

Sermon Notes: Islam Compared to What We Believe Pt 2

Topics: Five Pillars and the Litmus Test

Scripture Text: Genesis 25:1–6

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“It has been said that “ignorance is bliss, that is not true, ignorance is never better than knowledge.”

Enrico Fermi (Modified)

Genesis 25:1–6 (NKJV) ¹ Abraham again took a wife, and her name *was* Keturah. ² And she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. ³ Jokshan begot Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim. ⁴ And the sons of Midian *were* Ephah, Ephher, Hanoah, Abidah, and Eldaah. All these *were* the children of Keturah. ⁵ And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac. ⁶ But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east.

1. Keturah is claimed by the Ethiopians and is said to be an ancestor of the Queen of Sheba.
2. According to the Qur'an, men may marry more than one woman, but no more than four, as long as he can support them and treat them fairly. Divorce easy for men, difficult for women.
3. Muslims believe that Jesus was a perfect, sinless, highly revered Prophet and a messenger of God. Jesus was immaculately conceived through God but is not God or the son of God. Jesus did not die but ascended to heaven. So, for them there was no resurrection
4. Muslims are only supposed to eat foods that are considered halal. Pork is forbidden.
5. Angels, demons, spirits, jinn (genies).
6. Mary (Mariam/Miriam) receives significant admiration from Muslims. She is said by the Prophet Muhammad to be one of the four best women that God created. She is free of sin as the mother of Jesus.

The Five Pillars of Islam

Let's take these two one at a time.

1. “There Is No Deity but Allah.

The only deity they recognize is God (Allah) this excludes Jesus as being deity.

The highest authority God, revealed it through Peter and Jesus confirmed that Jesus is deity.

Matthew 16:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**” ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

The Apostle Paul reconfirmed it.

Philippians 2:6–7 (NLT) ⁶ Though he was {a} God, (in the form of God, nkjv) he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,

2. Muhammad Is the Messenger of Allah.

They do not claim that Muhammad is the ONLY messenger of God. The prophets include the biblical prophets but end with Muhammad as Allah's final prophet.

I will only point out three things that challenges the authenticity of Muhammad who wrote the Quran being a prophet of God. A prophet's word must be true.

Deuteronomy 18:22 (NKJV) ²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

The Quran says:

- **Man is naturally good. He is not evil.**

Genesis 6:5 (NKJV) ⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- **Salvation could be achieved through hard works and sincerity.**

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Romans 10:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

You can see that the “Word of God” is contrary to the words in the Quran. God does not contradict himself.

- **The Quran has no record of any miracles. It is a miracle itself.**

The miracles performed by the prophets and by Jesus was to affirm that they were Gods messenger and spoke what God told them.

Remember Elisha and Naaman

2 Kings 5:8 (NKJV) ⁸ ... Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.”

Mark 2:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ But **that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins**—He said to the paralytic, ¹¹ “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

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

Friday is a day they go to the mosque for corporate prayer which includes much repetition and ritual.

Matthew 6:5–7 (NKJV) ⁵ “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For ...they may be seen by men. ⁶ ...pray to your Father who is in the secret place; ⁷ And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

4. Giving to the poor (*zakat*): This almsgiving is a certain percentage given once a year.

Our Bible tell us to respond differently, to do so when the need is there.

James 2:15–17 (NKJV) ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? ¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

5. Fasting (*sawm*): Muslims fast during Ramadan in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. They must not eat or drink from dawn until sunset.

Fasting is controversial. I believe there is a time for fasting if it is possible (within medical reason). Many Christians are fasting for the season of Lent. Fasting should occur when an individual determines the need not on a predetermined schedule. It must always be accompanied with prayer. (*Matthew 17:21 (NKJV)*)

6. Pilgrimage (*hajj*): If physically and financially possible, a Muslim must make the pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia at least once. The *hajj* is performed in the twelfth month of the Islamic calendar.

Mecca is the birthplace of Muhammad deemed a holy city. To make this journey is expected, for what purpose I do not know.

Many Christians make the journey to the Holy Lands but it is not a requirement or even an expectation. In the Old Testament Israel was expected to make a journey of sorts (example; Passover). But since Jesus came the Temple of the Holy Spirit resides in us. *1 Corinthians 6:19 (NKJV)*

Like Christianity, Islam has many denominations. They include:

- **Sunni** Muslims include 84%–90% of all Muslims. *Sunni* means “tradition,”
- **Shi`ite** Muslims comprise 10%–16% of all Muslims.
- **Sufis** are Islamic mystics.
- **Baha’is** and **Ahmadiyyas** are 19th-century offshoots of Shi`ite and Sunni Islam,

What Do They Believe About Christianity?

They believe all other religions are false. "Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day...until they pay the Jizya with willing submission and feel themselves subdued."—*Surat At-Tawbah 9:29*. Disbelievers will go to eternal hell.

THE LITMUS TEST

2 John 9–11 (NKJV) ⁹ *Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.* ¹⁰ *If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, **do not receive him into your house nor greet him;*** ¹¹ *for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.*

What Do Muslims Believe About Jesus Christ?

1. Muslims believe Jesus to be a perfect, sinless, highly revered, one of the most important Prophet and a messenger of God like other prophets in the Bible.
He was more than a prophet
2. His name in Arabic is [Isa ibn Mariam] means Jesus the son of Mary not the Son of God.
Therefore, they do not believe that he was divine or the son of God. (I addressed this earlier Matthew 16:16–17, Philippians 2:6–7)
3. They believe that Jesus did not die but ascended to heaven. So, they believe that there was no resurrection.

There are more than 18 referenced in the New Testament that God “raised Jesus from the dead”

1 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ *And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. (Acts 2:32, Acts 10:40, and more)*

1 John 4:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.* ² *By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,* ³ *and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

END

Message Scriptures: **Genesis 16:6–12**, *1 Peter 3:15*, *Ephesians 4:11–14*, *Genesis 17:5–6*, *2 Timothy 3:16*, *2 Corinthians 5:10*, *Revelation 20:12–13*, *Romans 8:29–30*, *1 Thessalonians 5:16–18*

Resources:

Christianity vs. Islam

https://www.diffen.com/difference/Christianity_vs_Islam

What Is Islam, And What Do Muslims Believe?

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Islam.html>

Muslims Adhere to Different Islamic Sects

<http://www.dummies.com/religion/islam/muslims-adhere-to-different-islamic-sects/>

Video

Three Quran Verses Every Christian Should Know (David Wood)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5Nu6EabQD8>