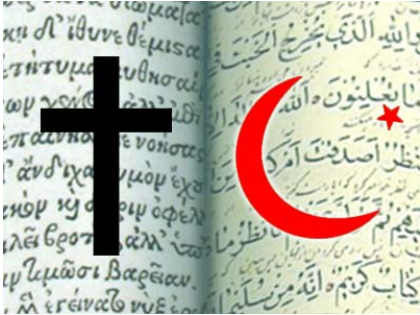




Is the Same God Behind Islam and Christianity?

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:

 Introduction, Muhammad the Prophet, *The History Channel*

- *It is not possible to conclude that the prophet is a man of hate.*
- *The prophet of Islam is without doubt the most misunderstood major aspect of Islamic religion.*
- *Who was this man who founded Islam and brought spiritual comfort to so many?*
- *Muhammad is often thought to be worshipped as Jesus was and is worshiped by Christians. This is absolutely and categorically not the case.*
- *He was an ordinary human being with the same emotions, the same fears, and the same insecurities that we live with.*
- *Today Muhammad's words of tolerance and peace offer many the same guidance as they have for centuries. God's messenger, the prophet Muhammad.*

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.



The *letter* of the Law
(the Law as stated by Muhammad with references to the Old Testament Law)



The *spirit* of the Law
(The Old Testament Law)

Galatians 3:23-29: (NASB) ²³But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. ²⁶For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

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.



Controls every aspect of life



Is a law of Liberty

1 Corinthians 8:9-12: (NASB) ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols? ¹¹For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined the brother for whose sake Christ died. ¹²And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.



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.

What about the founders of Islam and Christianity - the same or different?

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: (NASB) ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When they saw him, they were astonished; and his mother said to him, son, why have you treated us this way? Behold, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you. ⁴⁹And he said to them, why is it that you were looking for me? Did you not know that I had to be in my Father's house? ⁵⁰But they did not understand the statement, which he had made to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and he continued in subjection to them; and his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.

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.*



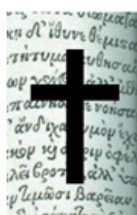
Jesus, his origin and stature:

John 3:16-17: (NASB) ¹⁶For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send the son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

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.



Believes that Jesus existed



Believes in Jesus

What about Jesus' message?

1 Timothy 2:5-6: (NASB) ⁵For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

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: (NASB) ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

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.

What about the ancient lineage of the founders?



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 (selected): (KJV) ⁴And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes ... And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face. ⁷And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur... ⁹And the angel of the LORD said unto her, return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands. ¹⁰... I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. ... Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael, because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. ¹²And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

Was it Isaac?

Genesis 17:15-21 (selected): (ASV) ¹⁵And God said unto Abraham, as for Sarai thy wife... Sarah shall her name be. ¹⁶... I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be of her... ¹⁸And Abraham said unto God, Oh that Ishmael might live before thee! ¹⁹And God said, Nay, but Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his seed after him. ²⁰And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. ²¹But my covenant will I establish with Isaac...

 **Not in my name, Muslims Against ISIS, July 21, 2014, imamsonline.com**

- *The ISIS do not represent Islam or any Muslim*
- *Because it is totally un-Islamic*
- *Because they are killing innocent people*
- *Because you are unjust*
- *We must all unite together and try to stop this group from damaging Islam and damaging Muslims*
- *Not in my name!*
- *Because your leader is a liar*
- *Because your actions do not represent the actions of the rightly guided companions*
- *Because your Caliph (leader) doesn't represent the Ummah (nation or community)*
- *Because what you are doing is inhumane*
- *Because you abuse heart and mind*



- *Because you have no compassion*
- *Because my religion promotes tolerance for women and you have no respect for women*
- *Not in my name! (repeated)*

What about the Bible?

2 Timothy 3:16-17: (NASB) ¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

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!)

What about the teachings of the founders? What is the pathway to life?

The Five Pillars of Islam (An abbreviated version - fully quoted in CQ Rewind Bonus Material) 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.



Part 1: Unity, UK Imams Against ISIS, July 11, 2014, imamsonline.com

- *Unity is of paramount importance, and it should not be compromised under any circumstances.*
- *As the name suggests, United Kingdom is a kingdom which is united under various colors, nationalities, cultures and creeds. I believe that in this country we are one united nation, and we should promote that to other parts of the world.*
- *As British people, as residents of the United Kingdom, it's extremely important for us as diverse Muslim communities to remain united.*
- *We consult one another. We benefit from opinions of others and from their experience, and that's why it's very important to have this unity.*
- *The challenges that we face are common to all Muslims, and the threats that we face from time to time are also common to all Muslims.*





- *I am grateful to Almighty God that Muslims in this country are united.*
- *We should see all Muslims as Muslims with different colors and different flavors and different traditions. That brings strength to our Ummah, to our community.*



A caller from Connecticut suggests Acts 4:12: (KJV) *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.* Philippians 2:10: *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.*

Comparing the Five Pillars of Islam with the Beatitudes:

Matthew 5:1-10: NASB) ¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²He opened his mouth and began to teach them, saying...

	
5 PILLARS OF ISLAM	BEATTITUDES
Shahada: "There is no true God except Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."	³ <i>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</i> Humility and reverence always serve as a starting point for any belief system with value.
Prayer (Salat): Prayer involves confession of sins, which begins with the purification of the body and ends with the purification of the soul. Prayer is performed five times a day. The first prayer is at dawn and the last at sunset.	⁴ <i>Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.</i> ⁵ <i>Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.</i> Our godly comfort is not a daily ritual, rather it is a daily attitude of faith.
Fasting (Saum): The month of Ramadan is the month of fasting in Islam. It is an act of worship where the faithful follower denies his own needs and seeks Allah.	⁶ <i>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.</i> Jesus focuses us on hungering after true spiritual righteousness, which we cannot earn - it is grace.
Alms-giving or charity (Zakat) : Giving to the poor - it benefits the poor and it helps the giver by moving him towards more holiness and submission to Allah. Giving alms is considered a form of worship to God.	⁷ <i>Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.</i> ⁸ <i>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.</i> Mercy and charity are always in order, but must come from a pure heart - it is the attitude, not the act.
Pilgrimage (Hajj): This is the pilgrimage to Mecca. All Muslims, if they are able, are to make a pilgrimage to Mecca.	⁹ <i>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.</i> ¹⁰ <i>Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</i> It is not about where we go; it's about being where we are and embracing the challenges before us.



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.

What constitutes the key struggles for life?

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.*

(Source: Jihad from about.com) The word jihad stems from the Arabic root word J-H-D, which means "strive." Other words derived from this root include "effort," "labor," and "fatigue." Essentially Jihad is an effort to practice religion in the face of oppression and persecution. The effort may come in fighting the evil in your own heart, or in standing up to a dictator. Military effort is included as an option, but as a last resort and not "to spread Islam by the sword" as the stereotype would have one believe.

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: (NASB) ³He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face he was despised, and we did not esteem him. ⁴Surely our griefs he himself bore, and our sorrows he carried; yet we ourselves esteemed him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our wellbeing fell upon him, and by his scourging we are healed. ⁶All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on him. ⁷He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so he did not open his mouth.

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: (NASB) ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on him; ¹³for whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved. ¹⁴How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!

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: (NASB) ³⁸You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. ³⁹But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴⁰If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt let him have your coat also. ⁴¹Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴²Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³You have heard that it was said; You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.



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

**What would the world look like under Allah?
What will it look like under God?**

 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.*

(Source: Wikipedia) Sharia (Islamic law) deals with many topics addressed by secular law, including crime, politics, and economics, as well as personal matters such as sexual intercourse, hygiene, diet, prayer, everyday etiquette and fasting. Adherence to Islamic law has served as one of the distinguishing characteristics of the Muslim faith historically, and through the centuries Muslims have devoted much scholarly time and effort on its elaboration. Human interpretations of sharia vary between Islamic sects and respective schools of jurisprudence, yet in its strictest and most historically coherent definition, sharia is considered the infallible law of God.

In many ways Sharia 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: (NASB) *But now he has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.*

Jesus, through his sacrifice, builds on the old Law and new and better Law.

⁷For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. ⁸For finding fault with them, He says, Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, When I will effect a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; ⁹Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand To lead



them out of the land of Egypt; For they did not continue in My covenant, And I did not care for them, says the Lord.

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.

 **Part 2: Sectarianism, UK Imams Against ISIS, July 11, 2014, imamsonline.com**

- *The sectarian issues are divisive, they corrupt the heart, and they eat us or consume us from within. If we are people who are interested in saving our souls, then make sure that there are souls left to be saved.*
- *The Koran describes as one nation, one community, and so if we begin to be divided along sectarian lines, then we are going against the teachings of the Koran. There is room for all of us to hold our diverse interpretations dear to ourselves, get along and agree to disagree.*

Hebrews 8:10-13: (NASB) ¹⁰*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, And I will write them on their hearts. And I will be their God, And they shall be My people. ¹¹And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, And everyone his brother, saying, Know the Lord, for all will know Me, from the least to the greatest of them.*

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.

¹²*For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And I will remember their sins no more.* ¹³*When He said, A new covenant, He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.*

 **Part 3: 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: (NASB) ¹³*You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*



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...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of **CQ Rewind**!*



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.

1. Shahada

- A. The Shahada is the Islamic proclamation that "There is no true God except Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."
- B. This is the confession that Allah is the one and only true God that Allah alone is worthy of worship, that Allah alone is the sovereign lord who does what he wills with whoever he wills. It means that all his rules and laws found in the Koran are to be followed. It means that the Christian doctrine of God as a Trinity is false as are all other belief systems including pantheism.
- C. Muhammad is the true and greatest prophet of Allah and recognition of Muhammad as the Prophet of God is required. It was through Muhammad that Allah conveyed the last and final revelation.

2. Prayer (Salat)

- A. Prayer involves confession of sins, which begins with the purification of the body and ends with the purification of the soul. Prayer is performed five times a day. The first prayer is at dawn and the last at sunset.

3. Fasting (Saum)

- A. The month of Ramadan is the month of fasting in Islam. It is an act of worship where the faithful follower denies his own needs and seeks Allah. Usually, this fasting entails no drinking, eating during, or sexual relations during the daylight hours for the entire month of Ramadan.



4. Alms-giving or charity (Zakat)

- A. Charity given to the poor. It benefits the poor and it helps the giver by moving him towards more holiness and submission to Allah. The giving of alms is considered a form of worship to God.

5. Pilgrimage (Hajj)

- A. This is the pilgrimage to Mecca. All Muslims, if they are able, are to make a pilgrimage to Mecca. It involves financial sacrifice and is an act of worship. Muslims must make the pilgrimage the first half of the last month of the lunar year.

What are the doctrines of Islam?

Note: All references are to the Koran where applicable.

God

1. There is only one God (5:73; 112:1-4).
2. God is called Allah by Muslims (5:73)
3. Allah sees all things (40:20), is present everywhere (2:115; 7:7).
4. Allah is the sole creator and sustainer of the universe (3:191).
5. Allah is not a Trinity, but is one (5:73).
6. Allah is all knowing (2:268; 10:61) and all-powerful (6:61-62).
7. Allah created the heaven and earth (2:29; 6:1, 73; 25:61-62; 36:81; 46:33).

Salvation and Judgment

1. Allah will judge all people on the Day of Judgment. (3:30; 35:33-37; 99:6-8).
2. If your good deeds exceed your bad deeds, and you believe in Allah, and sincerely repent of sins, you may go to heaven (3:135; 7:8-9; 21:47; 49:14; 66:8-9).
3. There is an eternal hell for those who are not Muslims, not practicing and of the truth faith (3:77).
4. Hell is a place of unlimited capacity (50:30) eternal torment (2:39; 14:17; 25:65; 39:26), fire (9:63; 11:16; 25:11-12; 104:6-7), with boiling water (38:55-58; 55:43-44), where skin is burned and renewed (4:56), for unbelievers (3:13; 19:49) and Jinn (11:119), with faces covered with fire (14:49-50).
5. There is a tree in hell, named Tree of Zaqqum, from which bad fruit is given and the damned are forced to eat (37:62-67; 44:43-48; 56:52-55).
6. Heaven (Paradise), a Garden (79:41) of bliss and fruit (69:21-24), has rivers (3:198), with maidens pure and holy (4:57), and carpets and cushions, (88:8-16).
7. There will be a physical resurrection of all people (19:93-95) on the Day of Judgment (3:77; 15:25; 16:38; 42:29).
8. Judgment is based on a person's sincere repentance (66:8-9) and righteous deeds (5:9; 24:26; 45:21-22; 64:7).



Other

1. There is an afterlife (2:154; 75:12).
2. There are such things as angels, created by Allah, that are created from light. Angels are obedient slaves incapable of refusing to do Allah's will. The angel Gabriel brought the revelation of the Koran to Muhammad (2:97).
3. The Holy Spirit is the angel Gabriel (2:97; 16:102).
4. Jinn are unseen beings, created (51:56) from fire (15:27; 55:15), but are not angels. They have communities. There are good and bad Jinn.
5. The Devil, called Iblis, (2:34) is a bad Jinn.
6. Jesus was a great prophet but not the son of God (9:30), is not divine (5:17, 75), was not crucified (4:157).
7. Muhammad is Allah's greatest and last prophet and his message supersedes all other past prophets including Jesus.
8. The Koran is Allah's word. He literally spoke it to Gabriel who gave it to Muhammad.
9. There are other holy writings but the Koran supersedes them.
 - A. The other works are
 - i. Torah - the First Five books of Moses
 - ii. Injeel - the message that Jesus gave, written down, but no longer exists. Scholars have altered the writings. Whatever agrees with the Koran is true.
 - iii. Zaboor - the Psalms
10. Pre-ordainment (Qadar) is the teaching that all things, good and bad, are preordained to occur.
11. Fasting is to be observed during the month of Ramadan (2:185).
12. Drinking alcohol is forbidden (2:219; 4:43; 5:93-94; 16:67)
13. Gambling is forbidden (2:219; 5:90-94).
14. Man is made from the dust of the earth (23:12).
15. There is no last minute repentance (4:18).