

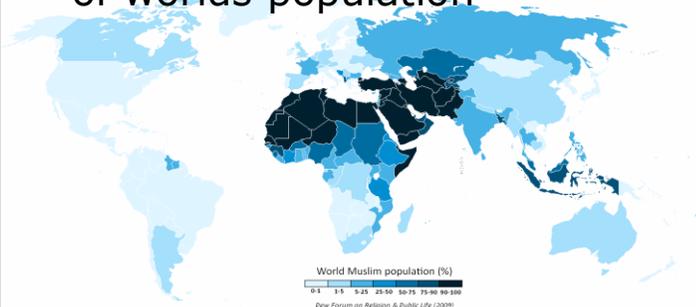
World Religions:

Islam: The world's youngest religion.

- Islam – submission (To Allah, the God of Muhammed).
- Muslim – those who submit.

Introductory Terms

- 1.2 Billion World Wide = 1/5 of worlds population



Muslim World Population

- Founded by Muhammed
 - Born in Mecca in 570 A.D.
 - By age of 10 was an orphan due to deaths in the family.
 - Uncle raised him and became a respected tradesman.
 - Illiterate his whole life.
 - Married a wealthy widow at the age of 25.

Beginnings

- 610 A.D. marks his first spiritual experience.
 - Received a vision from the Angel Gabriel.
 - Became a stern prophet with an uncompromising message.

Beginnings

- There is only one God to whose will people must submit.
- There is a day of judgment when all people will be judged in terms of whether or not they have obeyed God.

Beginnings

- Followers grew so large that leaders of Mecca expelled them in 622 A.D.
 - The flight from Mecca is called the "hijra" – this event is used as the beginning of the Muslim calendar.

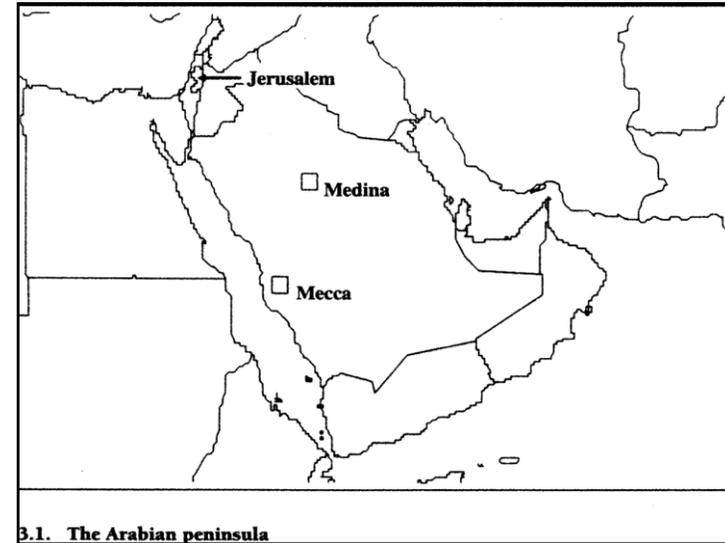
Beginnings

- Moved to Yathrib (Medina) and were received in open arms by community.
- Made a special pact with Jewish community.
 - Some Jews attempted to assassinate Muhammed and he ordered the execution of hundreds of Jews.

Beginnings

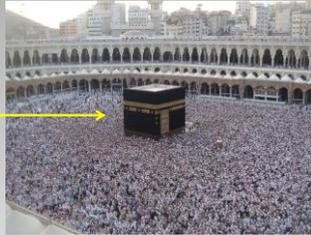
- Islam continued to grow in numbers and influence.
 - In 630 A.D. Muslims captured the city of Mecca and cleansed the ka'ba.

Beginnings



B.1. The Arabian peninsula

Ka'ba located in here.



- The Ka'ba is a meteorite that is considered holy because it fell from heaven.

Ka'ba enclosed in silver.



The Ka'ba

- Muhammad died in 632 A.D.
 - At the time of his death he was the religious and political leader of much of the Arabian peninsula.
- His death is crucial in understanding the contemporary Muslim world.

Muhammad's Death

- Muhammad had no surviving son.
- Search was on for a caliph (ruler of Islam)
- Muhammad's father-in-law Abu Bakr was established after a general consensus (**Sunnites**).
- Splinter group wanted Ali (son-in-law) to be caliph. They were the minority (**Shi'ites**).

Muhammad's Death



The Six Essential Beliefs and Five Pillars of Islam

- Six essentials:
 1. Oneness of God. Allah is not his name, it is an Arabic term for God.
 - Islam focuses on the transcendence of God.
 - They deny any identification with finite created beings. To do so would be *shirk* (idolatry) which is the most serious sin.
 - This is why they deny Jesus is God.

What Muslims believe

2. Angels and spirits
 - Recognize archangels and large hosts of angels.
 - Believe in evil spirits (the jinn) that are led by the devil.
 - The Muslim believer must maintain constant vigilance because the jinn can cause physical and spiritual harm.

What Muslims believe

3. Prophets

- Allah has always disclosed His will to prophets.
- Preach a message of submission to Allah.
- Some prophets include:
 - Adam
 - Noah
 - Abraham
 - David
 - Jesus

What Muslims believe

- Reason why there is a discrepancy with message of Qur'an and Bible is because Muslims believe writings were tampered with.
- Muhammad is considered the final prophet. His revelation supersedes former revelation.

What Muslims believe

4. Books

- Prophets were apostles that left books for their people.
 - Moses gave law, David gave psalms, Jesus left us the gospel.
 - Muslims have the Qur'an.

What Muslims believe

- The Qur'an is the sacred scriptures of Islam.
- It is a collection of Muhammad's revelations.
 - Remember, he was illiterate. Everything was collected from his utterances that he left to his followers. (12 years after his death)

The Qur'an

- The Qur'an is only authoritative in its original Arabic language.
 - About as long as the New Testament.
 - Divided into 114 chapters – suras
 - Each chapter divided into verses – ayat
 - Arranged with longer suras at the front.

The Qur'an

- There is only one God – 5:73
 - "They have certainly disbelieved who say, " Allah is the third of three." And there is no god except one God. And if they do not desist from what they are saying, there will surely afflict the disbelievers among them a painful punishment."

What the Qur'an Teaches

- Allah is the sole creator and sustainer – 3:191
 - "Who remember Allah while standing or sitting or [lying] on their sides and give thought to the creation of the heavens and the earth, [saying], "Our Lord, You did not create this aimlessly; exalted are You [above such a thing]; then protect us from the punishment of the Fire."

- Allah is all knowing and powerful – 2:268
 - "Satan threatens you with poverty and orders you to immorality, while Allah promises you forgiveness from Him and bounty. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing."

- Allah will judge all people – 3:30
 - "The Day every soul will find what it has done of good present [before it] and what it has done of evil, it will wish that between itself and that [evil] was a great distance. And Allah warns you of Himself, and Allah is Kind to [His] servants."

- If good outweighs the bad and you believe in Allah you may go to heaven – 66:8
 - O you who have believed, repent to Allah with sincere repentance. *Perhaps* your Lord will remove from you your misdeeds and admit you into gardens beneath which rivers flow [on] the Day when Allah will not disgrace the Prophet and those who believed with him.

- Gabriel brought the Qur'an to Muhammad – 2:97
 - Say, "Whoever is an enemy to Gabriel - it is [none but] he who has brought the Qur'an down upon your heart, [O Muhammad], by permission of Allah, confirming that which was before it and as guidance and good tidings for the believers."

- The Devil, called Iblees, is a bad Jinn – 2:34
 - "And [mention] when We said to the angels, "Prostrate before Adam"; so they prostrated, except for Iblees. He refused and was arrogant and became of the disbelievers."

- Jesus was not the son of God – 9:30
 - “The Jews say, “Ezra is the son of Allah ”; and the Christians say, “The Messiah is the son of Allah .” That is their statement from their mouths; they imitate the saying of those who disbelieved [before them]. May Allah destroy them; how are they deluded?”

- Jesus is not divine – 5:17
 - “They have certainly disbelieved who say that Allah is Christ, the son of Mary.”

- Jesus was not crucified – 4:157
 - “And [for] their saying, “Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah .” And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but [another] was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain.”

- No last minute repentance – 4:18
 - “But repentance is not [accepted] of those who [continue to] do evil deeds up until, when death comes to one of them, he says, “Indeed, I have repented now,” or of those who die while they are disbelievers. For them We have prepared a painful punishment.”

5. Judgment

- On an appointed day (known only to Allah) the trumpet will sound and a general resurrection will follow.
 - Living and dead will appear before Allah.
- Basis of judgment is if a person had a sincere submission to Allah's will.

What Muslims believe

- There is no certainty of reward (heaven). Allah's mercy gives reason for optimism but there is no assurance.
- Hell is a place for those who do not submit to Allah's will.
 - In hell, the damned drink boiling, fetid water.

What Muslims believe

6. The decree of God

- Allah is sovereign. Whatever he wills will happen, whatever he does not will not happen.

What Muslim's believe

The five pillars

1. Confession

- "There is no God but God, and Muhammad is the apostle of God."
- All that is necessary to become a Muslim is to repeat the confession and mean it. This begins the Muslim journey.

What Muslim's believe

2. Prayer

- Each Muslim is supposed to pray five times a day.
 - Sunrise – when you can tell a white thread from black
 - Noon
 - Midafternoon
 - Sunset
 - One hour after sunset

What Muslim's believe

- Prayers may be performed anywhere, but is encouraged to happen in a mosque.
 - There is a niche at the front of the building that indicates what direction Mecca is in. (Muslims pray towards Mecca)
- Fridays are special prayer days that include a message from the Qur'an by a prayer leader (imam). Afterwards there is a fellowship activity.

What Muslims Believe

3. Fasting

- Muslims are required to fast from sunup to sundown during Ramadan – the month Muhammad received his revelations.

4. Almsgiving

- Command to give 2.5 percent of net worth (not gross) to charitable needs in community.

What Muslims believe

5. Pilgrimage

- All Muslims are required to visit Mecca during lifetime.
- If they cannot someone can go in their place.
- Takes place during the last month of calendar.

1. Arrival and preparation.
2. Tawaf – walk around the ka'ba seven times
3. Jogging seven times to commemorate Hagar's expulsion as Abraham's concubine.
4. All pilgrims journey to Plain of Arafat (site of Muhammad's last sermon) to pray, read, meditate. This is the highpoint of pilgrimage.

7 Steps of Pilgrimage

5. Journey to Mina (halfway back to Mecca) offer sacrifices (not as atonement for sin, but expressions of gratitude to Allah) feast off of animals.
6. Stoning the devil. Each pilgrim throws nine rocks at pillars that represent the devil.
7. Final Tawaf. Walk around ka'ba one more time.

7 Steps of Pilgrimage

- Outside of essentials and pillars, Muslims also believe:
 - Halal, counterpart to Jewish kosher system. Not as strict, but pork is forbidden.

What Muslims believe

- Modesty in dress. Culture and ruling nation set what is considered modest.
- Women have strict rules to follow. Mostly covered by dress, they are considered slaves in their homes. For the Muslim women, they consider this a sacred right being free as they were created to be.

What Muslim's believe

- Holy War (jihad)
- Most misunderstood aspect of Islam.
 - Only minority of Muslim's are terrorists.
- There is an aspect of holy war within personal self.

What Muslims believe

- Holy war between nations is only allowed under these terms:
 - Aggression by foreign nation.
 - Repression of the propagation of Islam.
 - Recapture of areas once held by nation of Islam.

This leaves a lot of room for justification.

What Muslim's believe

- Not all Muslim people are terrorists. Majority of Muslim people denounce terrorist acts.
- Respect their beliefs.
 - Kosher
 - Need to pray five times a day.

So you meet a Muslim...

- Relating the gospel is very difficult with a Muslim.
 - They immediately reject that Jesus is God. In fact it is the highest sin (shirk) to them.
 - Doctrine of trinity does not make rational sense to them, they believe Christians worship three Gods.

So you meet a Muslim...

- They do not believe the Bible is true due to contradictions and variations.
 - They believe the Qur'an is preserved in its original version.
- Focus on the realities of the cross and the provision of the grace of God in salvation.

So you meet a Muslim...

- Reveal the absolute assurance we have in our salvation.
- Pray for and build a relationship with them.

So you meet a Muslim...

