

Islam– What they believe.

Summary Information

- Islam is not just a religion; it is a culture or a way of life.
 - Locked in time, it is based on and to varying degrees remains true to seventh-century Arabian culture.
 - The more radical Islam is the more its customs and governing appears to be seventh-century Arabian.
 - Sharia Law does not recognize freedom of speech, religion, assembly, or press.
 - Similar to Catholicism between 1100 and 1300 AD.
 - The Crusades
- There is a difference between Islam and Radical Islam.
 - However, unlike Biblical Christianity, the difference is a matter of degree.
 - Radical Islam and its Caliphate (territory) is similar to a secular version of the Jews entering the Promised Land.
- In Islam, consensus and brotherhood is emphasized and individualism is avoided.
 - Bringing shame on their family or community is a great sin.
 - Shame and honor are primary motivations and are superior to individual guilt.
 - There was no concept of civil or personal rights in seventh-century Arabia.
 - Islamic countries today are dictatorships.
 - This is the culture in which Jihadists recruit members.
 - Community honor is more important than individual guilt.
- Demographics
 - Today 1.6 billion in World, 3.3mil in US
 - The faith of 23% the world's population (2010) are Muslims.
 - By 2050... 2.8 billion and 30% of the world population
 - Is currently the fastest growing and will become the world's largest religion by around 2070.
 - Each family has 3.2 vs non-Muslims at 2.3.
 - Aggressive missionary growth
 - 58% live in South / Southeast Asia, 28% in North Africa.

Islam– Why what they believe is wrong.

Summary Information

- Fastest growing false teaching in the world.
 - Over the last 50 years it has increased by 500% vs Christianity by 47%.
- Evangelism – one Christian missionary for every million Muslims.
- Polygamy – a man is allowed up to four wives and one concubine by law however most marriages are monogamous.
 - Muhammad had 12 wives and two concubines
- No separation of Church and State.
 - In Muslim countries they are one in the same.
- Unlike the Bible, the Qur'an does not have an Old Testament and a New Testament. Christian war for the Promised Land and our faith has been replaced by evangelism.
 - Deut. 18-21 “If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they discipline him, will not listen to them, 19 then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of the place where he lives, 20 and they shall say to the elders of his city, ‘This our son is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.’ 21 Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones. So you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear, and fear
 - Deuteronomy 17:3-5 and has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun or the moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have forbidden, 4 and it is told you and you hear of it, then you shall inquire diligently, and if it is true and certain that such an abomination has been done in Israel, 5 then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has done this evil thing, and you shall stone that man or woman to death with stones
 - 1 Samuel 15:3 Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill

Islam– What they believe.

- 85% of the world’s Muslims are non-Arabic
- Muslims are the majority in 59 nations in the world.
- Many different sects of Islam. Two of the largest are :
 - Sunni (85% of total Muslims)
 - Primary locations : Indonesia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, Libya, Syria, Tunisia, Gaza Strip, Somalia and Tanzania.
 - North America – 3.3mm
 - Shi’ites (12% of total Muslims)
 - Primary locations : Iran, Pakistan, India, Iraq
 - Secondary locations : Turkey, Yemen Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and Nigeria.
 - North America – 300k
- Islam means “submission to God” and Muslim means “those who submit”. A phrase repeated by Muslims “Allah Akbar” means “God is greater” or “God is the greatest” or simply “God is great”.
- Islam began in 622 AD by Muhammad, however existed from Adam, as its first prophet.
- Requires total submission to the monotheistic god, Allah.
- Muslims believe in Theistic Evolution with the exception that man was created by an immediate act, by Allah.
- For the first 1000 years Islam grew while Christendom retreated.
- Muslim women.
 - Treated harshly by our contemporary standards but Islam is intended to protect women, but from an ancient perspective.

Authority

- Qur’an (or Koran) – the perfect word of god for Muslims.
 - Divinely inspired in its original Arabic form.
 - Dictated by god through the angel Gabriel to Muhammad
 - The vision began in 610 AD in a cave near Mecca
 - Continued over a period of 23 years.
 - Considered divinely inspired because...
 - Preservation of the Qur’an – a miracle from God because there are no errors alterations or variations since inception.

Islam– Why what they believe is wrong.

- both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey
- Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them
 - Matthew 5:43-46 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same

Authority

- Qur’an – not the divinely inspired word of God.
 - Actually there were four conflicting traditions on how the Qur’an was written. Of those, tradition solidified around Gabriel.
 - Preservation - It is impossible to know if the present Qur’an is the original due to the destruction of all deviant copies in 650 AD, leaving only one version going forward.
 - Eloquence – should not be considered a test for a divinely inspired work.

Islam– What they believe.

- Eloquence of the Qur’an – poetic language written by (dictated to) an illiterate Muhammad.
- Pre-existed with God and is eternal.
- Shi’ites who are the second-largest Islamic group claim that there were passages intentionally left out of the only remaining version of the Qur’an.
- Hadith – collected traditions
 - The words of Muhammad that provide details on the political and social structure of Islam
 - Muslims try to follow Muhammad’s example in the areas of ritual washings, hygienic practices, and prayer.
- Caliph – main leaders of Sunni Islam
 - Similar to the Pope for Catholics
- Ayatollah – spiritual master or supreme leader of Shi’ite Islam.
- Imams are considered infallible by many Muslims.
 - Similar to a local Priest
- Bible
 - Specifically the Torah (books of Moses), the psalms of David, and the four gospels are respected because they were presented to the writers by Allah.
 - However Christians have corrupted them so they can no longer be trusted.
 - Specific Bible passages refer to the coming of Muhammad.
 - Deut. 18:18-19 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers, I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name I myself will call him to account.
 - John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.

Angels & Prophets & Places

- There are 124k prophets
 - Adam was the first prophet.

Islam– Why what they believe is wrong.

- Not written down formally for 200 years.
- Has very little historical background and prophecy, unlike the Bible.
- Consider the events surrounding the Muhammad’s inspiration with Allah.
- Revelations for the Qur’an came after Muhammad would go into what appeared to be an epileptic fit, receiving revelations from an angel of light. His foster mother thought he was demon-possessed.
 - 2 Cor 11:14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.
- Some believe Muhammad used what has been called Satanic verses (now deleted from the Qur’an) that advocated the worship of the three daughters of Allah.
 - Gabriel told Muhammad he was under Satan’s power when he wrote them and should remove them from the Qur’an.

Bible

- Divine, inerrant word of God
- Deut. 18:18-19 This is a prophesy fulfilled by Jesus.
- John 14:6 This is a reference to the Holy Spirit.
- The reliability of the Bible is supported by :
 - 24,000 manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament dating from before 350 AD.
 - NT writers were either eyewitnesses or close associates of eyewitnesses of the events they wrote about.
 - Modern archaeology supports the Bible.
 - Fulfillment of prophesy from both old and NT.

Angels & Prophets & Places

- Islam existed all the way back to Adam but became distinctive when Abraham and Sarah birthed Ishmael.

Islam– What they believe.

- Others include Moses and David and Jesus, which Allah appointed to warn and guide mankind.

- Angels
 - Jinn are real and do Allah’s bidding.
 - They have no free will and are sexless.
 - They worship Allah and act as his messengers.
 - Some are good “jinn” and function as guardian angels and keep track of good deeds and bad deeds.
 - These recordings form the basis of who goes to paradise or eternal punishment.
 - Since credits (good deeds) accumulate, it is difficult for Muslims to turn from Islam to other faiths.
 - Some are bad “jinn” who will guard hell to insure that those who go there will stay there. Satan is the chief bad “jinn”.
 - Allah expelled Satan from heaven for refusing to bow to Adam at Allah’s command.

- Muhammad
 - The last and greatest prophet.
 - Born 570 AD and lived 62 years.
 - At 40 years old began receiving revelations.
 - Will not come to earth again (as Muslims believe Jesus will)
 - Mother and father died and was raised by his Grandfather in the desert.

Islam– Why what they believe is wrong.

- Ishmael is not considered a positive figure in the Bible like Abraham and Sarah are.
 - Gen 16:12 (referring to Ishmael) “He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone’s hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.”
 - Arab - means nomad or desert Bedouin.
 - Fascinating that the line of God’s chosen people
 - Abraham – Isaac- Jews
 - Abraham – Ishmael – Muslims
 - And that they are concentrated in the same part of the world, with hatred toward each other.
 - Christians and Muslims are by far the largest two religions in the world.

- Angels - There are both good and evil (fallen) angels.
 - Created by God to do his will.

- Muhammad
 - Did not lead a sinless life (as Muslims believe Jesus did)
 - Did not die on a cross for our sins
 - Did not perform miracles (as Muslims believe Jesus did)

Islam– What they believe.

- When grandfather died (age 8) he went to live with his uncle
- At 25 gave up being a camel driver and married a 40yr old rich widow after she proposed to him.
- By the time of his death, Muhammad had 12 wives and two concubines. One of his wives was his daughter-in-law, married at the age of six and consummated at nine.
- First supernatural experience was to be cut in the stomach by two angels who cleansed his heart and Allah poured wisdom into it. This happened at other times during his life as well.
- In 620 AD Allah brought Muhammad miraculously to Jerusalem and he spoke with Jesus, Moses and Abraham.
- Then the angel Gabriel took Muhammad up a ladder to the seventh heaven where Allah spoke to Muhammad regarding prayer and worship.
- This took place at the Dome of the Rock, which is located on the Temple Mount in old Jerusalem and is the third most sacred site for Muslims.
 - Completed in 631 AD
 - The Wailing Wall forms part of the outside wall of the Temple Mount.
- As Islam grew Muhammad raised up an army of 10k men and, after receiving a revelation from Allah that Islam was above all other religions, he returned from Medina to Mecca and killed thousands of and Christians (often by beheading them), expanding Islam in the Middle East.
- Muhammad never identified a successor, which created fractions in the faithful (Sunni and Shi'ites sects.)
- Most holy places – in order
 - Ka'ba (or Kaaba) in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.
 - Is a building at the center of Islam's most sacred mosque
 - Muslims believe it was built by Abraham and an angel brought him the black stone which was placed inside.
 - City of Medina in western Saudi Arabia
 - Where Muhammad fled when driven out of Mecca and attracted his first followers
 - Jerusalem

Islam– Why what they believe is wrong.

- Muslim holy places
 - Ka'ba – no record of Abraham building it.
 - The black stone placed inside the Ka'ba was, prior to Islam, among 360 other idols and symbols located inside.
 - When Muhammad took over Mecca he destroyed all other idols and claimed the stone represented Allah.

Islam– What they believe.

- Muhammad miraculously traveled there and ascended into heaven at the Dome of the Rock.

God

- Allah – not the same god as Christians.
- Allah is not the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Acts 7:32).
 - Allah choose Ishmael (Abraham’s first-born son through Hagar rather than Sarah) for his covenant.
- Allah is eternal and unknowable.
 - He is completely different than anything in his creation.
 - Allah can, at his choosing, lead people astray.
 - He cannot have a personal relationship with man.
 - Muslims always pray for mercy because they have no concept of the grace of God.
 - Declaring a deity equal to or above Allah is the highest form of sin.
- Intensely monotheistic – absolute one.
 - To suggest otherwise can result in death.
- Allah has total sovereignty – Fatalistic - God is all powerful and nothing can take place without his ordaining it. There are no random chance events. God is the author of all good and evil.
- Many faithful carry 99 rosary beads, each one representing Allah’s names.
- Allah resides in the seventh-heaven, far removed from man.

Jesus

- Not part of a triune God and not a deity
 - Jesus is not the atonement for anyone’s sins, however he was, himself, sinless
 - Jesus did perform miracles as references in the Bible.
 - Everyone has direct access Allah and does not need a mediator or Savior.
 - Only a man and a messenger (prophet) of God.
 - Jesus was born through union with Mary and Allah.

Islam– Why what they believe is wrong.

God

- God established his covenant through Isaac.
 - Genesis 17:20-21 As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. 21 But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year
- God is knowable.
 - We can have a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.
 - Genesis 1:27 We are created in His image. So God created man in his own image in the image of God he created him male and female he created them.
- It is often suggested that our God and Allah are one in the same.
 - This is not true for many reasons (just as it is often true that the Jesus of false teachings is not our Jesus Christ).
- Allah was the moon god for South Arabian worshipers
 - This was prior to Muhammad and Islam in Mecca and was represented by the black stone idol.
 - This is how the crescent moon became the symbol of Allah.
 - Note that the crescent moon also plays a central part in the symbol of Freemasonry.

Jesus

- Muslims have no concept of a loving, compassionate God that would provide a grace-based path for salvation through Christ.
- Jesus did not give us a choice to be just a prophet or a good moral teacher.
 - Lunatic – for what Jesus said that would seem to some as crazy
 - John 8:58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

Islam– What they believe.

- Mary remained a virgin.
- Mary is highly revered by Muslims and the Qur'an
- Some Muslims also believe god took Jesus from the cross and substituted Judas (or someone who looked like Jesus) in his place.
- Jesus was taken directly to heaven and was not crucified nor was he resurrected.
- Jesus will be (not was) resurrected.
- He will come again on the last day and slay the anti-Christ and all those opposing Islam.
 - However, he comes as a follower of Muhammad.
 - He will descend onto a white minaret on the eastern side of Damascus.
 - Jesus will live on the earth for 40 (or 1000) years and then die.

Holy Spirit

- Considered the angel, Gabriel who helped and protected Muhammad during his military campaigns as well as dictating the Qur'an to him from Allah. He also announced to Mary that she would have a child, Jesus.

Trinity

Islam– Why what they believe is wrong.

- Liar – Jesus knew what he was saying was untrue.
- Lord – we need to worship him as God.
- Even though Muhammad is considered the greatest prophet Islamic theology would seem to place Jesus higher.
 - Jesus did miracles but Muhammad did not.
 - Jesus was sinless but Muhammad sinned and needed forgiveness.
 - Jesus was called the Messiah and born of a virgin but Muhammad was not.
- Jesus Christ is God in human flesh, fully God and fully man .
 - Jesus is co-eternal with God the Father.
 - Col 2:9 In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.
 - Mark 12:29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.’”
 - John 10:30 I and the Father are one.
 - John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 - Jesus died on the cross and rose bodily from the dead.
 - Mat. 26:28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
 - Jesus is the final revelation from God.
 - Heb 1:2 but in the last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

Holy Spirit

- As part of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is treated in the scripture as a person with intellect, emotions and will. He speaks to the issues of sin, of righteousness and judgment (John 16:8), He teaches (John 14:26), He regenerates (John 3:6), He baptizes (1 Cor. 12:13) and He can be grieved (Eph. 4:30).
- The Holy Spirit is God and not an angel.

Trinity

Islam– What they believe.

- Considered a belief in three gods and totally unacceptable to Muslims.
- These three gods they think Christian’s believe (per the Qur’an) are Allah, Jesus Christ and Mary (who was consider a goddess by a small group of women during Muhammad’s time.)

Sin

- The worst sin possible is considering god more than one.
- Eve was tempted by Satan in the garden and Adam and Eve were removed from the garden due to their sin.
 - However, they sinned just as any human sins and will be held accountable as individuals.
 - Allah forgave them of this sin.
 - Muslims do not believe in Original Sin. Man has not fallen and death is a natural process.
- All mankind has sinned and therefore each must earn their way to heaven by good works. There is no concept of grace in salvation for the Muslim.
- Muslims have no concept of redemption. No one is “lost”.
 - We are all born weak and in need of guidance.
- Man has free will to choose to sin or to follow Allah’s teachings.

Salvation

- Can be earned over time by adhering to a and b below:
- Five Pillars of Islam – by compiling good deeds “works”.
 - There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet.
 - Prayer facing Mecca five times a day.
 - Originally was toward Jerusalem but Muhammad changed when the Jews rejected him.
 - Almsgiving 2.5% of income to the poor and/or the faith.
 - Fast – one month every year from sunrise to sunset.
 - Pilgrimage to Mecca once in a lifetime.
- Six Pillars of Iman – one must demonstrate faith and belief in :
 - Allah

Islam– Why what they believe is wrong.

- Our God is one God in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Mat. 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- 2 Cor 13:14 may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Sin

- Original sin and the daily sin of mankind that keeps us forever separated from a Holy God. Without the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ’s death on the cross as an atoning sacrifice for our original and continuing sins we would be lost, destined to eternal hell.
- Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Salvation

- Grace alone, faith alone through Christ alone.
- For Muslims :
 - For Muslims, there is very little grace or love.
 - For Biblical-Christians - John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
 - For Muslims there is no sense of knowing God (or Jesus) in a personal way.
 - For Biblical-Christians – Romans 8:14-15 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For

Islam– What they believe.

- His Angels
- His revealed Books
- His Messengers
- The Day of Resurrection
- Whatever Allah has ordained must come to pass
- Allah will use a scale to weigh the good and evil deeds of each person and if the good outweighs the bad, they will go to heaven, otherwise hell.
- Holy War – jihad –
 - Jihad means “effort” or “struggle”.
 - For moderate Muslims this translates into an internal, prayerful effort to be like Muhammad.
 - Referred to as “jihad of the heart” and “jihad of the mouth”.
 - For Radical Islam (often Shi’ites), this translates into an external “warlike effort for god and his prophets” with a focus on death for the infidels (those who are not Muslim).
 - Referred to as “jihad of the sword”.
 - It is believed that a Muslim who dies defending (or advancing) Islam will go to heaven.

After Physical Death

- When people die they remain between this life and the afterlife.
 - They are questioned and showed what they did wrong in their life and showed where they will be at the Final Judgment
- Final Judgment Day will come
 - Allah will raise the dead to life
 - Allah will judge everyone based on conformance to the five pillars and the Qur’an.
- Hell –real and literal with eternal punishment for all non-believers.
 - There are levels of Hell with the worst reserved for hypocrites.
 - The least torment in hell is described as a man having his shoes on fire.

Islam– Why what they believe is wrong.

- you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry “Abba, Father.”
- Galatians 3:26 You are all sons of God through faith in Chris Jesus,
- For Muslims there is no peace in knowing you are saved prior to death.
 - For Biblical-Christians - Romans 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

After Physical Death

- Hell – Jude 1:7 In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.
- Heaven – a place of beauty and joy for Biblical-Christians.
 - John 14:2b I am going there to prepare a place for you.
 - The New Heaven and New Earth at the end of the age.
 - 2 Peter 3:13 But in keeping with his promises we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.
 - Rev 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

| Islam– What they believe. | Islam– Why what they believe is wrong. |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heaven – a place of eternal beauty and joy for believers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Earthly garden paradise of sensual & spiritual pleasure. ○ There are levels of Heaven with the highest reserved for martyrs of the faith. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Even if one dies in his bed. If he plans to be a martyr, he will be rewarded with a high place in Heaven. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rev 21:21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass. • If you do not believe that Allah will save you to eternal paradise based on your accumulated works, your best chance for assurance of heaven is to be a jihad martyr. |
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Islam cont'd

Wahhabi (Wahhabism) is an ultraconservative fundamentalist branch of Sunni Islam. Current estimate are that they have approximately 5mm. They have been accused of being the source for terrorism, promoting an Islamic State.

Sufism is less a sect Islam than a mystical way of approaching the Islamic faith. It has been defined as "mystical Islamic belief and practice in which Muslims seek to find the truth of divine love and knowledge through direct personal experience of God" Their jihad is more of a spiritual self-perfection and can be found in both Sunni and Shi'ite groups.

Sharia law means "way" or " path"; it is the legal framework taken from the Quran and the Hadith within which the public and some private aspects of life are regulated for those living in a legal system based on Islam. Sharia or Islamic law is being applied at various levels in Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, etc. It deals with a broad range of topics including crime, politics, marriage, trade economics, religious practices, hygiene, prayer, and diet.

Caliphate – the government and jurisdiction of a Caliph

Caliph – the spiritual leader of Sunni Islam who claims succession from Muhammad.

Cultural Background.....

- Islam is not just a religion; it is a culture or a way of life.
 - Locked in time - to varying degrees remains true to seventh-century Arabian culture.
 - More radical behavior, the more this is true.
 - There was no concept of civil or personal rights in seventh-century Arabia.
 - Sharia Law does not recognize freedom of speech, religion, assembly, or press.
 - Radical Islam's Caliphate – Similar to -
 - Catholicism between 1100 and 1300 AD during the Crusades
 - A secular version of the Jews entering the Promised Land.
 - In Islam, consensus and brotherhood is emphasized and individualism is avoided.

- Bringing shame on the family or community is a great sin.
 - This type of shame and honor are primary motivations and are superior to individual guilt.
- Islamic countries today are dictatorships.

19th Century (BC) History.....

- Abraham is the leader, source and prophet of both the people of Arabia and Israel.
- Abraham, through Sarah fathered Isaac who, through a lineage from David through adoption by Joseph, the husband of Mary (Matt. 1) is connected to Jesus.
- Abraham through Hagar (Egyptian maidservant) fathered Ishmael and, for Muslims traces lineage to Muhammad.
- Genesis 16:8-12 The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.” The angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit to her.” The angel of the Lord also said to her, “I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.” And the angel of the Lord said to her, “Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has listened to your affliction. He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone’s hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.
- Ishmael had 12 sons who inhabited Arabia with Mecca and Medina being the two largest cities, both in Saudi Arabia (now Yemen, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as well as parts of southern Iraq and Jordan)

Muhammad’s History.....

- Born in Mecca 570 AD and died in Medina in 632 AD.
- Quran dictated from Allah through Gabriel to Muhammad around 610 AD was the beginning of Islam.
 - Quran provided the history and context of documenting Ishmael with Islam and Arab Muslims.
- Hadith were the writing of Muhammad’s teachings and traditions.

Sectarian History.....

- Sunni (85% of total Muslims)
 - Primary locations :Indonesia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, Libya and Syria, Tunisia, Gaza Strip, Somalia, and Tanzania.
 - North America – 3.3mm
- Shi’ites or Shia (12% of total Muslims)
 - Primary locations : Iran, Pakistan, India, Iraq
 - Secondary locations : Turkey, Yemen Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Nigeria.
 - North America – 300k
- Sunni / Shi’ites ... why the difference
 - Basis was a dispute on who became the rightful successor to Muhammad.
 - Shi’ites – Ali, Muhammad’s son-in-law
 - See the imams as infallible similar to the Pope
 - More aggressive warlike interpretation of the Quran.
 - Sunni – Uthman declared himself Caliph after the death of Muhammad.
 - Wars between sects of Islam were fought over these differences.

Radical Islam

- Al-Qaeda – (Sunni) - founded by bin Laden in 1988 and operates out of Somalia, Syria and Yemen
- Al-Shabaab (Sunni) – fighting in Somalia
- Boko Haram – (Sunni) – operations/fighting in Nigeria
- Mujahideen – (Sunni) – originally Muslim Afghan fighters but now refers to jihadists in general
- Taliban - (Sunni) – founded in 1994 w/operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan
- Hezbollah - (Shi'ia) – based in Lebanon
- ISIS, ISIL, IS (Sunni)
 - ISIS is Salafi jihadist militant group that follows an Islamic fundamentalist, Wahhabi doctrine of Sunni traditional Islam.
 - ISIS - Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
 - Controls a large footprint of Iraq and Syria
 - Established a Caliphate and imposed Sharia Law
 - ISIL – Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant – Obama uses this term
 - Includes Iraq, Syria... it also includes Israel and Jordan
 - IS – Islamic State
 - This is the term they wish to be referred to as given that it has broader implications not limited to geography.
 - Founder – Abu Musab al-Zarqawi –born in Syria, was a Sunni terrorist, died in 2006 from a US lead airstrike over Baghdad Iraq.

Contemporary History.....

- Saddam Hussein (Sunni, even though the majority of the people were Shi'ite) – President of Iraq from 1979-2003.
 - Was alleged to have weapons of mass destruction
 - US under Bush began invasion in 2003 – Operation Freedom
- 2004 Iraq replaced Hussein with Shi'ite leadership and instability ensued.
- 2007 Bush establishes a US Surge of troops into Iraq
- 2010 Tunisian (Sunni) vegetable cart proprietor sets himself on fire and the “Arab Spring” begins from Sunni persecution.
- 2011 Protests spread to Syria (Sunni majority) and Bashar al-Assad (Alawite who align with Shi'ites) its President tries to suppress the violence and civil war breaks out.
 - ISIS Iraq Jihadists move into Syria for jihad and Obama withdraws all US troops from Iraq claiming “ we are leaving behind a sovereign, stable self-reliant Iraq.
- 2012 Obama draws “red line” but takes no action on Assad (Shi'ia) killing his own people (Sunni) in Syria other than to arm anti-Assad rebel groups that included those aligned with ISIS and the Kurds (largely Sunni located in the mountains of Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey and desiring their own nation).
- 2013 Reports begin on Islamic Sharia law being established in areas round Raqqa Syria being held by the rebels fighting against Assad. ISIS names itself a self-identified Caliphate in Syria. Further, they arrange a large prison break from Abu Ghraib outside Baghdad, Iraq using suicide bombers and car bombers.
- 2014 –

- January - The continuing instability in Shi'ite controlled Iraq allows ISIS to seize control of Fallujah. This is when Obama refers to ISIL as “a jayvee team”.
- June - ISIS expands dramatically across northern Iraq, picking up \$500mm of American weapons and creating 500k refugees. They bulldoze a border between Iraq and Syria and on June 29th renames itself a new Caliphate, the Islamic State.
- July – al-Baghdadi the new Caiph give an inaugural speech rallying for worldwide support from Muslims to come and fight. They attack Syrian Kurdistan and 300k Kurds flee to Turkey.
- August - ISIS routes more Kurds in Northern Iraq with massacres and more refugees. Yemen aligns itself with IS and the US begins bombing campaign. James Foley and Steven Sotloff are beheaded on YouTube.
- 2015 –
 - January – Twelve are murdered by al-Qaeda sympathizers in Paris as a result of published cartoons of Muhammad. Days later four Jews are murdered in Paris by IS supporters.
 - March – Boko Haram (Nigeria's militant Islamist group) pledges allegiance to ISIS.
 - May – IS jihadists in Garland, TX kill two regarding cartoons of Muhammad. ISIS seizes Ramadi in Iraq and Palmyra in Syria. United Nations confirms that more than 25k jihadists (and rising) from all over the world have joined IS. US admits that more than 75% of bombing runs over territory controlled by ISIS return w/o dropping their payloads due to a lack of ground intelligence and limitations due to potential collateral damage.
 - June – Obama states that “we don't yet have a complete strategy” for defeating IS. Assad was confirmed use of chemical weapons on his own Syrian people.
 - September – Russia begins air strikes in Syria at the request of al-Assad, stating their intention of deterring ISIS in Syria. It was officially broadened shortly thereafter to include “all terrorists”, which, for the Russian included all opposition to Assad's government.
 - November – US begins air strikes in Northern Africa (Libya).
 - Presently there are approximately 4 million refugees that have fled Syria due to the war.
 - A fragile truce was called on all sides in Syria on 2/27. In its first week, 135 people were killed.

Witnessing to a Muslim – from love not from theology.

Realize that Islam is a culture as much as a false teaching. Also keep in mind that the greatest sin a Muslim can commit is to believe that God is not an absolute one (i.e. the trinity can be frightening), in some cultures, punishable by death.

The Qur'an holds to a high degree of Scriptures. Consider starting with John 3:16 to show that our God is a God of love (a foreign concept to a Muslim). Consider verses such as Romans 11:6, Ephes. 2:4-9, 2 Tim. 1:9-10, Titus 3:3-7, Romans 3:21-23, Romans 9: 16, Gal. 2:16 and Titus 3:5 that focus on salvation by grace rather than works.

Consider a discussion on why Muhammad is the last and greatest prophet if Jesus was sinless, did miracles, was born of a virgin and Muhammad was not.

Muslims believe Jesus is one of the greatest prophets (next to Muhammad). Consider using the C.S. Lewis argument of Lunatic, Liar, Lord to show Muslims that their second greatest prophet referred to himself as Lord. He must therefore be God or a lunatic or liar.