



September, 2014

Dear Families of Gilead Bible Church,

Since September 11, 2001, we have been in expose to peoples and countries who are of the Islamic faith. The question for many of is: "What is Islam?" Another question might be: "What do Muslims believe?" *

Islam is a religious system begun in the seventh century by Muhammad. Muslims follow the teachings of the Qur'an and strive to keep the Five Pillars.

In the seventh century, Muhammad claimed the angel Gabriel visited him. During these angelic visitations, which continued for about 23 years until Muhammad's death, the angel purportedly revealed to Muhammad the words of Allah (the Arabic word for "God" used by Muslims). These dictated revelations compose the Qur'an, Islam's holy book. Islam means "submission," deriving from a root word that means "peace." The word *Muslim* means "one who submits to Allah."

Muslims summarize their doctrine in six articles of faith:

1 Belief in one Allah: Muslims believe Allah is one, eternal, creator, and sovereign.

2 Belief in the angels

3 Belief in the prophets:

They include the biblical prophets but end with Muhammad as Allah's final prophet.

4 Belief in the revelations of Allah:

Muslims accept certain portions of the Bible, such as the Torah and the Gospels.

They believe the Qur'an is the preexistent, perfect word of Allah.

5 Belief in the last day of judgment and the hereafter:

Everyone will be resurrected for judgment into either paradise or hell.

6 Belief in predestination:

Muslims believe Allah has decreed everything that will happen.

Muslims testify to Allah's sovereignty.

Their frequent phrase, inshallah, meaning, "if God wills."

These five tenets compose the framework of obedience for Muslims:

1 Testimony of faith (*shahada*): "*la ilaha illa allah. Muhammad rasul Allah.*"

This means, "There is no deity but Allah. Muhammad is the messenger of Allah."

A person can convert to Islam by stating this creed.

The shahada shows that a Muslim believes in Allah alone as deity.

They also believe that Muhammad reveals Allah.

2 Prayer (*salat*): Five ritual prayers must be performed every day.

3 Giving (*zakaat*): This almsgiving is a certain percentage given once a year.

4 Fasting (*sawm*): Muslims fast during Ramadan in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar.

They must not eat or drink from dawn until sunset.

5 Pilgrimage (*hajj*): If physically and financially possible, a Muslim must make a pilgrimage.

This is to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. They must do it at least once.

The hajj is performed in the twelfth month of the Islamic calendar.

A Muslim's entrance into paradise hinges on obedience to these Five Pillars. Still, Allah may reject them. Even Muhammad was not sure whether Allah would admit him to paradise (Surah 46:9; Hadith 5.266).

Compared to Christianity, Islam has some similarities but significant differences. Like Christianity, Islam is monotheistic. However, Muslims reject the Trinity—that God has revealed Himself as one in three Persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Muslims claim that Jesus was a mere prophet—not God's Son. Islam asserts that Jesus, though born of a virgin, was created like Adam. Many Muslims do not believe Jesus died on the cross. They do not understand why Allah would allow His prophet Isa (the Islamic word for "Jesus") to die a torturous death. Yet the Bible shows how the death of the perfect Son of God was essential to pay for the sins of believers (Isaiah 53:5-6; John 3:16; 14:6; 1 Peter 2:24). Islam teaches that the Qur'an is the final authority and the last revelation of Allah. The Bible, however, was completed in the first century with the Book of Revelation. The Bible warns against anyone adding to or subtracting from God's Word (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Galatians 1:6-12; Revelation 22:18). The Qur'an, as a claimed addition to God's Word, directly disobeys God's command.

Muslims believe that paradise can be earned through keeping the Five Pillars. The Bible, in contrast, reveals that sinful man can never measure up to the holy God (Romans 3:23; 6:23). Only by God's grace may sinners be saved through repentant faith in Jesus (Acts 20:21; Ephesians 2:8-9).

Because of these essential differences and contradictions, Islam and Christianity cannot both be true. The Bible and Qur'an cannot both be God's Word. The truth has eternal consequences.

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world" (1 John 4:1-4; see also John 3:35-36).

God Bless,

Pastor and Helen Moy

* <http://www.gotquestions.org/Printer/Islam-PF.html>

2014年九月



親愛的基列主內弟兄姊妹，

自2001年9月11日，我們一直在接觸到有關伊斯蘭信仰的人民和國家，並很多有關的問題：例如“什麼是伊斯蘭？”另一個問題亦可能是：“穆斯林相信什麼”*

伊斯蘭教是由穆罕默德在第七世紀開始的宗教體系。穆斯林遵循可蘭經的教導，努力保持五大支柱的信仰中心。

第七世紀，穆罕默德稱天使加百列探訪了他。這些天使般的探訪持續了大約23年，直至穆罕默德逝世。據稱天使啟示穆罕默德有關阿拉的話（阿拉伯語意“神”）。這些啟示撰寫成為可蘭經，伊斯蘭教的聖書。伊斯蘭的意思是“順服”，其根詞的意思是“和平。”穆斯林的意思是“向阿拉順服。”

穆斯林總結他們在信仰有六個原則：

- 1 相信一個真主，穆斯林相信的真主是一位永恆的，創造和擁有主權的神。
- 2 相信天使
- 3 相信先知。 它們包括了聖經中的先知，但穆罕默德是真主的最後一位先知。
- 4 信仰真主的啟示：

穆斯林接受聖經的某些部分，如摩西律法和福音。 他們相信可蘭經是早已存在，是阿拉真主的完美話語。

- 5 相信末日的審判，每個人都會復活並被判斷去天堂或地獄。
- 6 相信預定論：

穆斯林相信阿拉命定一切發生的事情。穆斯林見證阿拉的主權。他們的慣語是，inshallah，意思是“如果神願意。”

這五個原則構成服從穆斯林的框架：

- 1 信心的見證：“亞拉真主。穆罕默德 拉蘇爾安拉。”
這意思是，“沒有神，只有真主。穆罕默德是亞拉的使者。“一個人可以聲稱這個信條皈依伊斯蘭教。 念清真言表明穆斯林相信阿拉是獨一的神。 他們還認為穆罕默德啟示真主。
- 2 禱告：每天都必須執行五次禮儀式的禱告。
- 3 施贈：每年要實行一次以比例式的施贈。
- 4 禁食：在伊斯蘭曆法的第九個月進行齋戒禁食。他們從黎明到日落不能吃或喝。
- 5 朝聖：如果在身體和經濟上可能的，穆斯林教徒必須要到沙地阿拉伯的麥加朝聖一次。。

朝覲是在伊斯蘭歷臘月執行。

一個穆斯林教徒能否進入天堂取決於服從這五大支柱。儘管如此，真主仍會拒絕他們。即使穆罕默德也不知道阿拉會否讓他進天堂（古蘭經46：9；聖訓5.266）。

伊斯蘭教與基督教比較下有一些相似之處，但亦有很顯著的差異。像基督教，伊斯蘭教是一神論。然而，穆斯林教拒絕承認神已經啟示的三位一體論：聖父，聖子，聖靈。

伊斯林聲稱耶穌只是一個先知，不是神的兒子。伊斯蘭教稱耶穌雖然是由童貞女所生，但像亞當一樣是被造的。許多穆斯林信徒不相信耶穌死在十字架上。他們不明白為什麼真主會讓他的先知Isa（伊斯蘭意為“耶穌”），受這麼多痛苦折磨而死亡。然而聖經明說神完美的兒子是如何為信祂的人贖罪而死（以賽亞書53：5-6；約翰福音3:16;14：6；彼得前書2:24）。

伊斯蘭教認為可蘭經是最終的權威和真主的最後啟示。聖經卻是在第一個世紀以啟示錄完成。聖經警告任何人不要增加或減去神的任何話語（申命記4：2；箴言30：6；加拉太書1：6-12；啟示錄22:18）。可蘭經，自稱是神的話語的續增，是直接違背神的命令。

穆斯林相信，天堂可以通過保持五大支柱而賺取。聖經，相反，表明罪人永遠無法與聖潔的神相比（羅馬書3:23;6:23）。只有神的恩典讓罪人通過耶穌悔改因信而得救（使徒行傳20:21；以弗所書2：8-9）。

由於這些本質上的分別和矛盾，伊斯蘭教和基督教不能同時都為真實。聖經與可蘭經不能同時是神的話語。真理是有永恆的後果。

“親愛的弟兄啊，一切的靈，你們不可都信，總要試驗那些靈是出於神的不是，因為世上有許多假先知已經出來了。凡靈認耶穌基督是成了肉身來的，就是出於神的；從此你們可以認出神的靈來。凡靈不認耶穌，就不是出於神；這是那敵基督者的靈。你們從前聽見他要來，現在已經在世上了。”（約翰一書4：1-4；亦見約翰福音3：35-36）。

願主祝福你們，

梅牧師及師母

* <http://www.gotquestions.org/Printer/Islam-PF.html>