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

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

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

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

1. God  
2. The angels of God  
3. The books of God  
4. The prophets of God  
5. The day of resurrection and judgment  
6. The predestination to do good and evil  

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

GOD  

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

- The Muslims believe that God is eternal, that He had neither a beginning nor ending.

- They know of God's omniscience—or all-knowing mind. They believe God knows all things—visible or invisible, past or future. God never forgets, is never negligent, and never makes an error.

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

There are several passages in the Bible that indicate God forgives and FORGETS our sin.
Isaiah 43:25
I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.
Hebrews 10:14-18
For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. [15] Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, [16] This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; [17] And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. [18] Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

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

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

- The Muslims also believe in God’s omnipotence, His power. There is nothing that He (whom they call Allah) cannot do.
- They believe in the personality of God in that He has a will. He can do anything He wishes. Good and evil exist by His will. Here now is an area of great
difference between a Christian and a Muslim: THE MUSLIM BELIEVES THAT IF A PERSON IS PIOUS IT IS BECAUSE OF THE WILL OF ALLAH. IF A PERSON IS AN UNBELIEVER, THIS, TOO IS THE WILL OF GOD. BY WAY OF CONTRAST, CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT GOD "FOREKNOWS" THE FUTURE OF EVERY MAN, BUT LEAVES THE DECISION-MAKING TO THE INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED. According to basic Christian theology, God does not violate the will of man.

- The Muslim believes that God hears everything. We do, too.
- The Muslim believes God sees everything. He can even see "a black cat on a black stone at midnight."
- The Muslim believes that God speaks to mankind. So do Christians.

A Muslim is passionate in his fervor that there is only one God. The Muslim creed declares, "There is no God but God." Perhaps nothing violates the Muslim belief more than advocating "other gods." And the disciple of Mohammed does not believe anyone or anything is greater than God. *Allahu Akabar* is an Arabic expression meaning, "God is greatest."

Now you may be thinking, "Well, there are some real similarities between Islam and Christianity. *At this point the similarities begin to break down quickly.* Christians believe that God has revealed Himself to us through Jesus Christ and the Scripture, the Bible. Muslims say God's message is given to man through the Koran. And the Koran teaches that God is "unknowable" - that no revelation from any source could reveal God as He truly is. But the Christians believe that God revealed Himself through Jesus Christ. John 14:7-8 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. [8] Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. [9] Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

**ANGELS**

Muslims believe that God originated angels from light, while He made man from clay and Satan from fire. And while Mohammed's disciples give stature to angels, they believe these beings are inferior to human prophets of Allah. Five angels in particular are included in their belief:
* Gabriel, the angel of revelation
* Michael, the patron of the Israelites
* Israfil, who will sound the final trumpet
* The angel of death
* Malik, who is in charge of Hell

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

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

### THE SACRED BOOKS

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

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

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

### PROPHETS

Prophets are divided into two classes in Islam. The first category, **NAVI**, means anyone
inspired by God. The second classification is **RASUL**, which includes those to whom a
special message has been entrusted. Muslims put Jesus in the “prophet only” category –
not as the Son of God. They say Mohammed taught that there were 124,000 total
prophets given by God to man. Only 9 of those were “possessors of power” — and they
were Noah, Abraham, David, Jacob, Joseph, Job, Moses, Jesus and Mohammed. As you
can readily tell, the differences between Christianity and Islam are truly vast.
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
like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. [8] And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. [9] And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, [10] The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, [11] Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelation 5:1-14

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. [2] And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? [3] And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. [4] And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. [5] And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. [6] And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. [7] And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. [8] And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. [9] And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; [10] And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. [11] And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; [12] Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. [13] And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. [14] And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.
Mohammed came along over 600 years following this revelation from Christ Himself to
His beloved Apostle John - and wrote his own version, differing at almost every point
from Christ's version. You choose which one you accept.

PREDESTINATION

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

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

WHAT THE MUSLIM BELIEVES ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN

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

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

"CHRIST DID NOT DIE ON THE CROSS!" – MOHAMMED

Yes, we discussed this point briefly last week, but it so vital that I want to emphasize it
again this week. Perhaps the most startling of all is the Muslim concept that it was not
Jesus at all Who died, but rather someone who took His place - perhaps Judas, they say,
or even Simon of Cyrene. The Koran states emphatically: They did not slay him,
neither crucified him, only a likeness of that was shown to them.” TALK ABOUT
HISTORICAL REVISIONISM!!!! According to Mohammed, somewhere between Gethsemane and Golgotha, God spirited Jesus off the planet and made it appear that He appeared on the cross by using a substitute. Thus, to the world of Islam, Christ is no Savior at all – only a prophet who was rescued at the last possible moment.

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

1) The Creed: There is no God but God and Mohammed is the apostle of God. This is repeated in each prayer.

2) Ritual prayer five times a day - at dawn, just past midday, 2 hours before sunset, just after sunset and 2 hours following sunset. Before praying, the Muslim will remove his shoes, wash his hands and feet and part of his face and turn to Mecca, no matter where he is. I have watched Muslims do this even on jet airplanes, 35,000 feet above the ocean. It is remarkable to behold.

3) Almsgiving. The Muslim “tithe” is 2 ½ percent of the gross income. It is called the “zakat.”

4) Fasting. There are several special fasts, chiefest of which is RAMADAN, during the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. The belief of Ramadan is that during this time the gates of hell are shut while the gates of paradise are opened. All who keep the fast will be pardoned of their excusable sins.

Note how much of Islam is based on human works.

5) The Pilgrimage. This means a trip to Mecca, the birthplace of Mohammed. This must be made by every Muslim once in his life if at all possible.

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

THE JIHAD

This word means “holy war.” People against whom the Jihad is directed are invited to accept Islam. Those who do so will be given the full citizenship rights of the Muslim
country. Those who refuse will be made to pay additional taxes. If they do not embrace
Islam or pay the tax, they may have all their wealth and property taken from them, and
they and their families become indentured or slaves. Muslims to die fighting in a holy
war are assured of paradise and special privileges there. And the taking of lives of those
who disagree is certainly within the purview of radical Muslims. After all, virgins await
them in heaven!!

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

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

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

THE RAPTURE