

IS ALLAH THE GOD OF THE BIBLE?

Philippians 3:8-11

INTRODUCTION: We have all learned some new vocabulary in America: words such as Islam, Mohammad, Allah, Jihad, Taliban and Al Qaeda. Yes, the religion of Islam is front page news today. The killing of infidels is clearly taught in the Koran. Today most people in our nation believe that all religions are pretty much the same. They believe that religions may have different names for God but they are all the same God. So, what are the real differences between the Moslem faith and the Christian faith?

I. MOSLIMS ARE SINCERE AND DEVOUT BUT THAT IS NOT ENOUGH!

Muslims are generally among the most serious and devout people on the earth. Many of them have completely memorized the Koran. They pray at least five times a day. They fast for one month every year (during Ramadan, from sunrise to sunset. But for the Muslim, salvation is something that must be earned, it is not graciously given by Allah. Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world today. There are over 1.2 billion Muslims in the world. Islam like Judaism traces its lineage to the patriarch Abraham. The Arabs however take their lineage from Ishmael; the Jews from Isaac. The word "Islam" means "submission."

II. IT IS GOOD TO BELIEVE IN GOD, BUT THAT IS NOT ENOUGH!

True Christianity worships the eternally self-existent God who spoke the world into being. Islam worships a god named Allah who is not eternal and who created nothing. Many today believe "As long as I believe in God I am all set." The Bible speaks to this: James 2:19. Acknowledging the existence of a god is not the same as trusting in the God of the Bible for salvation. Before Islam began, the moon god was the central focus of prayer and worship at Kabah.

III. WE ARE NOT TRYING TO APPEASE AN ANGRY GOD; WE ARE LEARNING HOW TO FALL IN LOVE WITH OUR CREATOR, REDEEMER AND FRIEND!

In the Koran there were no miracles performed by Mohammed or anyone else. There is also not one mention of the love of Allah for the world or the people in it. There is no mention of a personal relationship with Allah in the Koran. Christianity is about all those things: Philippians 3:8-11.

IV. IT IS A GOOD THING TO BELIEVE IN JESUS BUT IT IS WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS THAT IS MOST IMPORTANT!

The greatest tension between Christians and Muslims is the difference between Muhammad and Jesus Christ. To Muslims, Jesus was a prophet but not the Son of God. Jesus said He is the only way to eternal life with the Father: John 14:6-7; Acts 4:8-12. Muhammad was given a revelation from the angel Gabriel that culminated in the Qur'an, the Islamic bible.

V. TRUE CHRISTIANITY IS SPREAD BY LOVE AND CHOICE—ISLAM IS SPREAD BY THE SWORD AND FORCE!

Not only are Muslims willing to die for their faith, they are willing to kill others to force them to faith. There is one sure way for a Muslim to gain eternal life and that is to be martyred for the faith. The principle of Jihad or "holy war" is taught in the Koran as a viable tool for the cause of Islam. Jesus taught us to love sinners, but Islam teaches to kill the infidels if they refuse to convert. In the Muslim faith except for martyrdom, there is no way to know if you have eternal life. In the Christian faith we are told we can know now we have eternal life: John 5:9-13.