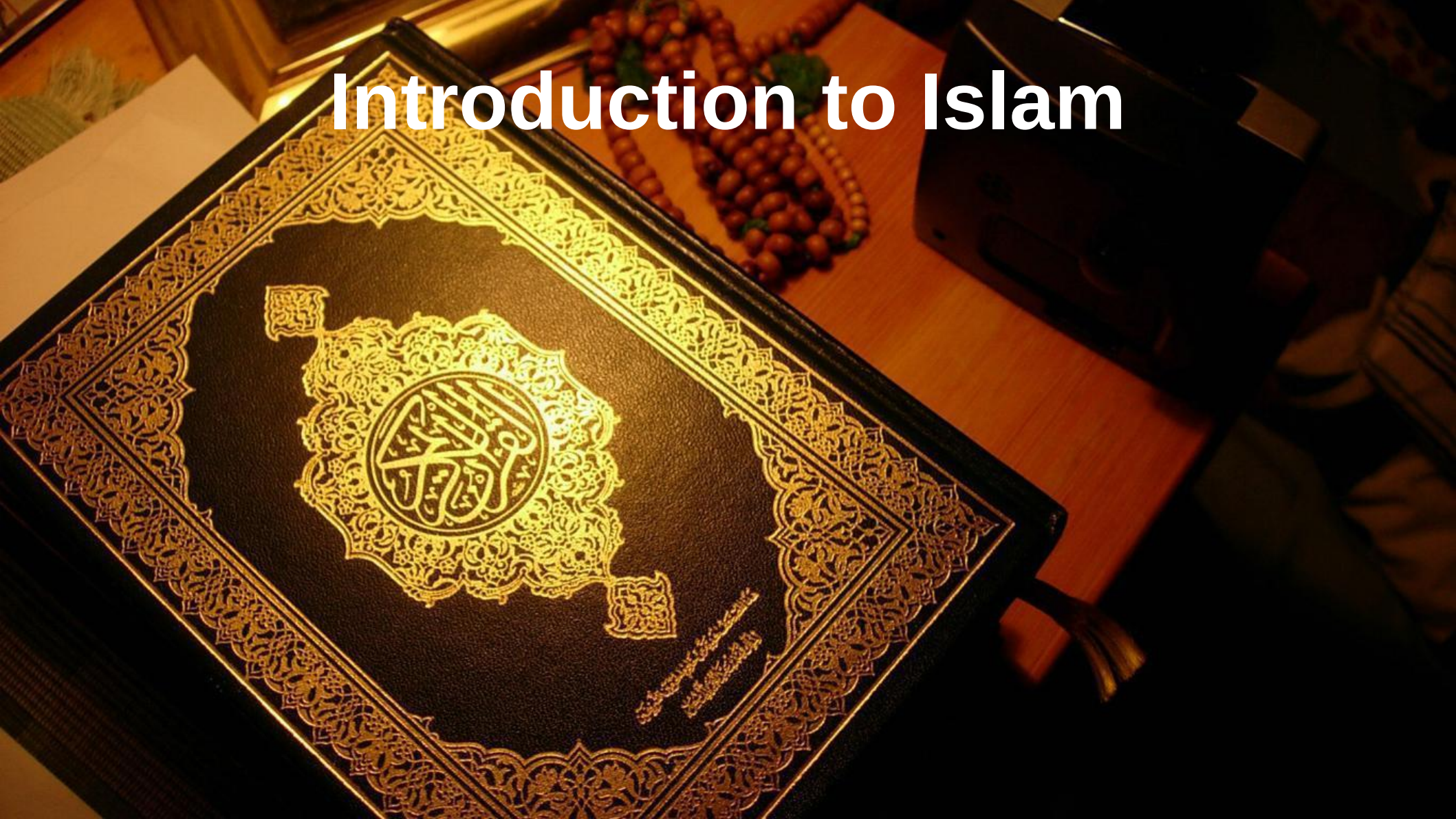


# Introduction to Islam



# Outline

- Personal Introduction
- Basic Tenets of Islam
  - 5 Pillars
  - Islamic Eschatology
  - Theological and Historic Roots of Conflict
  - Why is Iran mixed in?
- Current conflict
- How to respond?

# The 5 Pillars of Islam (Deen)

- [Shaháda](#) - confession of faith (Kalima)
- [Salaat](#) - 5 prayer sessions per day
  - Fixed prayer, repeated 17 times per day at specified times
- [Zakat](#) - giving alms to the poor
  - No less than 2.5% above ones needs
- [Sawm](#) - Ramadan fast
- [Hajj](#) - Pilgrimage to Mecca



لا إله إلا الله محمد رسول الله

# Shaháda

- “There is no god but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet.”
- لا إله إلا الله محمد رسول الله
- Say it (and mean it) in Arabic - You're a Muslim!
- Taught from birth
- Traditions:
  - Hell fire will not touch anyone who has repeated "la ilaha ill a'llah"
  - "He who dies while acknowledging that there is no deity save Allah, and holds fast to his belief in it, will enter Paradise"



"A man will be brought along to the Balance on the Day, and there will be brought out for him 99 scrolls, every scroll of them stretching as far as the eye can reach, in which are written his sins and his guilty acts, and they will be put in one pan of the Balances. Then a piece of paper will be brought out about the size of an ant, on which is written the confession, 'The is no deity but Allah, and Muhammad is his servant and his apostle,' which will be put in the other pan, and it will outweigh all his wrong doings."

# Salaat

- Rak'ah = 1 per recitation of prayer text
  - Wash, face Mecca
  - Standing (qiyam), worshipper declares his intention (niat) to perform salat. Raise hands to ears, palms opened and thumbs touching ears, says "Allahu Akbar". Lower hands to sides or hold them to chest (right hand resting on left), repeats Fatiha (Sura 1), and perhaps another portion of Qur'an.
  - Bending over (ruku), puts hands on knees, says "Allahu Akbar" and certain other expressions if he likes, before returning erect.
  - Prostrates himself (sujud) with toes, knees, palms of hands and forehead touching ground. This is known as worship.
  - Sitting position (julus), feet underneath him and hands on thighs. After a few moments, a second prostration, stands erect.
- Morning - 2, Noon - 4, Afternoon - 4, Evening - 3, Night - 4
- Women pray separately
- Call to prayer (Adhan)
  - "Allah is most great." (4X)
  - "I witness that there is no god beside Allah." (2X)
  - "I witness that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah." (2X)
  - "Come to prayer" (2X)
  - "Come to salvation." (2X)
  - "Prayer is better than sleep." (2X, morning only)
  - "Allah is most great." (4X)
  - "There is no god beside Allah." (1X)



# Zakat

- 2.5% of total net wealth expected
  - 5% for irrigated fruits, 10% of other fruits
- Car, house, women's jewelry, etc. exempt
- Saqadah - voluntary charity
  - Building mosques, wells, orphanages, etc.

"Those who hoard gold and silver and spend it not in the Way of Allah: announce unto them a most grievous penalty ... On the Day when it (Wealth) will be heated in the fire of Hell and with it will be branded with their foreheads, their flanks and their backs... 'This is the (treasure) which you hoarded for yourselves: taste ye, then, the treasures ye stored up!'"

Surah 9:34-35

# Sawm

- Fasting for entire month of Ramadan
- No food, drink, sex during daylight
- Entire Qur'an recited in mosques
- Some people exempt:
  - Sick, on long journey, pregnant or breast feeding women, children under 7
- Strictness varies by location



# Hajj

- Journey to Mecca during Zul-Hijjah
- Eight days of rituals
- Eid-al-Adha  
“The great Feast”
- Often perceived as a “fix all”



When a pilgrim arrives at the "holy city", it is incumbent upon him to change his normal clothes for the 'Ihram', a white garment which is worn specially for this purpose. The pilgrimage rites include a walk to the Zamzam well, which according to Islamic legend provided the water to save Ishmael and Hagar from death. Muslims will not only want to drink from it but often take jerrycans full of holy water with them as popular belief attributes to it a cure for all kind of sicknesses. This is followed by walking seven times around the Ka'ba, and kissing the black stone at one of the corners. After this the pilgrim must run seven times between the two hills Safa and Marwa (a remnant of pagan days, when on each hill stood an idol, today all is under one roof). On the eighth day he goes to Mina, a valley near Mecca, to meditate and pray. The ninth day he progresses to Arafat (where Adam is said to have been seeking God's mercy). At this place up to two million pilgrims will "stand before Allah" in prayer and listen to a sermon on the site where Muhammad preached his famous farewell sermon before his death. Back at Mina the following day, the pilgrims gather pebbles to throw at a stone pillar which is symbolizing the devil. Here also the men have their head shaven (and women cut off a symbolic lock of their hair).



# Islamic Worldview

- Earth divided into two parts:
  - [Dhar-al Islam](#) - “The territory of Submission”
  - [Dhar-al Harb](#) = “The territory of War”
- [Jihad](#) - “Struggle” or Holy War
- [Shariah](#) - Islamic law
  - No distinction between church and state
  - Hygiene, politics, hunting, family affairs
  - Apostasy is always a capital crime
- Deception in defense of the faith
  - [Taqiyya](#) doctrine: more open / prevalent on Shia side
  - Encouraged to protect life, required to protect the faith
  - [Allah is himself deceptive](#)

Allah's Apostle said, "Who is willing to kill Ka'b bin Al-Ashraf who has hurt Allah and His Apostle?" Thereupon Muhammad bin Maslama got up saying, "O Allah's Apostle! Would you like that I kill him?" The Prophet said, "Yes," Muhammad bin Maslama said, "Then allow me to say a (false) thing (i.e. to deceive Kab)." The Prophet said, "You may say it."

Sahih al-Bukhari 5.369



But they (the Jews) were deceptive, and Allah was deceptive, for Allah is the best of deceivers!

Surah 3:54

# Islamic Eschatology

- “[Last Day](#)” is mandatory point of belief for Muslims
- Many interesting parallels to Biblical Eschatology
  - Appearance or unveiling of the [Mahdi](#)
  - [Jesus](#) to descend from heaven
  - Armies of Islam to conquer entire Earth
  - Judgement day



# Theological & Historic Roots of Conflict

- Dar-al Harb
  - "a country belonging to the infidels which has not been subdued by Islam"
  - Territory not owned by the Muslims is by definition to be an object of war, until liberation takes place and territory is returned to its rightful owners – the Umma
- "The Occupation"
  - Jews dispersed from the Holy Land in AD 70
  - Jerusalem conquered by Muslim armies in AD 638
  - Ottoman Empire (last recognized Caliphate) dissolved after World War I
  - Israel established as a Jewish state after the Holocaust (1948)
    - Wars in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982, 2007, 2023
    - Racial dispersions – 800,000 Jews to Israel from Muslim Arab nations, most "Palestinians" chose to reject citizenship within state of Israel

# Why Iran?

- Iran is majority Shia
- Believe Mahdi is 12<sup>th</sup> Rightly Guided Imam
- Escalating chaos and violence will hasten the unveiling
- Elimination of the state of Israel remains primary policy goal
- Fund & support both Hezbollah (Shia in Lebanon) and Hamas (Sunni in “Palestine”)



# Gaza Timeline

- 1948 – UN Partition & “Nakba”
- 1967 – Israel conquers & occupies Gaza
- 1987-1993 – First Intifada
- 2000-2003 – Second Intifada
- 2005 – Israel withdraws military & population from Gaza
- 2006 – Hamas elected, war with Hezbollah
  - Persistent violence, terror & rocket attacks, Israel builds wall
- 2023 – Hamas attacks with rockets and terror teams, takes hostages



# How to respond?

- Prayer
  - For Israelis who lost friends and family
  - For Palestinians who have been deceived
  - For world leaders to have wisdom in responding
  - “Lord Jesus, come quickly!”
- Outreach
  - Both Jews and Arabs need Jesus
  - Many reputable missions / aid organizations
    - [IFCJ](#), [Jews for Jesus](#)

# Questions & Discussion

