

**CHRISTIANITY & ISLAM
COMPARISON
(Session 8)**

JESUS CHRIST & MOHAMMED	
<p>Jesus existed before the creation of the world, and all things were created by Him and are sustained through Him (John 1:1; Colossians 1:17). His entire life was prophesied in advance – beginning with His “virgin birth” (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23)</p>	<p>There were no prophecies ever given concerning Mohammed’s birth, life or ministry. And while Mohammed greatly respected Jesus, he ultimately saw him as just another “created being” from the dust, like Adam (Surah 3:59). Therefore, Jesus was no more than a worshiper of Allah (Surah 19:30) and a great prophet (Surah 4:171)</p>
<p>Jesus clearly professed to be “God in the flesh” – and as such was both the “Son of God” and “God the Son” (John 1:14; Mark 2:10; John 8:24; 8:58; Colossians 2:9);</p>	<p>Professed to be only a man, but also the “Seal of the prophets”</p>
<p>Jesus was called and commissioned by God the Father to ministry in the full light of day – in the public setting of His baptism;(Matthew 3:17; John 5:19)</p>	<p>Said he was called and commissioned by the angel, Gabriel – in the isolation and darkness of a cave</p>
<p>Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted for 40 days and began His ministry with boldness and authority (Mark 1:14-15)</p>	<p>After his call in the cave, Mohammed cowered in uncertainty, feared he was demon possessed, wanted to commit suicide – and ultimately looked to his wife for confirmation and affirmation of his calling from Allah (Surah 74:1-5)</p>
<p>For about 3 years Jesus traveled around only “doing good” for people through His profound teachings, many miracles, healings and exorcisms (Acts 2:22; 10:38);</p>	<p>Mohammed taught for more than 20 years, but never performed any miracles, healings or exorcisms. The only miracle attributed to him is receiving the Quran. Though the Koran speaks of Jesus more than 25 times, it records NONE of his sermons or parables, and only portrays Jesus as a faithful Muslim who believed in Allah (Surah 3:52)</p>
<p>Jesus fulfilled all biblical prophecies about the coming of the promised Messiah (Luke 24:26-27; 44)</p>	<p>Mohammed did not fulfill any prophecies in his birth, life or death. The only prophecies he fulfilled were the ones about the advent of “false prophets” that would arise and deceive many (Matthew 24:24)</p>
<p>Jesus lived a <i>perfect</i> and <i>sinless life</i> (John 8:48; II Corinthians 8:9; I Pet. 2:22)</p>	<p>Mohammed confessed that he was a sinner like every other human being (Surah 18:110; 40:55; 48:1-2)</p>
<p>Jesus professed to “know the hearts and minds of people,” something only God can know – thus again proclaiming deity, or equality with God (Mark 2:8; Luke 5:22; 16:15;</p>	<p>Mohammed to possess no such knowledge (Surah 11:31)</p>

JESUS CHRIST & MOHAMMED	
24:38; Acts 1:24; Revelation 2:23)	
Jesus never abused people or owned slaves	Mohammed owned slaves, like his contemporaries
Jesus spoke well of women and elevated their status in society – and many women followed and supported Him as His disciples (Luke 8:1-3). He also never married, but lived a celibate life before God and man	Mohammed reflected many of the ideas of his day about women and said that they were half as smart as men (Hadith 3:826; 2:541); that the majority of people in hell would be women (Hadith 1:28; 301; 2:161; 7:124). He also said that women could be beaten if they did not fully obey their husbands – even though at last resort (Surah 4:34). He also married at least <i>13 wives – one at the age of 9; and took 2 other concubines</i>. Thus Islam teaches that a man can have up to 4 wives. Is it any wonder then that the religion of Islam has become synonymous in history with the repression and subjugation of women
Jesus had the power to take life, but he never did. He only restored life to people – and gave them the “abundant life” (John 10:10). And no one ever died in Jesus’ presence. Also, He forbade the use of the sword to protect or save Him (Matthew 26:52). On the contrary, <i>He voluntarily gave up His life for others</i> – which He said was the reason for His coming (Luke 19:10; John 10:15-18; Matthew 26:53). And He taught that we should “love our enemies” and “do good for them” – and not kill them (Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27-36)	Mohammed largely gained his political power as a “warrior prophet” – and he took many lives in the process. As a result, many people died in his presence – and many times he took lives to save his own. He also urged the use of the sword in his behalf for Allah, and definitely commanded <i>jihad</i> or “holy war” against his enemies – especially against Christians and Jews, the “People of the Book” (Surah 4:7:4; 9:5; 8:65; 61:4)
At 33 Jesus was crucified, dead, buried, resurrected and ascended into heaven for man’s salvation (Romans 3:25; I Corinthians 2:2; Ephesians 1:7; I John 2:2;4:10)	At age 62 Mohammed died, was buried in Mecca – and has remained dead ever since. And contrary to what the Bible teaches, Mohammed believed and taught that Jesus was never crucified on the cross (Surah 4:157). So the Koran teaches that Jesus was “born peaceably”...“died peaceably”...and will one day “return peaceably” (Surah 19:33)
The Bible teaches the “Second Coming” of Christ in power and authority to judge the world (Matthew 16:27; 25:31-39; Acts. 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; I Timothy 6:14; Titus 2:13)	Mohammed also taught that Jesus would come again to this earth – but with great differences from what the Bible teaches. He taught when Jesus returned He would <i>judge the Antichrist, defeat him, confess Islam, kill all pigs, break all crosses and establish 1,000 years of righteousness</i>. After that he would die and be buried beside the prophet Mohammed

JEHOVAH & ALLAH	
There is the only One true and eternal God, and His Name is <i>Jehovah</i> . He is the <i>Creator and Sustainer</i> of the universe. While He is One, He is also <i>triune</i> in nature: One God eternally existing as 3 Persons: Father, Son & Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 12:14)	There is only one god, and his name is <i>Allah</i> . He is the <i>creator</i> of the universe (Surah 3:191) and totally <i>sovereign</i> over all (Surah 6:61-62). <i>Allah is one</i> , strictly a <i>unity</i> . So in Islam the concept of the trinity – which Mohammed distorted to be the ‘Father, Mary & Jesus’ – is heresy and blasphemy (Surah 5:73)
God is <i>eternal</i> and <i>changeless</i> (Malachi 3:6; Ja. 1:17), and <i>never lies</i> (Titus 1:2)	Allah changes his mind and his word in the Koran (Surah 2:106), and oftentimes deceives men (Surah 8:30)
Jehovah is both <i>transcendent</i> (I K. 8:27-30; Ps. 115:16; Isaiah 66:1; Ephesians 4:10) and <i>immanent</i> (Matthew 1:23; John 1:14), and reveals Himself through <i>His creation, His word</i> – and supremely through <i>His Son</i> (Gen. 1 – 2; II Timothy 3:15; II Pet. 2:20)	He taught that Allah was totally <i>transcendent</i> and utterly unknowable; Allah only revealed his will “through a veil” and not himself (Surah 42:51)
Jehovah has revealed Himself as a <i>loving God</i> of <i>mercy</i> and <i>grace</i> . And unlike the gods of any other world religion, only the God of the Bible is a “Suffering God” who took our place of condemnation and death on the cross (Deut. 4:37; 7:7; John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 1:3; I John 4:8, etc). As a result, ONLY Jesus reveals that the true God of the universe is one Who becomes “Abba Father” to His children (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5-6)	Allah’s love is very capricious and erratic (Surah 32:13); and offers only the relationship of a <i>slave to a master</i> – and never a <i>son to a father</i> . Therefore, none of the “99 Beautiful Names of Allah” refer to him as “Love” or “Father.”
The true and living God became <i>incarnate</i> as a man in Christ Jesus (John 1:14), thereby revealing His heart (John 14:9)	The concept of the <i>incarnation</i> is totally foreign and anathema to Islam. Allah is neither <i>immanent</i> or <i>intimate</i> – but utterly <i>transcendent</i>

MAN & SALVATION	
The Bible reveals that man – both “male and female” – was created “in the image of God” (Gen. 1:26). However, he became a <i>fallen, sinful creature</i> through his <i>disobedience</i> and <i>rebellion</i> against God. As a result, every	The Koran teaches that man is not born into a state of fallenness and sinfulness, and sin only comes through wrong word and deed. So if man is not a sinner, he does not need a Savior. Therefore, the “Good News” of the Bible is exchanged for the “Good Deeds” of Islam

MAN & SALVATION	
<p>person is a “born sinner” (Ps. 51:5; Romans 5:12) who is “dead in his trespasses and sin” (Romans 3:23; 5:12; Ephesians 1:1-2)</p>	
<p>Since there are no works that can save a sinful man before a holy God (Isaiah 64:6), God has offered <i>salvation</i> as a <i>free gift</i> of His <i>grace</i> through our <i>faith in Christ alone</i> (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:24-26; 10:13; Ephesians 2:8-9; I Timothy 2:5). And salvation can never be forced or coerced upon anyone (Matthew 11:28-30)</p>	<p>The Koran teaches “salvation by works” (Surah 11:114), and that the angels are recording all of the “good deeds” and “bad deeds” that will one day be weighed in the “Scales of Justice” at the final Judgment (Surah 21:47). However, in the end, Allah offers forgiveness and <i>salvation to those whom he pleases</i> and <i>damns and punishes whom he pleases</i> (Surah 2:284). But between now and Judgment Day, Allah’s followers are to force conversion through any means possible. And while Mohammed gave lip service to “freedom of religion” – history proves that neither he, nor Islam has ever seriously practiced it. Suppression of all other religions but Islam is the norm in every country where the followers of Mohammed are the majority (Surah 2:193; 9:29)</p>
<p>The Bible gives the Christian absolute <i>certainty of salvation</i> and <i>eternal life</i> (John 10:37-39; 10:28; Romans 5:1; 8:1)</p>	<p>In Islam the only certainty of salvation and Paradise is for those who die in Jihad (Surah 3:157; 4:57)</p>

HEAVEN & HELL	
<p>The Bible teaches that there is a certain “Judgment Day” coming that will occur after the resurrections of the <i>just</i> and <i>unjust...the righteous</i> and <i>unrighteous</i> – or <i>Believers</i> and <i>unbelievers</i> (Matthew 25:46; Luke 14:14; John 5:28-29; John 12:48; Revelation 21:11-15) – and each person will be judged on the basis of what they believed/decided about Christ. But the person who has accepted Christ has the assurance that they have “have eternal life” and have “passed from death unto life” through their faith in Christ (John 5:24)</p>	<p>Islam also teaches that the “Judgment Day” will come on the day of resurrection – and people will be judged on the basis of their deeds (Surah 5:9; 8:29; 42:26). But there is NO certainty for the Muslim whether or not they will be justified or condemned</p>
<p>The Bible assures us that <i>heaven</i> will be the <i>immediate eternal abode</i> of all who</p>	<p>Islam also teaches that hell is a literal place of eternal punishment and torment</p>

HEAVEN & HELL	
die in Christ (John 12:26; 14:2; 17:24; Phil. 1:21-24; I Corinthians 15:50; II Corinthians 5:8-9); and that no believer will ever be sent to hell – because it was created by God for the “devil and his angels” (Matthew 24:41-46). However, there is an <i>eternal hell</i> for everyone who rejects Christ (Matthew 25:46)	in fire for those whose works were not sufficient for salvation (Surah 14:17; 25:65; 39:26; 104:7-7; 3:131; 17:17; 25:65; 1-4:6-7)
The Bible teaches that Heaven is a place of <i>eternal bliss</i> with the Triune God for all eternity (Matthew 19:14; II Corinthians 5:1; Phil. 3:20; Ps. 16:11) where the righteous will be <i>rewarded</i> (Matthew 5:12; 19:21; I Pet. 1:4)	The Koran teaches that there is a “Paradise” for those whom Allah saves that is a place of <i>temporal pleasure</i> of “wine, women and song” – especially for those who die in jihad (Surah 3:195) and are thereby guaranteed immediate access to Paradise (Hadith 9:93:549; 9:91:555)

CONCLUSIONS

Question: “Is Islam an ‘evil and wicked religion’ as some have boldly proclaimed? Or is it a good and peaceful religion that has been recently high-jacked by fanatical fundamentalists who do not really represent true Islam?”

That is the question that the modern world will have to continue to grapple with for years to come;

And the answer to that question will largely determine who wins the current “War of Terrorism”;

As I said at the beginning of these lectures: “The only threat to Islam is Christianity, and the only threat to Christianity is Islam. That’s why they are on an inevitable collision course – that will largely determine whether we are pushed back into the “Dark Ages” or continue to live in the Twenty First Century”;

I believe that this growing mentality in America that “Islam is a Peaceable Religion” is part of that “great delusion” that the Bible warns about that will be increasingly characteristic of the “Last Days” (Matthew 14:4-5; II Thessalonians 2:11);

Another reason for an inevitable collision course between Islam and the rest of the world – to say nothing of its conflict with Christianity, is the *issue of modernity*. Islam by its very nature does not adjust well to modernity because it is largely “backward looking” as a religion that has a worldview that is paralyzed

in the mentality of the Arabian peninsula of the 6th and 7th Century – rather than a “forward looking” faith.

Islam by its very nature is more “past oriented” than “future oriented.”

Therefore, when you see your “Golden Age” and “Glory Days” in the past rather than in the future – you will always be shackled to the past;

You will want “turn back the clock” and make the present and future like the past – which is historic schizophrenia!

As Christians then, we say of the Muslims of our day what Paul said of the Jews of his day: **“I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge”** (Romans 10:2).

All the zeal in the world cannot save us if it is *misguided* and *misplaced* zeal;

So while we *admire their zeal* – we grieve over their *lack of knowledge*;

While **“knowledge without zeal”** is *dead orthodoxy*, **“zeal without knowledge”** is *deadly fanaticism*;

Therefore, we have to “speak the truth in love” as the Bible commands us to do and warn our Muslim friends that they have been deceived by the one who **“masquerades as an angel of light”** (II Corinthians 11:13);

From the Biblical point of view, we have absolutely no doubt that an angel did appear to Mohammed. However, it was not the true archangel Gabriel, or he would have given him true revelation about Jesus that he gave to both Joseph and Mary when he announced the virgin birth of the Christ Child (Matthew 1:20-23; Luke 1:26-38);

So we would have to boldly declare with Paul what he wrote to the Galatians concerning false angelic appearances:

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the One who called you by the *grace of Christ* and are turning to a *different gospel* – which is really *no gospel at all*. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to *pervert the gospel of Christ*. But even if we or an *angel from heaven* should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, *let him be eternally condemned!* As we have already said, so now I say again: *If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!*” (Galatians 1:6-9)

And as we have said throughout this study, the cardinal question is always **Christology**: “What think you of Christ?”

Was He just a great teacher?
A great moral Example?
A wise Philosopher?
A great Prophet? (As Islam believes)
Or was He “God incarnate?”

The entire witness of the Bible is clear on this: Jesus was “**fully God**” while being “**fully man.**”

He alone is the **Theoanthropic Person** of history – the “**God-Man**”

He was “God-in-human-flesh” – the great MYSTERY and MIRACLE of the *Incarnation*

And to deny that is not only **bad theology** – it will result in both temporal and eternal separation from God!

“Who is the liar? It is the man (Mohammed) who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist – he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also” (1 John 2:22-23).

“Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world” (1 John 4:2-3);

We can only pray then, that the living Christ will continue to *sovereignly* and *supernaturally* reveal Himself to millions of Muslims the world over so they will come to true saving faith through Him;

We pray that Muslims would not continue to follow Allah who “hides himself from them from behind a veil” – but rather believe in the true God who sent His Only Begotten Son to be the “spiritual veil” whose flesh was rent on the cross so that He could open that “new and living way” into the Father’s presence (Hebrews 10:19-20);

And while we are thankful that our Muslim friends look to “Father Abraham” like both Jews and Christians do – we follow the true Jesus who boldly proclaimed: “*Before Abraham was, ‘I Am’*” (John 8:58).

And we would also pray that the veil would be lifted from their eyes to see that even Allah in the Koran calls Jesus superior in every way:

“I will make those who *follow thee* superior to those who reject faith, to the Day of Resurrection” (Surah 3:55);

We would also pray that the Muslims would come to believe about all people outside of Islam, what Mohammed said about Christians:

“Strongest among men in enmity to the Believers (Muslims) wilt thou find the Jews and Pagans; And nearest among them in love to the Believers wilt thou find those who say, ‘We are Christians.’ Because among these are men devoted to learning and men who have renounced the world, and they are not arrogant” (Surah 5:85);

And we would also pray for ourselves as Followers of Christ, that we would live up to Mohammed’s expectations of us as expressed in this Koranic verse!

Let me close this series with the words of John as he concluded His Gospel of Christ. After carefully recording many of Christ’s teachings, he documented ‘7 signs’ that proved beyond any shadow of a doubt that Jesus was the Messiah – the ONLY Savior of the world:

“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that *Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name*” (John 20:30-31).

AMEN!

APPENDIX I

ISLAMIC SECTS

Just as we would expect, there are a number of major divisions and sects within the “House of Islam.”

Therefore, Islam is not one large worldwide monolithic unified religious group. There are currently some 408 distinct ethno-linguistic groups of Muslims around the world. So very few Muslim countries are of just one ethnic group. Probably Bangladesh is the closest since it is composed of approximately 82% Bengalis.

Just like every major world religion is divided – whether Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism or Christianity – Islam has major divisions within it. As a result, in many countries, Islam is tearing the country apart along racial and religious grounds (Iran, Sudan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, etc).

And as we see constantly on the news, they do not all get along very well together – but fight with each other...blow up each other’s mosques...and vie for supreme power over each other.

Divisions:

1. **Sunni:** 85% - 90% of Muslims belong to the Sunni Tradition. Their name comes from *Sunna/Sunnah*, meaning “trodden path,” or “custom.” This was the living “oral tradition” which was some 7,000 sayings of Mohammed, and reputedly are a compilation of the “deeds and words of the prophet.” Thus, they are the *traditionalists* of Islam, following the “traditions of Mohammed.” They were passed on orally for 200 years before they were committed to writing. So these *Sunna*, or “written tradition,” fills in areas where the Koran is either silent or unclear. These “written traditions” from “oral tradition” are called the *Hadith*. This is similar to the Pharisees in Judaism who equated great spiritual authority to the “Traditions of the elders” (Matthew 15). And generally the Sunnis believe that there should be a separation of power between the political and religious.

2. **Shi’ite:** Comes from the word *Shia*, meaning “party” or “faction.” Known as the “Sect of Ali” and represent about 15% of Islam and are the second largest group. They largely reside in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and other Persian Gulf States. The *Shia* or “sect of ‘Ali,” broke off from the main body of Islam in the first century A.H. The dispute arose over the succession of leadership after Mohammed died. The Shi’ites favored Mohammed’s son-in-law and nephew “Ali.” So their locus of authority is a person, their *Iman*. They believed that the *Caliph* or successor should be divinely appointed and not elected by men. They also believe that the Imams are “divinely appointed” by Allah and are sent from Him from time to time when most needed. But in the 9th century, the twelfth Imam occulted, or became hidden, and the source of authority was passed on

to the *ulama*, a group of men who consider themselves collectively to be the representatives of the hidden Imam. So the Shi'ites await the return of their twelfth Imam, much like Christians await the return of Christ. So the Shia are more authority oriented and look to a charismatic leader, like the Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran, who was a Shi'ite leader. And unlike the Sunni, the Shia do not believe in a separation of civil and religious authority – but that both political and religious power should be in the hands of the religious leaders.

3. *Sufi*: They are the “mystical sect” of Islam whose goal is to renounce the world and become immersed in God. They are more *esoteric* and are characterized by *experience* and *ecstasy*. They are more oriented toward *love* than they are to *law*. They are characterized by religious music, poetry and dancing.

4. *Druze*: primarily in Lebanon, Syria and northern Israel.

5. *Wahhabi* or *Wahabi*: This is the *puritanical* and *legalistic* arm of that originated in Arabia by Islamic scholar, Mohammad ibn Abd al-Wahab (c. 1703 – 1791). He basically taught that all additions or accretions to Islam after the 3rd Century of the Muslim era, i.e., after c. 950, were spurious and must be expunged. It was a “reformation” or purification movement of the Sunni sect to restore Islam from what they believe to be incorrect innovations, superstitions, deviances heresies and idolatries within the religion. Their men dress simply with long beards and long robes. The Wahabi mosques are also simple and without minarets. This sect is strongly funded by the Saud tribe of Saudi Arabia.

6. *Folk Islam*: The Islam practiced in most countries is heavily influenced by local customs. In reality it is little more than *animism* and *spiritism* under the guise of Islam. These people are generally very superstitious and focused on angels, demons, jinn and Satan – whom they believe are all-encompassing. So their lives are preoccupied with the appeasement, containment and employment of these spirits to either keep away evil, or direct it to others. Therefore, “folk Islam” is very strong worldwide, but not in any systematic in belief or practice. They are very eclectic.

7. *Bahai*: A religion of *universalism* that basically embraces all religions as various means to reaching God, and it sprang from the Shiah branch of Islam.

8. *Ahmadiyyah*: The *Ahmadis* are named after their founder, *Mirza Ghulam Ahmad*, who at the end of the nineteenth century claimed he was a prophet of God sent to *purify* Islam. He claimed to be the reincarnation of both Jesus Christ, and the Hindu god, Krishna. They are specifically anti-Christian sect within Islam that also sprang from the Shiah branch of Islam, and are primarily concentrated in Pakistan. While they are small in number, they are very visible and influential everywhere in the Muslim world but the Middle East.

9. **Black Muslim:** An American brand of Islam started by Robert Poole (Elijah Mohammed), who was a Baptist preacher's son. This hybrid branch of Islam sprung up from the social and racial conflicts in America. Originally it was more of a *racial* and *political* movement rather than a religious one. It basically teaches that God is a black man and the white man is the devil. It is based upon a radical reinterpretation of the Bible and believes that the Battle of Armeggedon will be fought in America between the blacks and whites. Later Malcolm Little, who was a former prisoner who became known as *Malcolm X*, "purified" the Black Muslims and brought it closer to classical Islam after he made his first Hajj to Mecca.

10. **Secular Islam:** These are the Muslims who try to accommodate their Seventh Century faith to the Twenty First Century. Like many Christians, they basically compartmentalize their religious life from their secular life. They subjugate the *spiritual* to the *secular*.

11. **Islamic Fundamentalists:** These are the real zealots of Islam who are focused on a literal interpretation of *Shar'iah Law*. They are seeking to purify Islam from all of its other less fundamental branches and take Islam back to their Seventh Century roots. And these Islamic radicals are the ones who are most oriented toward physical and militaristic *jihad* in the name of Allah.

APPENDIX II

IMPORTANT ISLAMIC TERMS:

ISLAM = It is the *youngest* of the world's major religions. The word literally means "*submission*" or "*surrender*" and denotes the *religion* of Islam, like *Christianity* denotes the Christian Faith. This "submission to Allah" is the essence of Islam.

MUSLIM (Anglicized MOSLIM) = A *follower* of the Islamic religion, like a *Christian* is a follower of Jesus Christ. Note: They do not like to be called "*Mohammadans*" since they say they do not worship Mohammed, but Allah.

ISHMAELITES = All Moslems consider themselves to be the "Sons of Abraham" through Ishmael, rather than through Isaac;

MUHAMMED (Anglicized MOHAMMED) = The *Prophet* and founder of Islam (570 AD – 632 AD).

ALLAH = The Arabic word for the *god* of Islam. He is believed to be one, sovereign and transcendent.

SHIRK = The act of saying that Allah or god is more than one – which is considered blasphemy.

ALLAHU AKBAR = “*God is great!*” The prayer and war cry of Moslems.

QUR’AN (KORAN) = The Arabic word for “*recitation*” and denotes the Muslim *Holy Book* believed to have been revealed to Mohammed in a cave in Mt. Hira by the Angel, *Gabriel (Jabril)*. It is believed to be totally pure and uncorrupted.

TANZIL = Means the “sending down” of Allah’s revelation to Mohammed contained in the Koran;

JABRIL or GABRIEL = the angel who was used by Allah to reveal the Koran to Mohammed in the cave in Mt. Hira. Some other important Koranic terms:

SURA = The *chapter divisions* of the Koran.

JINN = Spirit beings like demons in the Bible. Some are good and some are bad. Satan and his demons are from this group – not fallen angels as the Bible teaches.

IBLIS or SHAYTAN = Satan in the Koran.

TAURRAT = The Koranic word for the Jewish Torah, or the Holy Books of Judaism.

ZABUR = The Psalms

INJIL = The Gospels

PROPHETS = Allah’s spokesmen throughout history. Muslims believe that there are over 100,000, but only 25 are mentioned in the Koran – beginning with Adam. Most are Old Testament patriarchs and prophets. 3 are from the New Testament: Zacharias, John the Baptist and Jesus. 2 are non-Biblical: Alexander the Great and Aesop, of “Aesop’s Fables.” When the name of any prophet is spoken, it is followed by: “...*peace be upon him.*”

MT. HIRA = The mountain where Mohammed received his revelations from Gabriel in a cave which became the Koran.

HADITH = The *Sayings* of the Prophet Mohammed.

THE 5 PILLARS OF ISLAM:

KALIMA or SHEHADA = The *creed* or “Declaration of Faith” of Islam: “*La ilaha illa Allah, Muhammadu Rasool Allah.*” Or in English: “*There is no God but God,*

and Mohammed is His Prophet.” This is all one has to recite with sincerity to become a Muslim.

SALAT = Prayer 5 times a day facing Mecca.

SAWM = Fasting during Ramadan.

ZAKAT = Alms giving to the poor (2 ½ of personal earnings).

HAJJ = Pilgrimage to Mecca

MOSQUE = A Muslim *place of worship*; similar to the synagogue for Jews and the church for Christians.

MADRASAH = An Islamic school where children are taught the Koran;

MINARET = The tall tower on most Muslim mosques where the Muezzin gives the “call to prayer” and the “confession of faith” (Kalima).

UMMA = The Islamic *nation* similar to the “Body of Christ.”

ULAMA = The *men of knowledge* of Islam; the *religious leaders* of a Muslim community much like the *Sanhedrin* of Judaism. Within the Shia branch of Islam, they represent the collective authority of the Imam, who is “hidden.” They await the return of their twelfth Imam, called the *Mahdi*, similar to the way Christians look to the return of Christ.

IMAM = A Muslim holy man or leader. The Moslem equivalent of the Catholic Pope.

MUFTI = The leading *Muslim cleric* in a given country.

SHEIKH = The *leader of a mosque*, much like a “pastor” in a local church.

AYATOLLAH = A charismatic Imam who is believed to have been specially sent by Allah.

KALIFA (CALIPH) = The *successor* of the Prophet Mohammed; the *ruler* of the Islamic world. The first one was *Abu-Bakr*, a disciple of Mohammed whom the Shi’ites follow as his rightful successor

RAMADAN = The annual holy month of *fasting* for Muslims because this is the month that Mohammed received his revelation from Gabriel in the cave in Mr. Hira.

SHARIA = The *law* or *legal code* of Islam; The “path to follow” for true Moslems.

JIHAD = Means “to struggle” for the Islamic way of life. It can take many forms from sharing their Islamic faith to fighting in a “*holy war.*” Many Muslim Fundamentalist see it as the “6th Pillar of Islam.”

MUJAHIDEEN = The “holy warriors” who fight in a jihad;

MECCA = The *birthplace* of Mohammed and place of the yearly *pilgrimage* of Islam (Hajj).

HIJRAH = Mohammed’s *flight* from Mecca to Medina for religious refuge in AD 622, and dates the *beginning* of Islam, which is *1 Anno Hegirae* (AH), or day one of the Islamic calendar;

HAJJ = The yearly *pilgrimage* to Mecca to prayerfully march around the *Kabba*. This pilgrimage is required of every able body Muslim sometime in his lifetime. It is the universal and unifying ritual of Islam.

KA’BA (KABBA) = The “Black Stone” that millions of Muslims prayerfully march around 7 times during the annual *Hajj*. This is the sacred spot where they believe that Abraham prepared to offer his son, Ishmael.

MAHDI = The coming human leader who will restore the world to Allah and Islam at the “end of time.”

DAR-AL-ISLAM = The world of Islam.

JAHILLIYA = The “pagan ignorance” that the people of Mecca lived in before the enlightenment of Mohammed. Also stands for the ignorance that people continue to live in today outside of Islam;

KAFFIR = Infidel, or anyone who rejects Islam

ISLAMICIZE or ISLAMICIZATION = The spread of Islam.

ARABIZATION = The spread of the Arabic language and culture.

HUMILIATION OF ISLAM = 1967 through the defeat of the Islamic nations by the Nation of Israel.