

## **A Brief Study Of The Religion Of Islam**

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### **I. Why Should We Study The Religion Of Islam?**

1. To be able to fulfill our God given responsibilities to defend the faith (Jude 3; Philippians 1:17, 27). If we are to be able to defend it ably, we should know something of that which opposes it.
2. Islam now claims 1.8 billion adherents. The religion of Islam is the dominant religion in North Africa, and is the second largest religion in the world if one lumps all of "Christendom" together. If such combining is not done, it is the largest religion in the world. Their growth in Western countries has been phenomenal. For example, their growth in England has proceeded to such an extent that the English Common Law has been amended in several areas to accommodate the beliefs of adherents to Islam (i.e., divorce laws). In North America there are an estimated ten million Muslims (adherents of Islam are known as Muslims), with nearly three million of these in the United States (their statistics claim the conversion of over 34,000 to Islam in the United States since September 11, 2001). From 1935 to 1983 Islam grew 235% while "christianity" grew 47%. (Islamic Web)
3. It thus becomes clear that as Christians we must become more aware of the religion of Islam if we are to have the concern for the souls of others as we profess. While we shall see that there is reason for concern as to the militancy of Islam, the Christian's first concern should be 1.8 billions souls lost as they follow a false religion.

### **II. What Is The Religion Of Islam?**

1. "The Arabic word Islam means peace, submission and obedience. The religion of Islam is the complete acceptance of the teachings and guidance of God as revealed to His Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). A Muslim is one who believes in God and strives for total reorganization of his life according to His revealed guidance and the sayings of the Prophet." (Islam at a Glance) A study of the word shows that it means submission. Peace is not an original component of the word, though many Muslims so teach today.

2. The "Islamic Creed" is stated as: "'La ilaha illa Allah, Muhammadu Rasool Allah' – 'There is no deity except God, Muhammad is the Messenger of God.' This simple statement of a Muslim's basic beliefs is the starting point for all that follows. From this expression of belief in the Oneness and Uniqueness of God and the messengership of Muhammad stem all of Islam's concepts, attitudes, moral values and guidelines for human behavior and relationships." (Haneef 3)
3. Islam is then a religion in which people are to submit to the teachings of and guidance from Muhammad. Among these teachings are ...
  - (1) The Quran - this is claimed to be compilation of revelations given to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel (who they identify as the Holy Spirit also). (Muhammad did not write these; it is taught that the revelations were written down or committed to memory by the followers of Muhammad as soon as he received them. They were not completed until after his death.)
  - (2) Hadith - "the teachings, sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad, meticulously reported and collected by his devoted companions, explain and elaborate the Qura'nic verses" (ibid.)
4. Muslims also believe the Torah, Psalms, and Gospel accounts are from God, but they believe they have been corrupted by man. (Islamic Web)
5. From the above, one might already guess one of the major obstacles in understanding Islam. This obstacle is that, since Islam is a following of the sayings and actions of Muhammad, many fail to realize it is in actuality a "deification" of the culture of seventh century Arabia and in particular the apprehension of that culture by Muhammad. Whereas the Western mind is accustomed to the separation of secular and religious, the Islamic mind sees an inseparable combination of the two. There are 21 Islamic countries, and of these, not one is a democracy.
6. Haneef also notes that Islam has what are called the "Five Pillars of Islam" that shape their thought, deed and society.
  - (1) Declaration of Faith (Shahada) - Acknowledging that there is one God and Muhammad is His messenger and Prophet and is the last among the line of prophets.
  - (2) Prayers (Salat) - five times a day, facing Mecca.

- (3) Fasting (Sawm) - during the month of Ramadhan Muslims abstain from food, drink and sexual intercourse from dawn to sunset.
- (4) Poor-Due (Zakat) - 2 1/2 percent per year on cash and capital above one's immediate needs.
- (5) Pilgrimage (Hajj) - once in their lifetime each Muslim is expected to go to Mecca if it is economically and safely possible.

### **III. Some Considerations of the Origin of Islam**

1. It is claimed by Muslims that Islam actually had its beginnings with Adam, whom they consider to be a prophet of Allah.

"Muslims believe in all messengers of Allah without any discrimination among them, as every known nation has a Warner or messenger from Allah. They were chosen by God to teach humanity and deliver His divine message. The Qur'an mentions the name of some of them including Jews, including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Jacob, Joseph, Job, Moses, Aaron, David, Solomon, Elias, Jonah, John the Baptist, and Jesus (peace be upon them)" (Islamic Web)

2. "The Ka'aba [located in Mecca - jhw] was originally built in antiquity by Prophet Abraham and his son Ishmael, also a prophet (peace be on them both), as the first sanctuary on earth dedicated to the worship of the One God" (Haneef 53). Cf. Sura 2:127-128; 2:125 (it is toward this that Muslims will face when they perform their daily prayers)

3. Islam claims that the tenets of its religion were given in fulness to Muhammad and are not founded in the culture, religion and custom of the times before and surrounding him. In fact, it is considered blasphemous to suggest such. If sources for Islam can be found in the situations surrounding Muhammad, the foundation of these teachings being delivered to Muhammad would be at risk. But in fact, several aspects of Islam can easily be seen in pre-Islamic Arabia.

- (1) The Prominence of Mecca

- A. Mecca is the most holy place of Islam. It was the birthplace of Muhammad.
- B. History records that Mecca was, before and during the time of Muhammad, the center for pagan religion.

"The community in which Mohammed grew up was pagan, different localities having their own gods, often represented by stones. In many places there were sanctuaries to which pilgrimage was made. Mecca contained one of the most important, the Kaaba, in which was placed the black stone, long an object of worship" (Chamber's IX;453)

(2) The Kabah

- A. Muslims claim this is the "sacred house of God's worship built in antiquity by the prophets Abraham and Ishmael" (Haneef 23) It stands in the center of the Sacred Mosque in Mecca.
- B. The Kabah held over 360 idols. It was available for those in the caravans that traveled along the trade routes which came through Mecca. This could also account for the stories in the Quran whose origin can be traced to Egypt, Persia, India and other countries whose travelers would have frequented this pagan temple. (Morey 40)
- C. Since the Kabbah housed the deities of various peoples, it was of course a common practice for them to pray toward Mecca at various times.

(3) Magic and Genies (Jinns)

- A. The culture at that time was very superstitious (i.e., The Arabian Nights). Arabs then believed in such things as genies, spells, the "evil eye," etc.
- B. In the Quran we find references to such things as the "evil eye," jinns (genies), curses and the like (cf. Surahh 55; 72; 113; 114)

(4) Allah

- A. According to Islamic sources the name "Allah" is the proper name of God in Arabic.
- B. The Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics states the word Allah "is not a common name meaning 'God' and the Muslim must use another word or form if he wishes to indicate any other than his own peculiar deity." It was a name used in pre-Islamic times "corresponding to the Babylonian Bel" (Encyclopedia of Religion)
- C. "The Quraysh tribe into which Muhammad was born was particularly devoted to Allah, the moon god, and especially to Allah's three daughters who were viewed as intercessors between the people and Allah. ... The literal Arabic name of Muhammad's father was Abd-Allah. His uncle's name was Obied-Allah. These names reveal the

personal devotion that Muhammad's pagan family had to the worship of Allah, the moon god." (Morey 51)

- (5) The Crescent Moon Symbol (used on the flags of Islamic nations and placed on the tops of mosques)
  - A. The crescent moon symbol is used to symbolize Islam. It is found on the flags of Islamic nations and on the tops of mosques.
  - B. This symbol was a widely used pagan symbol throughout the Middle East prior to the inception of Islam. "Archaeologists have dug up numerous statues and hieroglyphic inscriptions in which a crescent moon was seated on top of the head of the deity to symbolize the worship of the moon god" (Morey 51).
4. As noted previously, the fact of these and other items being found in Arabia prior to the beginning of Islam is very important. It illustrates that the religion of Islam did not originate with a message to Muhammad from Allah, but in fact evolved out of the pagan religions which surrounded Muhammad.

#### **IV. What Is Known Of The Life Of Muhammad?**

These observations are made by Morey in his book *The Islamic Invasion*

1. He was born in Mecca in A.D. 570. His parents were Abdullah and Aminah. His father died before his birth and his mother died in his infancy. He was subsequently given to his grandparents, then a rich uncle, then a poor uncle who raised him.
2. He was born into the Quraysh tribe, which had the care of the Kabah. His family was very much involved in the worship of the moon god "Allah."
3. He began having "visions" at an early age, which puzzled him and made him think he might be demon possessed. These "visions" were accompanied by seizures in which he fell to the ground, arching his back. (In that day, one who had seizures was considered either demon possessed or having visions from a god. Many who have studied the accounts of these episodes have suggested he might have had epilepsy.) One of the earlier visions he was reported to have was that a heavenly being came down and split open his stomach, stirred around his insides, and then sewed him back up.
4. Being closely associated with the worship in the Kabah, he watched people worship at the Kabah by running around it seven times, kissing a black stone,

and then running down to a nearby river and throwing stones at the devil. (It is no wonder that in Islam many of the elements of this early religious life were transferred to Islam.)

5. He was married to a woman 15 years his senior at the age of 25.
6. At the age of 40 he received another "vision" in which he claimed Allah told him to be His "prophet" and "apostle." Oddly enough there are four versions of this calling in the Quran -- each different.
  - (1) Surah 53:2-18; 81:19-24 where Allah appeared in the form of a man and Muhammad saw and heard Him
  - (2) Surah 16:102; 26:192-194 where the call is given by the "Holy Spirit" (who is not identified - odd since the Islamic religion denies there is a triune nature of God)
  - (3) Surah 15:8 where angels (plural) came and gave him the message
  - (4) Surah 2:97 where the angel Gabriel by himself comes to give the message (This is the version most Muslims and non-Muslims have heard)
7. After the coaxing of his wife to overcome his own doubts about his being a prophet (as opposed to being demon possessed) Muhammad began to preach his message.
8. While he did gain converts, he faced much opposition. At one point the opposition grew to the point that many of the people of Mecca came against the part of the city where Muhammad lived. As a result of this stiff opposition Muhammad gave what are known as the "satanic verses" (Surah 53). In this revelation Muhammad allows the worship of Al-Lat, Al-Uzza and Manat, the daughters of the moon God. (This is of course a problem for Islam as it claims that Muhammad was sinless.)
9. Because of the great persecution Muhammad fled Mecca for Ta-if. After finding no success there he decided to return to Mecca. On his way he confronted and converted the Jinns (Genies) (Surah 46:29-35; 72:1-28). When he arrived in Mecca the oppression was even greater so he fled for Medina.

10. In Medina Muhammad was well received. It was then he decided to use force in making converts. After several successes he went against Mecca. Here he suffered his first defeat in which he was almost killed. He then again concentrated on warring against the Jewish settlements until he was once again ready to turn his attention on Mecca. Perhaps due to the large size of his army by this time, he was able to negotiate a treaty with Mecca which was to last for 10 years. Within a year Muhammad broke the treaty and overcame Mecca, becoming the leader of Mecca as well as its undisputed religious leader.
11. During his life Muhammad took 16 wives, 2 concubines and 4 other women who "gave themselves" to Muhammad. (This poses a problem in that Surah 4:3 prohibits more than 4 wives.) His 3rd wife, Aesha, was only 8-9 years old when he took her to bed and his 6th wife, Zaynab (of Jahsh) was originally his adopted son's wife.
12. Muhammad died in A.D. 632. It was apparent that he had no premonition of his death, for he named no successor nor gathered his "revelations." As a result Islam broke into various sects. The two largest and most well known are the Shiites and the Sunnis.

## **V. The Qur'an**

1. "The Holy Qur'an is the only divinely-revealed scripture in the history of mankind which has been preserved to the present time in its exact original form." (Hareef 18)
2. The Qur'an is divided into 114 chapters called "suras".
3. Will the Qur'an stand up to investigation? Perhaps we should first make a couple of observations in this regard:
  - (1) Most Muslims will not make such an examination. Instead they accept anything the Quran says. If something is pointed out as a contradiction they reject the contradiction "because the Quran is accurate."
  - (2) The Quran claims to believe in, continue and not contradict the Bible (cf. Surah 2:136). If this be the case, since the Bible came first, any contradiction would give way to the Bible. Here the Muslims will say that the Bible is corrupt (and again his reasoning is that the Quran is accurate, so anything that contradicts it must be wrong.) But the dilemma is that if the Muslim rejects the Bible he must reject the Quran, for it appeals to the

Bible. If he accepts the Bible he must then reject the Quran, for it contradicts the Bible.

4. Contradictions and errors in the Qur'an (Even one would show it is not God's word (cf. Surah 18:85-86))
  - (1) Man created
    - A. From a clot of congealed blood (96:2)
    - B. From mud and clay (15:26)
    - C. Out of nothing (19:67; 52:35)
  - (2) Religion with or without compulsion?
    - A. No compulsion in religion (2:256)
    - B. The Pagans to be fought and slain unless they repent and turn to Allah (9:5)
  - (3) The first Muslim was...
    - A. Muhammad (39:12)
    - B. Moses the first to believe (7:143)
    - C. Abraham and his sons (2:132)
  - (4) Pharoah killed or not killed?
    - A. Because of the flood Pharoah turned to Islam (10:90-92)
    - B. He was drowned in the flood (17:102-103)
  - (5) Wine is good or bad?
    - A. Intoxicants are Satan's handiwork (5:90)
    - B. Wine part of the glory of the heavenly reward (47:15; 83:22-25)
  - (6) Creation days – six or eight?
    - A. 8 days total (41:9, 10, 12)
    - B. 6 days (10:3)
  - (7) Historical errors
    - A. Sura 9:30 – The Jews said to believe Ezra is the Son of God, the Messiah
    - B. Sura 18:89-98 – Alexander the Great (who died at age 33 and forced others to recognize him as divine) is said to be Islamic and live to an old age

- C. Sura 5:116; 5:73-75 – Christians said to believe in “Three Gods”, Father, Mother and Son
- D. Sura 19:28; 3:33-36 – Mary, the mother of Jesus, said to be the daughter of Amram, the father of Moses and Aaron and their sister (obviously Muhammad confused Miriam with Mary)
- E. Sura 20:87-95 – the Samaritans said to assist in the making of the golden calf the Israelites fashioned after leaving Egypt, yet the Samaritans did not come into existence for nearly 1000 years after that time

5. Contradictions between the Bible and the Qur’an

Note: The Qur’an invites an examination of its teachings against those of the Bible (2:136). The general response from Muslims is that the Bible is corrupted. The question then arises, when was it corrupted? Surely not before 600 AD, for why then would Muhammad invite such a comparison? If they say after 600 another problem arises, for the manuscripts can be shown previous to 600 (all the way back to 100) that concur with present translation. Also, the Qur’an itself denies that the word of God (which they say includes the Torah, the Psalms and the Gospel accounts) can be corrupted (6:34; 6:115; 10:64).

- (1) How many days of creation?
  - A.. Bible - six days (Genesis 1; Exodus 20:11)
  - B. Quran - eight days (Sura 41:9-12) (or six - 10:3?)
- (2) All of Noah's sons on the ark, or one left?
  - A. Bible - all three sons went on the ark (Genesis 7:1-13)
  - B. Quran - one son left behind (Sura 11:32-48)
- (3) Mountains of Ararat or Mount Judi?
  - A. Bible - Mountains of Ararat (Genesis 8:4)
  - B. Quran - Mount Judi (Surah 11:44)
- (4) What about Abraham?
  - A. his father's name
    - a. Bible - Terah (Genesis 11:31)
    - b. Quran - Azar (Surah 6:74)
  - B. sacrifice Isaac or Ishmael?
    - a. Bible - Isaac (Genesis 22:1-14)
    - b. Quran - Ishmael (Surah 37:100-112)

- C. eight sons or two?
  - a. Bible - eight (Genesis 16:15; 21:2; 25:1-3)
  - b. Quran - two (Surah 37:100-112)
  
- D. live, build an altar and worship in Hebron or Mecca?
  - a. Bible - Hebron (Genesis 13:18; 14:13; 18:1)
  - b. Quran - Mecca (Surah 14:37) (there is also no historical or geological evidence he was ever in Mecca)
  
- (5) Who bought Joseph?
  - A. Bible - Potiphar (Genesis 37:36)
  - B. Quran - Aziz (Surah 12:21ff)
  
- (6) Who adopted Moses?
  - A. Bible - Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 2:5)
  - B. Quran - Pharaoh's wife (Surahh 28:8,9)
  
- (7) Jesus born in a stable or under a palm tree?
  - A. Bible - stable (Luke 2:1-20)
  - B. Quran - under a palm tree (Surahh 19:22-25)
  
- (8) Zacharias not able to speak until John was born or three days?
  - A. Bible - Until John born (several months) (Luke 1:20-64)
  - B. Quran - three nights (Surahh 19:10)

## **VI. The Hadith – Another Source of Authority for the Muslim**

1. Along with the Quran, "Muslims have always taken a keen interest in the preservation and propagation of Rasulullah's [Muhammad's] sayings and actions, technically known as Hadith and Sunnah." (Kazi i)
  
2. This collection further demonstrates the point made earlier that Islam is really a deification of the culture of the seventh century and particularly Muhammad's perception of this life.
  
3. These sayings cover nearly every aspect of life. Below is a sampling of them as recorded in the book edited by Kazi:
  - (1) If a Muslim dies, and people stand in three rows for his funeral prayer, Allah will forgive him and make Paradise his reward. (495)

- (2) A Muslim shall not inherit from an unbeliever, not an unbeliever from a Muslim. (441)
- (3) Whenever you see someone engaged in flattery, throw dust in his face. (335)
- (4) Anyone who drinks a single mouthful of khamr [alcohol] will be given a similar amount of pus to drink (in the Hereafter). (247)
- (5) Do not sit between two people unless you have their permission. (171)
- (6) Allah likes sneezing, and dislikes yawning. So when one of you sneezes and praises Allah, every Muslim who hears him should say to him, "Allah have mercy on you!" But yawning comes from the devil, so when one of you yawns he should restrain it as much as possible, for when one of you yawns the devil laughs at him. (155)
- (7) When anyone of you puts on his shoes he should begin with the right foot, and when he takes them off he should begin with the left. (151)
- (8) When one of you eats or drinks he should use his right hand. (138)
- (9) The toothstick purifies the mouth, and pleases the Lord. (130)
- (10) When one of you goes to relieve himself, he should not touch his private parts with his right hand or wipe himself with his right hand. (127)
- (11) Angels will ask Allah to forgive people as long as he remains sitting at his praying place and does not pass wind (620)
- (12) Adam was created by God 60 cubits tall (543)

## **VII. What Does The Quran Say About Jesus?**

1. It is clear from the writings of the Quran that Muhammad had some serious misconceptions about what Christianity taught. For example he seems to have thought that Christians worshiped three Gods: the Father, the Mother (Mary) and the Son (Surah 5:73-75; 116).

2. From a study of Surah 4:157-158; 5:17, 72-78; 9:30; 19:88-93 and others we can derive the following about what Islam teaches in regard to Jesus:
  - (1) He was not the Son of God
  - (2) He was not divine
  - (3) He was not crucified
  - (4) He was not the Savior
3. From the above it is clear that there can be no "middle ground" upon which the Muslim and the Christian may stand!

### **VIII. Other Items of Interest Regarding Islam**

1. The divisions of Islam
  - (1) When Muhammad died in AD 632 he named no successor. Because of this there was division over who should be in power and what the laws of Islam should be. The disagreement between the Islamic scholars of that day resulted in a variety of legal thought within Islam. These different schools became different sects. The largest of these is the Sunni (about 90% of all Muslims). The next two largest are the Shi'ite and the Sufi. There are numerous other sects. The Shi'ite and the Sunni differ in some interpretations of the Qur'an and Hadith and even have a different canon of Hadith.
  - (2) The Sunni Muslims are considered to the traditionalists and are comfortable within secular societies.
  - (3) The Shi'ite believe the successors in power must be a biological successor of Ali , the father in law fo Muhammad who took power immediately after Muhammad's death. The Shi'ites are broken into three main sects:
    - A. Twelve-Imam – Persia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Pakistan and Syria
    - B. The Zaydis – Yemen
    - C. The Ismailis – India, Iran, Syria, and East Africa
2. Is Islam a religion of peace?

- (1) Most Muslims say they are for living together in peace and harmony. But as one looks to the teachings and history of Islam we must ask,
  - A. Is this because of or in spite of Islam?
  - B. Would they make such pleas if they were in the majority?
  
- (2) Islam opposes a secular state and instead calls for the establishment of a Muslim State. In the teaching of Islam, there is no distinction between what Westerners would call "church and state." This of course gives cause for concern among nations.
  
- (3) All are familiar with the term "jihad". As already noted, there are disagreements as to various tenets of Islam amongst Muslims. Some proclaim Jihad simply means to "strive" and applies to the inner struggle of the individual to be pure, and even a striving against evil wherever found, but does not encompass physical actions against others (Haseef 118). Others take the Qur'an's references to jihad as commands to slay any and all who oppose Islam in any fashion – all non-Islam individuals are considered infidels.
  - A. "...the true believers fight for the cause of God, but the infidels fight for the devil. Fight then against the friends of Satan..." (4:74, 76)
  - B. "Slay the idolaters wherever you find them... lie in ambush everywhere for them. If they repent and take to prayer and render the alms levy, allow them to go their way..." (9:5)
  - C. "Those that make war against God and His apostle and spread disorder in the land shall be put to death or crucified or have their hands and feet cut off on alternate sides..." (5:34-35)
  - D. "Make war with them until idolatry shall cease and God's religion shall reign supreme" (8:39)
  
- (4) The history of Islam causes alarm
  - A. Muhammad had the practice of raiding caravans.
  - B. After his death his successors were preoccupied with war.
  - C. For the next 300 years the history of Islam is expansion through military conquest, assassinations, massacres and the like.
  - D. Even in modern Islam, wherever Islamic law is embraced...
    - a. Non-Muslims face discrimination and persecution at the least, and physical harm or death at the most for practicing or seeking to teach their religion

- b. Muslims are forbidden to convert and may face death for doing so.
  - c. As we sadly know, terrorism abounds.
- (5) While we must take care not to stereotype all Muslims, it is clear there is cause for alarm with one examines the objectives of Islam, the jihad as described in the Qur'an and the history (even recent) of Islamic nations.
3. What is the hope of the Muslim? (We hear of the terrorist's promise of paradise... what is it?)  
While there is much good in much of Islam regarding purity, the paradise to which they aspire contains six important items to them.
- (1) Virgins (37:40; 44:51-55; 52:17-20; 55:56-58; 16:7-40;78:31). These promise that men will have the pleasure of 72 virgins who neither man nor Jinn have touched. The Hadith goes further and describes a sex market where there is no limit of sexual partners.
  - (2) Young boys (52:24; 56:17; 76:19). Men are promised boys handsome and perpetually fresh.
  - (3) Water (3:198; 3:136; 13:35; 15:45; 22:23; 47:15; 55:50-51...). In the area where Islam began and much of where it exists today, water is an item of luxury.
  - (4) Wine (47:15; 37:40-48; 56:7-40; 83:23-36).
  - (5) Fruit (13:35; 37:40-48; 43:68-73; 47:15...) [Even though they are blessed with food, they have an added "benefit" – "I heard Allah's Apostle (pbuh) as saying that the inmates of Paradise would eat and drink but would neither spit, nor pass water, nor void excrement, nor suffer catarrh. It was said: Then would would happen with food? Thereupon he said: They would belch and sweat (and it would be over with their food), and their sweat would be that of musk and they would glorify and praise Allah as easily as you breathe." (Abdullah 6798)
  - (6) Wealth (22:23; 43:68-73; 55:70-77...) Jewels, goblets of gold, all sorts of riches await.

## **IX. How Should Christians Respond to Islam?**

1. Be sure you as a Christian are not less dedicated to your Lord than the Muslim is to his prophet! This will show in your knowledge of the Bible, your adherence to His commands, your involvement in the worship and the work of the church, your failure to seek Biblical unity...
2. Stop stereotyping. Do not join in with the world in name calling or blanket condemnations of all Islamic people. Paul noted we should take a strong stand for God's Word, but it must be done in the proper spirit (Ephesians 4:15).
3. Be prepared to defend and declare the Word of God. Islamic people need to hear the true word of God, not the misinformed messages they have been taught. The contradictions of denominationalism will only add fuel to the fire of Islamic opposition. Take care to prepare to set forth the Word in truth and simplicity (and do it with a reliable translation – the Muslims use the NIV frequently in their opposition to Christianity because of it's erroneous and even sometimes vulgar translation)
4. Be prepared to seek to refute the Qur'an and its source in a proper spirit.

### **Conclusion:**

What is Islam? Though millions of individuals sincerely believe it is the one true religion, such cannot be upheld by the evidence. An examination shows that it was begun by Muhammad in the seventh century and is no more than a compilation of the various pagan rites and beliefs of that day, modified by Muhammad. It is anti-Christian and militantly opposed to examination and change. It's appeal for eternity is vulgar and carnal. Most importantly though it is a false religion that holds captive millions of souls. We must then be prepared to study, in as kind a way as possible, with those who are trapped in its beliefs.

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