

Engaging With Muslims



Outline

- Review Concepts
- Islamic view of Jesus
- Islamic Eschatology
- What's up with Iran?
- Challenges to Witnessing
- How to respond?

Review of Key Concepts

- Muslims view Islam as the True monotheistic belief
 - Jewish & Christian scriptures corrupted
 - Qur'an is perfect, unchangeable, untranslatable
 - Muhammad is the prophet Moses foretold in Deuteronomy 18
 - True heirs to Abraham (through Ishmael)
- Fundamentally different from Judeo-Christian worldview

The 5 Pillars of Islam (Deen)

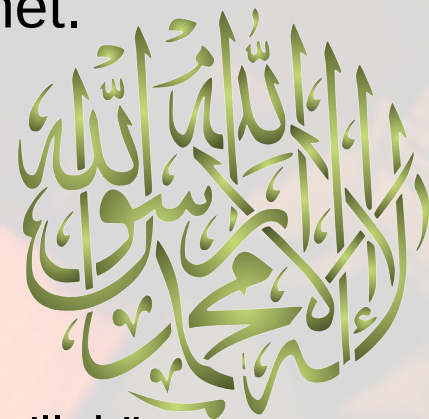
- [Shaháda](#) - confession of faith (Kalima)
- [Salaat](#) - 5 prayer sessions per day
 - Fixed prayer, repeated 17 times per day at specified times
- [Zakat](#) - giving alms to the poor
 - No less than 2.5% above ones needs
- [Sawm](#) - Ramadan fast
- [Hajj](#) - Pilgrimage to Mecca



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).

Important Terms & Concepts

- [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 among Shia
 - 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

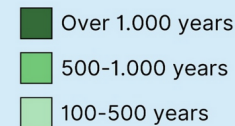
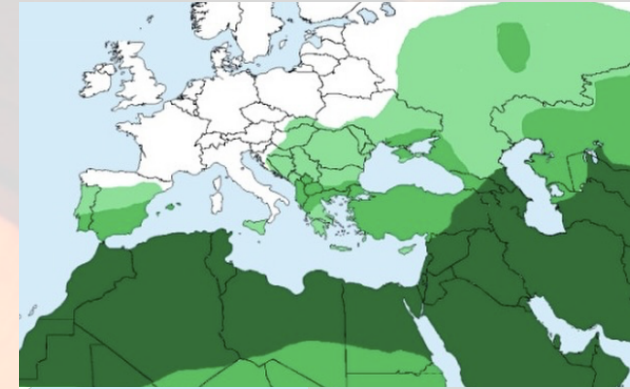
But they (the Jews) were deceptive, and Allah was deceptive, for Allah is the best of deceivers!

Surah 3:54



More Terms & Concepts

- [Dhar-al Islam](#) - “The territory of Submission”
- [Dhar-al Harb](#) - “The territory of War”
 - “A country belonging to the infidels which has not been subdued by Islam”
 - Any territory previously occupied by Muslims is under illegitimate occupation until “liberated” by the Umma: Israel, Spain, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Austria, etc...
- [Martyrdom](#)
 - Direct ticket to Paradise



The Prophet Muhammad was heard saying: ‘The smallest reward for the people of paradise is an abode where there are 80,000 servants and 72 wives, over which stands a dome decorated with pearls, aquamarine, and ruby, as wide as the distance from Al-Jabiyah [a Damascus suburb] to Sana’a [Yemen]’.

Ibn Kathir (died 1373) in his Koranic commentary (Tafsir) of Surah Al-Rahman (55), verse 72

Islamic View of Jesus

- Called “Isa” in the Qur’an
 - Cognate to “Esau”
- Not the Son of God
- Crucified, but not killed
- One in a line of many “Islamic” prophets
 - Adam
 - Noah (Nuh)
 - Moses (Musa)
 - Abraham (Ibrahim)
 - Ishmael (Isma’il)
 - David (Dawud)
 - Solomon (Sulaiman)
 - Elijah
 - Elisha
 - Jonah (Yunus)
 - John the Baptist (Yahya)
- Very important to End-Times



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- Very important to End-Times

"Say, O Prophet, "He is Allah—One and Indivisible; Allah—the Sustainer needed by all. He has never had offspring, nor was He born. And there is none comparable to Him."

Surah 112:1-4

"Isa died on a cross, and Jews claim they killed him, in reality he was not killed or crucified, and those who said he was crucified lied"

Surah 4:157

"O People of the Book! Do not go to extremes regarding your faith; say nothing about Allah except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, was no more than a messenger of Allah and the fulfilment of His Word through Mary and a spirit created by a command from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers and do not say, "Trinity." Stop!—for your own good. Allah is only One God. Glory be to Him! He is far above having a son!"

Surah 4:171

Islamic Eschatology

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

The last hour would not come unless the Muslims will fight against the Jews and the Muslims would kill them until the Jews would hide themselves behind a stone or a tree and a stone or a tree would say: Muslim, or the servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me; come and kill him...

Sahih Muslim, Book 041, Number 6985



The Mahdi

- “Proof Texts” only in Hadith, but belief sanctioned by multiple fatwas
- Descended from Muhammad’s Tribe
- Leads armies of Islam in conquest
- Several have claimed to be Mahdi, none have yet fulfilled prophecies



Muhammad Ahmad bin Abdullah
bin Fahal, 1843-1885

Claimed to be Mahdi, led
Sudanese revolt against
Colonial British Rule

The Mahdi

The Prophet said: "The Mahdi will appear in my Ummah. He will appear for a minimum of 7 or a maximum of 9 years; in that time, my Ummah will experience a bountiful favor like never before. It shall have a great abundance of food, of which it need not save anything, and the wealth at that time is in great quantities, such that if a man asks the Mahdi to give him some, and the Mahdi will say: Here! Take!"

Sunan Ibn Majah, v2.5083

The Mahdi

The Prophet said: "We (I and my family) are members of a household that Allah has chosen for them the life of the Hereafter over the life of this world; and the members of my household (Ahlul-Bayt) shall suffer a great affliction and they shall be forcefully expelled from their homes after my death; then there will come people from the East carrying black flags, and they will ask for some good to be given to them, but they shall be refused service; as such, they will wage war and emerge victorious, and will be offered that which they desired in the first place, but they will refuse to accept it, until a man from my family (Ahlul-Bayt) appears to fill the Earth with justice as it has been filled with corruption. So whoever reaches that (time) ought to come to them even if crawling on the ice/snow."

More on The Mahdi

Let it be known that it is a narrated event among the people of Islam throughout the ages that there must appear a man at the end of time from the family of the Prophet, who will strengthen Islam and spread justice; Muslims will follow him and he will gain domination over Muslim realm. He will be called al-Mahdi.

Ibn Khaldoon, al- Muqadimah, 1967, pp. 257-258

More on The Mahdi

The memorizers (Hafiz) and scholars of Hadith have verified that there are authentic (sahih) and acceptable (hasan) reports among the traditions related to al-Mahdi. The majority of these traditions are related through numerous authorities (Mutawatir). There is no doubt that the status of those reports are Sahih and Mutawatir. (They have also verified) that the belief in Mahdi is obligatory, and that it is one of the beliefs of Ahl al-Sunnah wal Jama'a. Only those ignorant of the Sunnah and innovators in doctrine deny it.

Fatwa Issued in Mecca by the Muslim World League (Rabitatul `Alamul Islami) on Oct. 11, 1976

What's up With Iran?

- Iran is majority Shia
- Believe Mahdi is 12th Rightly Guided Imam
 - Alive but “hidden”
 - Emergence will be “hastened” when escalating chaos and violence escalate
- Elimination of the state of Israel remains primary policy goal
- Fund & support both Hezbollah (Shia in Lebanon), Hamas (Sunni in “Palestine”), and Huthi (Sunni tribes in Yemen)



Challenges to Witnessing

- Specific Islamic doctrines “immunize” against the Gospel
 - Characterization of Christ
 - Specific Denial of the Trinity
 - Vastly different ideas about sin, salvation, & heaven
 - Taught that Christians & Jews corrupted scripture
 - Taught that they are the true monotheists and heirs to Abraham’s faith

Challenges to Witnessing

They say: 'Become Jews or Christians if ye would be guided (to salvation).' Say thou: 'Nay! (I would rather) the Religion of Abraham the True, and he joined not gods with Allah.' Say ye: 'We believe in Allah, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to (all) prophets from their Lord: We make no difference between one and another of them: And we submit to Allah.'

Surah 2:135-136

Challenges to Witnessing

O ye who believe! Obey Allah, and obey the Messenger, and those charged with authority among you. If ye differ in anything among yourselves, refer it to Allah and His Messenger, if ye do believe in Allah and the Last Day: That is best, and most suitable for final determination.

Surah 4:59

He who obeys the Messenger, obeys Allah. But if any turn away, We have not sent thee to watch over them.

Surah 4:80

Challenges to Witnessing

Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the Religion of Truth, from among the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.

Surah 9:29

Those who leave their homes in the Cause of Allah, and are then slain or die,- on them will Allah bestow verily a goodly Provision. Truly Allah is He Who bestows the best provision. Verily He will admit them to a place with which they shall be well pleased: for Allah is All-Knowing, Most Forbearing.

Surah 22:58-59

How to respond?

- Prayer
 - For Muslims who have been deceived
 - For world leaders to have wisdom
 - “Lord Jesus, come quickly!”



How to respond?

- Outreach
 - All people need Jesus
 - Many Muslims seeing Jesus in dreams
 - Be aware of Islamic ideas about God faith, Jesus, deception, etc.
 - Be prepared for a lengthy, relational process



Resources

- <https://www.answering-islam.org/>
- <https://www.answering-islam.org/Index/>
- <https://joelstrumpet.com/resources/>
- Books:
 - Why We Left Islam by Susan Crimp & Joel Richardson
 - Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity by Nabeel Qureshi

Questions & Discussion

