

The Middle East In Prophecy
Wednesday March 18, 2015
Part Thirteen

THE CALL OF MOHAMMED / Part Two
The Origin of Islam and Its Beliefs

1 The spread of Islam around the world is startling to a follower of Jesus Christ. Why?
2 What is the allure of this creed? Last week, with the assistance of the local Imam we
3 discussed some of the beliefs of Muslims. Tonight we take a little harder look, lest there
4 be any misconception.

5
6 Basically there are six articles of faith to which a Muslim subscribes. They are:

- 7
- 8 1. God
- 9 2. The angels of God
- 10 3. The books of God
- 11 4. The prophets of God
- 12 5. The day of resurrection and judgment
- 13 6. The predestination to do good and evil
- 14

15 Let's take a brief look at each of these articles:

16
17 **GOD**

18
19 There are seven things the Muslim believes concerning God. These seven are not unlike
20 principles that the Christian believes. **IT IS ACCESS TO GOD WHERE THE GREAT**
21 **CHASMS OF DIFFERENCE BEGIN TO APPEAR.**

- 22
- 23 ■ The Muslims believe that God is eternal, that He had neither a beginning nor
24 ending.
- 25
- 26 ■ They know of God's omniscience--or all-knowing mind. They believe God knows
27 all things - visible or invisible, past or future. God never forgets, is never
28 negligent, and never makes an error.
- 29

30 Christians believe that God can forget by an act of His own will and mind. What does
31 He forget? Our sins. How do we know that?

32
33 There are several passages in the Bible that indicate God forgives and **FORGETS** our sin.

1 Isaiah 43:25

2 **I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will**
3 **not remember thy sins.**

4 Hebrews 10:14-18

5 **For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. [15]**
6 **Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, [16]**
7 **This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I**
8 **will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; [17] And**
9 **their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. [18] Now where remission of these**
10 **is, there is no more offering for sin.**

11
12 By an act of His will, God CHOOSES not to remember something in our lives. The
13 blood of Jesus Christ blots out our sin from the books of our works. Psalm 103:12 **As**
14 **far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.**
15 Think of traveling around the globe. When does one stop going east and start going
16 west? It's impossible to say. When we are saved, our sins are completely forgiven.
17 Romans 8:31-39 **What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can**
18 **be against us? [32] He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all,**
19 **how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? [33] Who shall lay any thing**
20 **to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. [34] Who is he that**
21 **condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the**
22 **right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. [35] Who shall separate us**
23 **from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or**
24 **nakedness, or peril, or sword? [36] As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the**
25 **day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. [37] Nay, in all these things**
26 **we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. [38] For I am persuaded,**
27 **that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things**
28 **present, nor things to come, [39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall**
29 **be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

30
31 Even as followers of Christ, when we sin, God continues to manifest His relationship
32 with us. But that's a conditional promise, isn't it? 1 John 1:9 **If we confess our sins,**
33 **he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all**
34 **unrighteousness.**

- 35
- 36 ■ The Muslims also believe in God's omnipotence, His power. There is nothing
37 that He (whom they call Allah) cannot do.
 - 38
 - 39 ■ They believe in the personality of God in that He has a will. He can do anything
40 He wishes. Good and evil exist by His will. Here now is an area of great

1 difference between a Christian and a Muslim: THE MUSLIM BELIEVES THAT
2 IF A PERSON IS PIOUS IT IS BECAUSE OF THE WILL OF ALLAH. IF A
3 PERSON IS AN UNBELIEVER, THIS, TOO IS THE WILL OF GOD. BY
4 WAY OF CONTRAST, CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT GOD "FOREKNOWS"
5 THE FUTURE OF EVERY MAN, BUT LEAVES THE DECISION-MAKING
6 TO THE INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED. According to basic Christian theology,
7 God does not violate the will of man.

- 8
- 9 ■ The Muslim believes that God hears everything. We do, too.
- 10
- 11 ■ The Muslim believes God sees everything. He can even see "a black cat on a
12 black stone at midnight."
- 13
- 14 ■ The Muslim believes that God speaks to mankind. So do Christians.
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16 A Muslim is passionate in his fervor that there is only one God. The Muslim creed
17 declares, "There is no God but God." Perhaps nothing violates the Muslim belief more
18 than advocating "other gods." And the disciple of Mohammed does not believe anyone
19 or anything is greater than God. *Allahu Akabar* is an Arabic expression meaning, "God
20 is greatest."

21

22 Now you may be thinking, "Well, there are some real similarities between Islam and
23 Christianity. At this point the similarities begin to break down quickly.

24

25 Christians believe that God has revealed Himself to us through Jesus Christ and the
26 Scripture, the Bible. Muslims say God's message is given to man through the Koran.
27 And the Koran teaches that God is "unknowable" - that no revelation from any source
28 could reveal God as He truly is. But the Christians believe that God revealed Himself
29 through Jesus Christ. John 14:7-8 **If ye had known me, ye should have known my
30 Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. [8] Philip saith
31 unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. [9] Jesus saith unto him,
32 Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that
33 hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?**

ANGELS

34

35

36

37 Muslims believe that God originated angels from light, while He made man from clay and
38 Satan from fire. And while Mohammed's disciples give stature to angels, they believe
39 these beings are inferior to human prophets of Allah. Five angels in particular are
40 included in their belief:

- 1 * Gabriel, the angel of revelation
- 2 * Michael, the patron of the Israelites
- 3 * Israfil, who will sound the final trumpet
- 4 * The angel of death
- 5 * Malik, who is in charge of Hell

6 While Christians believe that Christ is our Advocate with the Father, Muslims give that
7 place to angels and believe that each person has two angels watching and recording
8 everything he or she does - both good and evil.

9
10 Here is the Bible fact: 1 Tim. 2:5 **For there is one God, and one mediator between**
11 **God and men, the man Christ Jesus...** There is no "saint" or even the earthly mother
12 of Jesus who pleads our case before God....only Jesus Himself. Prayer to anyone else is
13 an utter waste of breath.

14 15 THE SACRED BOOKS

16 Muslims believe there are 104 sacred books God gave to mankind; however, 100 of them
17 have been lost to antiquity. The four still in existence, Muslims declare, are the books of
18 Moses (Torah), the Psalms of David, the gospels of Christ and the Koran given by Allah
19 to Mohammed.

20
21
22 *It is critical for Christians to realize that Muslims claim that we have altered the books in*
23 *the Bible. By this they are attempting to justify the statements in the Koran that differ*
24 *from the Bible. They say the Koran corrects previous mistakes in Revelation because it*
25 *was revealed last (Koran 16:63, 64). "Certainly we sent messengers to nations before*
26 *thee ... and we have not revealed to thee the book except that mayest make clear to themm*
27 *about which they differ."*

28 DAVID IRWIN / WHAT CHRISTIANS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MUSLIMS / GPH
29

30 PROPHEETS

31 Prophets are divided into two classes in Islam. The first category, *NAVI*, means anyone
32 inspired by God. The second classification is *RASUL*, which includes those to whom a
33 special message has been entrusted. Muslims put Jesus in the "prophet only" category –
34 not as the Son of God. They say Mohammed taught that there were 124,000 total
35 prophets given by God to man. Only 9 of those were "possessors of power" – and they
36 were Noah, Abraham, David, Jacob, Joseph, Job, Moses, Jesus and Mohammed. As you
37 can readily tell, the differences between Christianity and Islam are truly vast.
38

THE DAY OF JUDGMENT AND RESURRECTION

Muslims believe that our advocate - our intercessor - on judgment day will be Mohammed and not Jesus.

Preceding the Day of Judgment there will be three blasts of the trumpet blown by the angel Israfil. When the first sound is heard, all creation will be struck with stark terror. When Israfil blows his horn again, all creatures will die. The third trumpet blast will take place 40 years later. Then all will be raised for judgment – mankind and animals.

As creation assembles for the final judgment, angels will keep them waiting 40 years and then God will appear before everyone. The judgment will take a thousand years. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus will be asked to intercede for mankind, but all will decline, according to Islam – each feeling unworthy. Contrast this with the fourth chapter of Revelation when redeemed humanity stands before the throne of God and before our Lord (chapter 5) and sing passionately, “Thou art worthy! Thou art worthy!”

Muslims believe the only advocate who will be deemed worthy for mankind on the day of judgment will be Mohammed. The deeds of each person will be placed on a scale – good verses evil. If the evil outweighs the good, the soul will be cast into hell. And contrariwise the soul will enter heaven if the good outweighs the bad. This teaching violates the basic Christian principle of Calvary and salvation through Jesus’ death on the cross - and certainly not on our works. Rewards will be based on works (I Timothy 3) but not salvation. Now compare the above paragraphs on this page with God’s Word:

Rev. 4:1-11

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. [2] And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. [3] And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. [4] And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. [5] And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. [6] And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. [7] And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast

1 like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a
2 flying eagle. [8] And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they
3 were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy,
4 Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. [9] And when those beasts
5 give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever
6 and ever, [10] The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the
7 throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before
8 the throne, saying, [11] Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and
9 power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were
10 created.

11 Rev. 5:1-14

12 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within
13 and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. [2] And I saw a strong angel
14 proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the
15 seals thereof? [3] And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was
16 able to open the book, neither to look thereon. [4] And I wept much, because no man
17 was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. [5] And one
18 of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root
19 of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. [6]
20 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the
21 midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven
22 eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. [7] And he came
23 and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. [8] And
24 when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down
25 before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours,
26 which are the prayers of saints. [9] And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art
27 worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast
28 redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and
29 nation; [10] And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on
30 the earth. [11] And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the
31 throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand
32 times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; [12] Saying with a loud voice,
33 Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and
34 strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. [13] And every creature which is in
35 heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all
36 that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be
37 unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. [14]
38 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and
39 worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

1 Mohammed came along over 600 years following this revelation from Christ Himself to
2 His beloved Apostle John - and wrote his own version, differing at almost every point
3 from Christ's version. You choose which one you accept.
4

5 PREDESTINATION

6
7
8 According to Islam, God decrees everything that happens, good or evil. Man is nothing
9 more than a marionette on a celestial string and is not responsible for his actions. All
10 logic breaks down at this point, FOR IF GOD DECLARES THAT A MAN WILL BE
11 EVIL AND THEN JUDGES HIM FOR BEING EVIL, HE CANNOT TRULY BE
12 CALLED A JUST GOD.
13

14 Christianity teaches that man is responsible for all his own actions – even though God, in
15 His omniscience, knows in advance what a person will do. But even if that person sins,
16 he has an advocate in Jesus Christ, given because God so loved the world! What
17 enormous chasms of difference exist in the revelation given us by the Holy Spirit and the
18 ‘revelation’ given the world by Mohammed.
19

20 WHAT THE MUSLIM BELIEVES ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN

21
22 The Muslim is convinced that Christianity has distorted Scriptures in order to hinder the
23 teaching of Mohammed. As already mentioned, the Muslim thought is that Christians
24 have changed God's revelation so thoroughly that only Mohammed could adequately
25 straighten it out.
26

27 Followers of Islam are convinced that Christianity has three gods: God, Jesus and Mary.
28 And the Muslim creed categorically rejects Christ as the Son of God.
29

30 “CHRIST DID NOT DIE ON THE CROSS!” – MOHAMMED

31
32 Yes, we discussed this point briefly last week, but it so vital that I want to emphasize it
33 again this week. Perhaps the most startling of all is the Muslim concept that it was not
34 Jesus at all Who died, but rather someone who took His place - perhaps Judas, they say,
35 or even Simon of Cyrene. The Koran states emphatically: *They did not slay him,*
36 *neither crucified him, only a likeness of that was shown to them.*” TALK ABOUT

1 HISTORICAL REVISIONISM!!!! According to Mohammed, somewhere between
2 Gethsemane and Golgotha, God spirited Jesus off the planet and made it appear that He
3 appeared on the cross by using a substitute. Thus, to the world of Islam, Christ is no
4 Savior at all – only a prophet who was rescued at the last possible moment.

6 **SIN**

7
8 What the Bible teaches as sin and what the Koran teaches as sin are as different as east
9 and west. A Muslim believes that sin is failure to live up to the five pillars of Islam.
10 They are:

- 11
12 1) The Creed: There is no God but God and Mohammed is the apostle of God. This is
13 repeated in each prayer.
- 14
15 2) Ritual prayer five times a day - at dawn, just past midday, 2 hours before sunset, just
16 after sunset and 2 hours following sunset. Before praying, the Muslim will remove his
17 shoes, wash his hands and feet and part of his face and turn to Mecca, no matter where he
18 is. I have watched Muslims do this even on jet airplanes, 35,000 feet above the ocean. It
19 is remarkable to behold.
- 20
21 3) Almsgiving. The Muslim “tithe” is 2 ½ percent of the gross income. It is called
22 the “zakat.”
- 23
24 4) Fasting. There are several special fasts, chiefest of which is RAMADAN, during the
25 ninth month of the Muslim calendar. The belief of Ramadan is that during this time the
26 gates of hell are shut while the gates of paradise are opened. All who keep the fast will
27 be pardoned of their excusable sins.
- 28
29 Note how much of Islam is based on human works.
- 30
31 5) The Pilgrimage. This means a trip to Mecca, the birthplace of Mohammed. This
32 must be made by every Muslim once in his life if at all possible.

33
34 David Irwin reminds us that there is a SIXTH PILLAR as well for many Muslims which
35 is called:

36 37 THE JIHAD

38
39 This word means “holy war.” People against whom the Jihad is directed are invited to
40 accept Islam. Those who do so will be given the full citizenship rights of the Muslim

1 country. Those who refuse will be made to pay additional taxes. If they do not embrace
2 Islam or pay the tax, they may have all their wealth and property taken from them, and
3 they and their families become indentured or slaves. Muslims to die fighting in a holy
4 war are assured of paradise and special privileges there. And the taking of lives of those
5 who disagree is certainly within the purview of radical Muslims. After all, virgins await
6 them in heaven!!

7
8 The Christian believes that nothing can wash away our sin but the precious blood of
9 Jesus. Certainly not a jihad. In Isaiah 1:18, God call calls on us to “reason with Him.”
10 There is precious little that is reasonable about rabid Islam.

11
12 So sin to a Muslim is failure to observe the “pillars” of the faith. It has little or nothing
13 to do with the moral laws of God or biblical concepts of transgression. Scriptures make
14 it clear that every person is a sinner and only Jesus can bridge the gap between us and a
15 holy God. The Muslim puts his faith in the intercession of Mohammed alone. We can
16 see what it is difficult to make inroads to Islam by Christians. But the Holy Spirit is not
17 daunted by any of these factors, and outreach among Muslims is possible.

18
19
20 I regret I cannot be here next Wednesday night as I am finishing our Executive Presbytery
21 meetings in Springfield, Missouri. Our next study will be Wednesday night, April 1 (no
22 April’s fool joke). The theme will be:

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24 THE RAPTURE
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