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LESSON NOTES

LEARNING TO LOVE, REGARDLESS

Wednesday Night Bible Study, November 1, 2017

عيسى
D. Thomas Porter

OVERVIEW

“Learning to Love the Presumably Mean”

If we were an alien species investigating sentient life on earth, it would appear the Creator made a mistake with the beings He created on this planet. Seemingly, humans are always looking to find ways to kill off other human beings, for reasons which often defy the Creator. Any spiritually intelligent alien would conclude we are at least dim-witted, if not cataleptic—why would the created disobey the Creator, especially when it comes to protecting life?

**A QUESTION TO GET YOU THINKING:
WHY DID THE PRE-INCARNATE CHRIST
PROMISE TO PROTECT ISHMAEL AND
HIS MOTHER, HAGAR?**

One answer? It all began in the garden when we chose human affection over the Creator’s affection. Then, we became jealous over the Creator’s affection for our sibling, and we killed him. Then, we decided to make a name for ourselves by building a tower to meet the Creator. He was not impressed and created a veritable cacophony of languages—we were dispersed throughout the earth.

Eventually, we decided to defy the Creator’s promise to make us rich in descendants because the Creator did not give us a descendant soon enough. So, we committed adultery and created a bastard child no less, Ishmael. Once we realized Ishmael was the pride and joy of his father, we wanted him and his mother, Hagar, kicked out our home. But, the Creator intervened and promised to protect Hagar and Ishmael and their descendants. Here’s what the Creator said to Hagar:

“I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count.”

But, then the Angel of Yahweh warned her,

“You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael [*God hears*], for Yahweh has heard of your misery. He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live to the east of all his brothers.”

Later when Ishmael's step-mother urged Abraham to banish his mother Hagar and Ishmael (and with God's blessing; see Genesis 21:12-13), Abraham did just that, to the desert in Beersheba. Later in the desert, Hagar and Ishmael's water ran out—they were sitting near a bush, crying. God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said,

“What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.”

Contrary to the Creator's command, we decided to hate each other. So, nonetheless, our descendants have suffered ever since. Here's what happened...

About 600 years after the Creator had come to earth to be sacrificed to demonstrate publicly the Creator's righteousness, a prophet by the name of Mohammed noticed hordes of polytheistic pagans traveling to a city in Saudi Arabia called Mecca. He had also become disillusioned with the followers of Isa and Abba. They had seemed to have lost their way to Allah. Seeking Allah's guidance, the Quran was developed over a period of years. Mohammed now had the beginnings of a text to guide him regarding the proper way to worship what the descendants of Ishmael call “Allah” (Arabic for *God*.)

Over the years, relationships between the followers of Abba and the followers of Isa and the followers of Mohammed were usually peaceful, yet sporadically murderous. Even so, enmity flourished. And, as time passed, the enmity between Isaac's descendants and Ishmael's descendants became the warp and woof of the human fabric. This permanent state of enmity was caused, by all people, those who followed Isa, the very One who had promised Ishmael and his mother Hagar protection. The crusades conflagration fueled by followers of Isa and the Zionistic fire fueled by Theodor Herzl¹ led both groups to build an unbridgeable chasm.

But with Christ all things are possible, even bridging a seemingly infinite chasm between members of the Creator's creation. This lesson begins an introduction to how to bridge said chasm. Our marching orders were given by the Creator Himself:

...in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect ...

If we are to do as the Lord God commands, we must understand Islam. Both gentleness and respect are predicated by said understanding. It is time that God's call for all people to be one within Christ Jesus—

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. [Remember,] there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you all are Abraham's seed, and all are heirs according to the promise.

This is our mission—this is our call: to engage the world to become one within Christ Jesus. Isa died for all, and all can become heirs to the promise made to Abraham's descendants—if they belong to Christ. Time is short and hell is hot.

¹For more information about his seminal work, *Der Judenstaat*, 1896 (“The Jewish State”), see <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Zionism/herzl2.html>

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM — A LITTLE QUIZ

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. An appropriate name of the Lord God Almighty is “Yahweh.” | T ? F |
| 2. An appropriate name of the Lord God Almighty is “Theos.” | T ? F |
| 3. An appropriate name of the Lord God Almighty is “Allah.” | T ? F |
| 4. An appropriate name of the Lord God Almighty is “Dios.” | T ? F |
| 5. An appropriate name of the Lord God Almighty is “God.” | T ? F |
| 6. An appropriate name of the Lord God Almighty is “Jumala.” | T ? F |
| 7. The best case for the virgin birth of Jesus of Nazareth is found in the Hebrew Scriptures (e.g., Isaiah 7:14) | T ? F |
| 8. The best case for the virgin birth of Jesus of Nazareth is found in the New Testament Scriptures (e.g., Luke 2) | T ? F |
| 9. The best case for the virgin birth of Jesus of Nazareth is found in the Quran (e.g., Surah 3) | T ? F |
| 10. “Kill the infidels” is a unique approach of evangelism of Christianity. | T ? F |
| 11. “Kill the infidels” is a unique approach of evangelism of Islam. | T ? F |
| 12. “Kill the infidels” is a unique approach of evangelism of Buddhists. | T ? F |
| 13. “Kill the infidels” is a unique approach of evangelism of Judaism. | T ? F |
| 14. Jesus will judge sinners on Judgment Day according to Islam. | T ? F |
| 15. Allah will judge sinners on Judgment Day according to Islam. | T ? F |
| 16. Allah will not be present in Heaven (Paradise) for faithful followers of Islam. | T ? F |
| 17. If you do all that is demanded of you, Allah will make sure you enter Heaven (Paradise). | T ? F |
| 18. If you avoid sexual immorality on earth, Allah will allow you full reign in Heaven (Paradise). | T ? F |
| 19. According to Christianity, you can only understand the Scriptures fully by knowing the original languages. | T ? F |
| 20. According to Islam, you can only understand the Quran fully by knowing the original language (Arabic). | T ? F |
| 21. Mohammed revered Jesus. | T ? F |
| 22. Mohammed made fun of Jesus’ ministry, and denied His miracles. | T ? F |
| 23. Islam teaches Abraham was their prime ancestor who took Isaac to be sacrificed. | T ? F |
| 24. Islam teaches Abraham was their prime ancestor who took Ishmael to be sacrificed. | T ? F |
| 25. God promised Ishmael he would become a great nation, too numerous to count. | T ? F |

Notes from discussion and our analyses—

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM—A LITTLE QUIZ: SOME ANSWER BEGINNINGS

1. An appropriate name of the Lord God Almighty is “Yahweh.” Name, yes. I ? F
2. An appropriate name of the Lord God Almighty is “Theos.” Identification, yes; name, no. T ? E
3. An appropriate name of the Lord God Almighty is “Allah.” Identification, yes; name, no. T ? E
4. An appropriate name of the Lord God Almighty is “Dios.” Identification, yes; name, no. T ? E
5. An appropriate name of the Lord God Almighty is “God.” Identification, yes; name, no. T ? E
6. An appropriate name of the Lord God Almighty is “Jumala.” Identification, yes; name, maybe. T ? F
7. The best case for the virgin birth of Jesus of Nazareth is found in the Hebrew Scriptures (e.g., Isaiah 7:14) T ? E
8. The best case for the virgin birth of Jesus of Nazareth is found in the New Testament Scriptures (e.g., Luke 2) T ? E
9. The best case for the virgin birth of Jesus of Nazareth is found in the Quran (e.g., Surah 3) I ? F
10. “Kill the infidels” is a unique approach of evangelism of Christianity. (ergo, “the crusades”) T ? E
11. “Kill the infidels” is a unique approach of evangelism of Islam. (ergo, Mohammed’s command to purify Mecca) T ? E
12. “Kill the infidels” is a unique approach of evangelism of Buddhists. (ergo, killing the Rohingya in Myanmar) T ? E
13. “Kill the infidels” is a unique approach of evangelism of Judaism. (ergo, Deuteronomy 2:34) T ? E
14. Jesus will judge sinners on Judgment Day according to Islam. I ? F
15. Allah will judge sinners on Judgment Day according to Islam. T ? E
16. Allah will not be present in Heaven (Paradise) for faithful followers of Islam. I ? F
17. If you do all that is demanded of you, Allah will make sure you enter Heaven (Paradise). God is sovereign! T ? F
18. If you avoid sexual immorality on earth, Allah will allow you full reign in Heaven (Paradise). I ? F
19. According to Christianity, you can only understand the Scriptures fully by knowing the original languages. T ? F
20. According to Islam, you can only understand the Quran fully by knowing the original language (Arabic). I ? F
21. Mohammed revered Jesus. “I [Mohammed, compared to Isa] am but a mere ‘warner;’” Surah 46:9 I ? F
22. Mohammed made fun of Jesus’ ministry, and denied His miracles. T ? E
23. Islam teaches Abraham was their prime ancestor who took Isaac to be sacrificed. T ? E
24. Islam teaches Abraham was their prime ancestor who took Ishmael to be sacrificed. I ? F
25. God promised Ishmael he would become a great nation, too numerous to count. Genesis 21:18 I ? F

Notes from discussion and our analyses—

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM—A CALM APPROACH

Background work for you...

1. Compare and contrast the *Quran* (Sura Al-e-Imran 3:49)² to John 14:11.³

Both passages support the divinity of Christ, or at least that He came from/authorized by Allah.

2. Compare and contrast the *Quran* (Surah Al-Imran 3:52-55)⁴ to Mark 14:34-36).⁵

The resurrection was a stop gap measure in the Qu’ran, whereas in Scripture it was Trinity’s will from the get-go.

3. What was Mohammad’s (saw) view of Isa (mHbe)?

Mohammed (saw) says he, when compared to Isa (mHbe), is a “mere warner.”⁶

APOLOGETICS

C → Comprehend,
A → Appreciate,
L → Love, and *then* seek to
M → Master:
 C—Contain,
 C—Control, and
 C—Combat:
 I—Influence,
 L—Latitude, and/or
 L—Lethality.

²“And will make him [Isa] a messenger unto the Children of Israel, (saying): Lo! I come unto you with a sign from your Lord. ... I heal him who was born blind, and the leper, and I raise the dead, by Allah's leave.”

³“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.”

⁴“[3.52] But when Isa perceived unbelief on their part, he said Who will be my helpers in Allah's way? The disciples said: We are helpers (in the way) of Allah: We believe in Allah and bear witness that we are submitting ones.[3.53] Our Lord! we believe in what Thou hast revealed and we follow the apostle, so write us down with those who bear witness.[3.54] And they planned and Allah (also) planned, and Allah is the best of planners.[3.55] And when Allah said: O Isa, I am going to terminate the period of your stay (on earth) and cause you to ascend unto Me and purify you of those who disbelieve and make those who follow you above those who disbelieve to the day of resurrection; then to Me shall be your return.”

⁵“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” He said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.” Going a little farther, He fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. “*Abba*, Father,” He said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

⁶If asked what you think of Mohammed, respond: “I say Mohammed is who he said he was in the Qur’an.” Look at Surah 46:9, “I am nothing new among the Prophets; what will happen to me and my followers, I do not know; I am only a plain warner.”

USEFUL SOURCES ON ISLAM AND FACTORS

When writing the name of God (Allah), Muslims often follow it with the abbreviation "SWT." These letters stand for the Arabic words "Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala," or "Glory to Him, the Exalted." Muslims use these or similar words to glorify God when mentioning His name.



When writing the name of the prophet Muhammad, Muslims often follow it with the abbreviation "SAWS." These letters stand for the Arabic words "sallallahu alayhi wa salaam" (may God's blessings and peace be with him). Muslims use these words to show respect to one of God's prophets when mentioning his name. It is also abbreviated as "PBUH," which stand for the English words of similar meaning ("peace be upon him").

EXPLORING THE QURAN

Pro-Islam

<http://www.quranexplorer.com/> Example passage:

"The Qur'an ("Qor-Ann") is a Message from Allah (swt) to humanity. It was transmitted to us in a chain starting from the Almighty Himself (swt) to the angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad (saw). This message was given to the Prophet (saw) in pieces over a period spanning approximately 23 years (610 CE to 632 CE). The Prophet (saw) was 40 years old when the Qur'an began to be revealed to him, and he was 63 when the revelation was completed. The language of the original message was Arabic, but it has been translated into many other languages.

The Qur'an is one of the two sources which form the basis of Islam. The second source is the [Sunnah of the Prophet](#) (saw). What makes the Qur'an different from the Sunnah is primarily its form. Unlike the Sunnah, the Qur'an is literally the Word of Allah (swt), whereas the Sunnah was inspired by Allah but the wording and actions are the Prophet's (saw). The Qur'an has not been expressed using any human's words. Its wording is letter for letter fixed by no one but Allah.

Prophet Muhammad (saw) was the final Messenger of Allah to humanity, and therefore the Qur'an is the last Message which Allah (swt) has sent to us. Its predecessors such as the Torah, Psalms, and Gospels have all been superseded. It is an obligation - and blessing - for all who hear of the Qur'an and Islam to investigate it and evaluate it for themselves. Allah (swt) has guaranteed that He will protect the Qur'an from human tampering, and today's readers can find exact copies of it all over the world. *The Qur'an of*

today is the same as the Qur'an revealed to Muhammad (saw) 1400 years ago." [emphasis added by me]

But, we learn the Qur'an has changed...

Anti-Islam

<http://www.4truth.net/fourtruthpbworld.aspx?pageid=8589953021> (NAMB) Example passage:

"Muslims and non-Muslims both agree that no change has ever occurred in the text of the Qur'an. The above prophecy for the eternal preservation and purity of the Qur'an came true not only for the text of the Qur'an, but also for the most minute details of its punctuation marks as well. . . . It is a miracle of the Qur'an that no change has occurred in a single word, a single [letter of the] alphabet, a single punctuation mark, or a single diacritical mark in the text of the Qur'an during the last fourteen centuries.⁷

Kazi's claim is odd for two reasons. First, it's certainly no miracle for a book to be preserved for fourteen centuries. The Dead Sea Scrolls, copies of the Bible, and other writings have survived longer than fourteen centuries, so Muslims can hardly appeal to preservation as proof of divine inspiration. Second, it's simply false to say that the Qur'an has been perfectly preserved. When we turn to the early Muslim sources, we find that entire chapters of the Qur'an have been lost, that large sections of chapters are missing, that individual verses were forgotten, and that words and phrases were changed. Indeed, we know from Muslim reports that Muhammad's most trusted teachers couldn't even agree on which chapters were to be included in the Qur'an!"



⁷ Mazhar Kazi, *130 Evident Miracles in the Qur'an* (Richmond Hill: Crescent Publishing House, 1997), pp. 42-43.

 UNDERSTANDING ISLAM—A CALM APPROACH

C – Comprehend.

1. While the various forms of Islam may in fact seem disparate from Biblically-based Christianity, and they are, it is wise nonetheless to recognize that in the vast majority of cases, Muslims (“ones who have submitted to God”) are peaceful citizens. They respectfully recognize Isa in ways that many “Christians” could emulate.
2. The relatively recent push for an integration of Sharia Law (Genesis 21:19)⁸ into government by “fundamentalistic” followers of Islam has created a tension not only between and within traditionally Islamic states, but also between believers in God.
3. What about “Allah?” Some people call God “Allah,”⁹ and some call God “Jehovah.” One people use an Arabic name for God, and others use an English name approximating Hebrew.

Q Should we be perfectly fine with “Dieu” or “Jumala” being used to describe God, but not “Allah?”

4. Historical Context—

- A. There are 1.2 to 1.6 billion Muslims in the world; fastest growing not because of conversion, but because of immigration. “Nation of Islam” has grown fast in American prisons; it is viewed as a heretical sect by Islam proper. Highly tied to ethnicity, African Americans.
- B. In US, there are more Muslims than Methodists. They spread by planting mosques—people gather around mosques and with their higher birth rate. Saudi government funds these mosques. Make no mistake about it, our fuel heavy vehicles fund the spread of mosques. (1) Indonesia (2) India (3) Pakistan (4) Bangladesh in order of

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 L—Latitude, and/or
 L—Lethality.

⁸Sharia Law is named because of where and when Allah’s messenger (Christ or Father God or His angel) explained to Hagar that He would protect her and make her son a great nation (Genesis 21:18; 25:12ff). Scholars describe the word *sharia* as an archaic Arabic word denoting a “path to the water hole.” (see Omar, Abdul Mannân (2003). *The Dictionary of the Holy Qur’ân – Arabic Words, English Meanings with Notes – Classical Arabic Dictionaries*. The definition comes from the fact that the path to water is the whole way of life in an arid desert environment (see Weiss, Bernard G. (1998). *The Spirit of Islamic Law*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press. p. 17. ISBN 978-0-8203-1977-3).

⁹For more in depth information, see the summary of “Allah” as Arabic for “God” in <http://www.letusreason.org/islam6.htm>

- Islamic populations. Poverty served as fertile ground for the spread of Islam. By force and finance.
- C. Islam is now a central focus of world news. Yet, Western interest has spiked—apathy has set in. Terrorists are capturing most of the headlines. “Taliban” = “student” “movement.” As a result of response to Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.
 - D. Westerners know the word “Islam.” It means “surrender.” I am subject, in submission to Allah. “Muslim” = “One in submission”
 - E. Westerners know of “Allah” Allah is a combination of “al” (the) and “Ilah” (God).— Literally, “the god.” Before Muhammad ever lived, the Arabic word for God was Allah.
5. Early Islam: Muhammad proclaimed himself “The Seal of the Prophets” (no others to come)
- A. Muslims believe that Muhammad is the culmination of prophecy. All cultures have a prophet, but Muhammad’s coming closes it all. Adam, Abraham, David, Moses, and Jesus as prophets. After him, there will be no prophets.
 - B. Who is this man? Born 570 AD, tradesman, married an older business woman named “Godijha” and runs trade caravan in the Arabian peninsula. This is where he learned about Christianity and Judaism. For example, the Thomas gospel served to inform the Qu’ran about Jesus; thus, he learned his Biblical theology from desert heretics, non-orthodox theology. Gnostic writings were very influential.
 - C. The Flight from Mecca: The year was 622, and according to Muslims, the turning point of history. Recitations from Gabriel become the Qu’ran. He became opposed to polytheism, the center for which was Mecca. At Medina, he became leader and developed disciples and brought them as a military force to Mecca.
 - D. He dedicated Mecca’s cube-shaped temple, the Ka’ba, to Allah. The Ka’ba, the center of the universe—a meteorite is stored/archived/protected there. Abraham attempted to sacrifice Ishmael there.
 - E. He returned to live his life in Medina. Muhammad died in 632.
 - F. Almost all of the Arab world was under his control. Within two generations, his disciples had conquered a large portion of the world. Not just Persia, Syria, Palestine, and Iraq. Not just North Africa and Armenia. But also Spain and some of France. We call them “Dark Ages” because of the dominance geographically and intellectually of Islam; very western perspective.

6. Early Islam: Muhammad, “The Seal of the Prophets”–Muhammad’s Legacy
 - A. He established a new religion.
 - B. He established a new empire that unified and empowered the Arab tribes. Yet, wasn’t tied to the Arabian Peninsula. Overtook extant kingdoms.
 - C. He motivated his followers to be missionaries/conquerors/traders.
7. Core Beliefs – Muslim Systematic Theology Scripture
 - A. The Qu’ran as Muhammad’s “Only Miracle” Muhammad called the Qur’an God’s “standing miracle.” Al-qur’an means “recitation.”
 - B. His followers offer its beauty as an apologetic in and of itself. Must be read in Arabic in order to understand truly the recitations from God. Translations are inherently wrong.
 - C. The Qur’an is composed of 114 chapters, from longest to shortest.
 - D. It is about 4/5 the length of the New Testament.
 - E. Muslims view the Qur’an almost exactly the way Christians view Christ. They do not understand concept of Trinity, but conceive Christianity as tri-theistic.
 - F. The Qur’an is “God in book form,” rather than “God in flesh.”
 - G. The Bible has been changed and corrupted; early passages were positive about Christians and Jews, later passages are quite negative (because Christians and Jews failed to respond to Islam in later parts of Muhammad’s life). “Listen to the people of the Book ...” (an early passage in Qur’an).
 - a. When did the Bible become corrupted? After Muhammad? If so, then why endorsement?
 - b. Before? Why then do we have mss which predate Muhammad? “Questions? Go to the “Before books” ... Injil (New Testament), Toaueat (TaNaKh), Zauber (prophets & psalms)
 - H. Like Christ, the Qur’an is eternal and uncreated.
8. Muslim Systematic Theology – **God:**
 - A. Allah & Islamic Monotheism God is One:
 - B. There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet. (Shهادah), but this was not innovative as many Meccans already believed in one God.
 - C. What was different was that Muhammad systematically wanted to remove all other idols from view.

- D. To believe in other gods is to commit the sin of *shirk*.
- E. Muslims think that Christians believe in three gods, and therefore commit shirk.
- F. He cannot be represented:
 - a. God is infinite, immaterial and invisible.
 - b. He is unique in nature and unlike anything else.
 - c. He cannot be represented by any picture, statue, or mental image. Islamic art is based on Arabic script, the only true representation of Allah.
- G. Nor can he be represented by a man.
 - a. Surah112:26: "Say, god is one, the eternal God; begetting not and unbegotten; none is equal to him."
 - b. This makes the concept of "Son of God" blasphemous to Islam.
- H. He is utterly inscrutable:
 - a. We can know His attributes, but not His nature. Thus, we can not have a personal relationship with God.
 - b. He is just, merciful, loving, deceptive, sovereign, etc. He has 99 names and hence their prayer beads have 99 beads.
 - c. But these attributes cannot be separated out, b/c God is an indivisible unity.
 - d. His will is known through the Qu'ran.
 - e. His actions are known. But none of this tells us his nature. He can change his actions if he wants, and we shouldn't limit Him.

9. Muslim Systematic Theology – **Salvation, Judgment and the Last Days**

- A. The Day of Judgment:
 - a. There will be a Day of Judgment; this is a major theme of the Qu'ran. Isa (Jesus) is the judge.
 - b. The soul will go to either the heavens (Paradise) or hell.
 - c. The good will be placed on the right and the wicked on the left.
 - d. Allah will hand out justice according to the Book of Deeds. Yet, Allah will save who He chooses to save; there is no eternal security, it is presumptuous to say "I know God will save me." That confidence is at first confusing, but then becomes an attraction to the Gospel.

- e. This book records all of a person's sins. Sin is anything that is not in **submission** to Allah.
- f. The angels will come to carry out punishment.
- B. Paradise: All that was forbidden on earth will be your reward in Paradise. God does not dwell with man in heaven—**paradise is an absence of hell**, not the presence of Allah.
- C. Hell: The sinner is taken away in chains, amidst beating and scourging.
 - a. The archangel Malik, guardian of hell, oversees their torture.
 - b. Their limbs are crushed with iron clubs. They drink boiling water and wear burning garments; lots of fire and molten lava.

10. Muslim Systematic Theology—**Creation**

- A. God created the world by his will.
- B. Matter is real, and it is significant.
- C. This is why Islamic science progressed so quickly.

11. Muslim Systematic Theology—**Humanity**

- A. Humans are of the highest stature in creation.
- B. There is no doctrine of original sin.
- C. Human nature is essentially good.
- D. Our human life is a gift from God.
- E. We must repay God with gratitude (“infidel” means “ungrateful”)
- F. We must repay him with surrender (“Islam”)
- G. Man is responsible and has free will (but god is sovereign and omnipotent).

12. Muslim Systematic Theology—**Jesus & The Prophets**

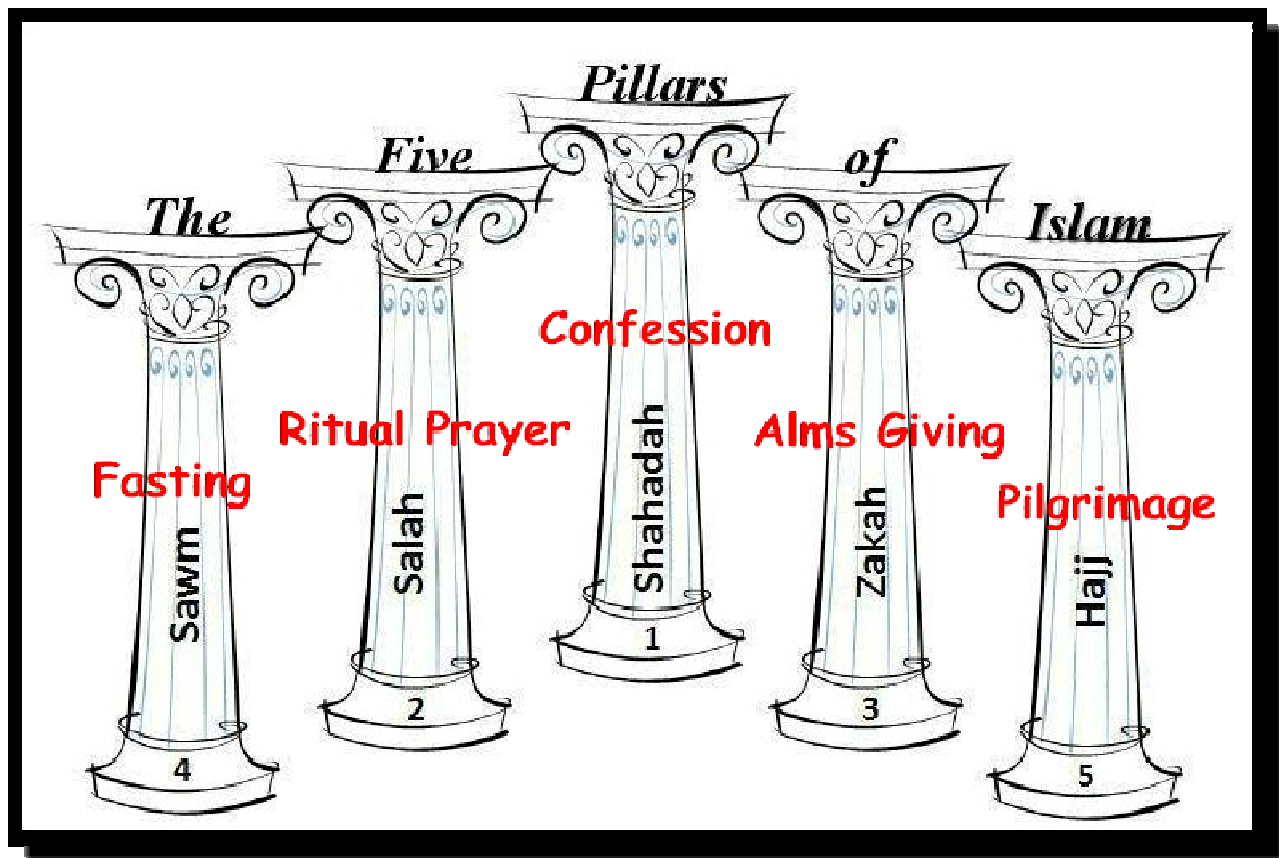
- A. Numerous Prophets: Isa is the most prominent, beyond Muhammad.
- B. Numerous times in history, God gave his message to prophets, but the message was corrupted; some claim 100,000 prophets.

- C. Adam was the first, and he was given a book. But it was distorted in coming generations. Because of God's mercy, he gave revelation to many other prophets, for their generations.–Moses (Taurat)–David (Zauber)–Jesus (the Injil)
- D. Jesus the "Prophet":
 - a. He is called: Son of Mary, Servant, Prophet, Messenger, Word, Spirit, Messiah; next to Muhammad, he is the highest.
 - b. Surah3 & 19 tells of Mary's annunciation and his birth; the Quran does not make it clear whether his birth is miraculous.

13. Muslim Systematic Theology – **On Jesus' death:**

- A. Sura3:48,55: "O Jesus, I am going to bring thy term to an end and raise thee to myself."
- B. See also Sura4:154-59: This passage alludes to his resurrection and ascension.

14. Muslim Religious Practice— The Five Pillars



Muslims attempt to walk “the straight path.”(Surah1); the path is straight rather than crooked or corrupt. This means that the path is straightforward, with clear commands. The five pillars are examples of the clear commands:

- I. Confession (**Shahadah**) The confession is, “*There is no god but God, and Muhammad is His Prophet.*” In order to be Muslim, must say this at least once, slowly, thoughtfully, out loud, with conviction, and with full comprehension of what he is saying. In actuality, Muslims repeat it numerous times during the day. This is said in the ear of a newborn; henceforth, he is a Muslim.

Hadith: Muhammad said, “*Whosoever recites this creed shall receive rewards equal to the emancipation of ten slaves and shall have one hundred good deeds put to his account and one hundred of his sins shall be blotted out, and the words shall be a protection from the devil.*”

- II. Ritual Prayer (**Salat**) Muhammad's Bargain with God: On Muhammad's "night journey" to heaven, he supposedly visited the seven heavens and went into the presence of God. God told him that Muslims must pray 50 times per day. Muhammad asked Moses about this, and Moses sent him back to strike a bargain. Moses said that 50 times a day would never work. Finally, Muhammad bargained God down to 5 times per day. Moses was still against it. But Muhammad replied: "I have asked my Lord till I am ashamed, but now I am satisfied and I submit."¹⁰
- a. Five times per day: Muslims pray five times a day, in a mosque if possible. Sunrise, sun's zenith, sun's mid-decline, sunset, before sleeping. Shi'ites and Sunnis have differences in their words and body language. But it is quite uniform. Friday at noon there is a sermon.
 - b. The early morning call to prayer: "God is great. God is great. Come to prayer. Prayer is better than sleep."

◆ Listen at <http://www.balaams-ass.com/alhaj/calltoprayer.htm>¹¹

- c. Muslims face the Ka'ba in Mecca. They follow Muhammad's example, by washing and by climaxing with forehead touching the floor. This has two layers of meaning: The body is in a fetal position, signifying rebirth. The body is crouched in a very small position, signifying our nothingness as in comparison to God.

¹⁰Note the similar negotiations between Abraham and the Lord God in Genesis 18:22-33 where Abraham wanted God to reject the destruction of Sodom if there were 10 righteous souls there. The initial number was 50.

¹¹Call to prayer:

- 1 Allah u Akbar, Allah u Akbar
– God is Great, God is Great
- 2 Ash-hadu al-la Ilaha ill Allah - Ash-hadu al-la Ilaha ill Allah
– I bear witness that there is no divinity but God
- 3 Ash-hadu anna Muhammadan Rasulullaah
– I bear witness that Muhammad is God's Messenger
- 4 Hayya la-s-saleah - Hayya la-s-saleah
– Hasten to the prayer, Hasten to the prayer
- 5 Hayya la-l-faleah - Hayya la-l-faleah
– Hasten to real success, Hasten to real success,
- 6 Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar
– God is Great, God is Great
- 7 La Ilaha ill Allah
– There is no divinity but God

III. Almsgiving (**Zakat**)

1. Those with means should help the poor. Their societies need beggars and thus a "beggar class." The tithe is 2 ½ percent. Poor people owe nothing.
2. Especially, they should give to: –The immediately needy.–Slaves trying to buy freedom.–Debtors unable to repay.–Strangers and travelers.–Those who collect the poor tax and distribute it.

IV. Fasting (**Ramadan**) Muhammad received his revelation during the month of Ramadan. Now Muslims fast all day during this month, and then eat moderately after sunset. (This poses problems for Alaskan Muslims.) No food, no drink, no smoking. Fast is broken with an "Iftar" feast.

V. Pilgrimage (**Hajj**) This should catalyze devotion to God. Also, it reminds the travelers of their equality. When entering Mecca, they put on the same type of simple sheet garments. Everybody looks the same, regardless of social class. Big social status symbol.

Other Holidays

The Festival of the Sacrifice (Eid): This is one of the biggest holidays in the Islamic calendar. Families sacrifice animals (usually a sheep, a goat, a cow or a camel) in commemoration of Abraham's near-sacrifice of his son. Muslims believe that the son in question was Ishmael, not Isaac. A "quarbari" was offered instead, a substitute sacrifice.

Social Teachings of Muhammad

1. Women: In Arab world before Muhammad, women were like chattel. Muhammad did give them dignity of some sort. A woman must consent before being wedded. They may not be easily divorced. On the other hand, the hadith show little respect. Women are to be beaten (three whips on the wall). Male sexuality needs to be fulfilled, so men may have more than one wife.
2. War and the use of force: Five types of jihad. "Jihad" means "exertion." Kill the infidels. This is balanced by: Surah 2:257: "Let there be no compulsion in religion." Surah 5:48: On religious tolerance.

Branches of Islam—Sunni and Shi'ite

- A. Sunni = “traditionalist” (Grouped in Saudi Arabia, Turkey, North Africa, Middle East, Pakistan, Bangla-desh, Malaysia, Indonesia, etc.) From sunnah, meaning “tradition.” 87% of all Muslims
- B. Shi'ite = “partisans” (Grouped in Iran, Iraq)
 - a. These Muslims believe that Ali should have directly succeeded Muhammad.
 - b. Ali was Muhammad’s son-in-law. He finally did get appointed after being passed over three times. Then he was assassinated.
- C. Sufism has adherents in both Sunni and Shi'ite Islam.
 - a. Suf = wool Many of the original Sufis wore crude wool garments. They were protesting against luxurious clothing and worldly Islam.
 - b. They wanted to purify Islam, or reform it. Internal rather than external. “Love the pitcher less, and the water more.”

A CHRISTIAN EVALUATION OF ISLAM: ISLAMIC MONOTHEISM

- 1. Extreme *Determinism*—they have a grossly *anthropomorphic* view of the Christian doctrine of incarnation, thinking God had sex with Mary. Orthodox Islam thinks that our thoughts, words, and actions were decreed from eternity.
 - a. Logical Problem: Allah both “leads astray” and “guides.” etc. He is performing actions that are contradictory.
 - b. Moral: Human responsibility cannot be preserved.
 - c. Theological: God becomes the author of evil.
 - d. Metaphysical: There really is only one agent in the universe. This leads to a type of pantheism.
- 2. Muhammad’s claim to prophecy
 - a. He is called both prophet and apostle.
 - b. For Muslims, prophets must be either sinless or free from all major sins.
 - c. 33:40: Muhammad is the “seal of the prophets.”

3. Muslims claim biblical support that Muhammad is a prophet of God:
 - a. They say that John's "paraklete" παρακλητε is Muhammad. But in the same passage, the parakleteis παρακλητεις clearly identified as Holy Spirit.
 - b. Also, John 16 says that the Helper would abide with them forever. But Muhammad has been dead for 13 centuries!

4. Muhammad's alleged miracles:
 - a. The Night Journey: Sura17:1: Muhammad flew to heaven on a mule. Later, Muslims added to this story, saying that this is when Muhammad bargained God down from 50 prayers per day to 5 per day.
 - b. The military victory at Badr: But why is this a miracle, and a sign of God's approval of Muhammad? What about the subsequent defeat at Uhud?

5. The apologetic value of Muhammad's miracles:
 - a. Many of these come from tradition rather than from the Qu'ran. They lack eyewitnesses and have contradictions.
 - b. Even Muhammad had accepted that the prophets before him were confirmed by miracles. Sura6:8-9: When he was challenged to perform miracles, he refused. Muhammad said his only miracle was the Qu'ran. But producing literature is easier than miracles of nature.

6. Muhammad's Polygamy:
 - a. He was a polygamist. In the Hebrew Scriptures, God did permit polygamy, but did not command it; we might gather the same in the New Testament? [see 1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:6; may be referring, however, to elders not being divorced.]
 - b. Precedent: God gave Adam one wife.
 - c. Proportion: There are approximately the same number of men and women on earth.
 - d. Furthermore, he broke his own rule of four wives.
 - i. He lusted upon one of his wives, Zainab, such that she was divorced and then he married her.
 - ii. Aisha was 7 when they married and consummated before she was 9! All of this came from a "divine sanction."

- iii. Also, Muhammad had said that God commanded an even rotation among wives. 33:51: But “Allah” gave him an exception, that he could have whoever he wanted, when he wanted her.

7. Muhammad’s view of women:

- a. 4:34: Sometimes a man must scourge his wife.
- b. In Al-Bukhari’s hadith, Muhammad said that most inhabitants of hell were women, who are ungrateful for their husbands.
- c. Tradition teaches that a man decides whether or not his wife is worthy of paradise.

8. Muhammad asks forgiveness: Several times in the Quran Muhammad must ask forgiveness • 40:55 • 47:19 • 48:2

9. Muhammad & Violence—Jihad

- a. Muhammad OK’d his followers to raid the Meccan caravans.
- b. He himself led three such robberies.
- c. He sanctioned lies in order to have enemies killed; he OK’d assassinations.
- d. He broke promises when he thought it an advantage.
- e. He assassinated people for composing poems that mocked him. This happened at least twice. Deeply insecure; very sensitive. He attacked the last Jewish tribe of Medina. They killed all the men, and sold the women and children.

A CHRISTIAN CONSIDERATION OF THE QUR'AN

1. The Qur'an

- a. For Muslims, the Quran is the ultimate miracle. In fact, Muhammad's legitimacy rests squarely on the Quran.
- b. 10:37: Muhammad says that "the Quran is not such as can be produced by other than God."
- c. Also, "if the whole of mankind and jinn were to gather together to produce the like of this Quran, they could not produce the like thereof, even if they backed up each other with help and support."

2. Unique Literary Style

- a. Geisler¹⁹²: "Eloquence is highly questionable as a test for divine inspiration ... After all Mozart wrote his first symphony at the age of six!"
- b. Would a Muslim say that Mozart's, or Homer's or Shakespeare's, works are miraculous?

3. Perfect Preservation

- a. Initially the Quran was memorized. Scribes wrote on leaves, scraps of leather, paper, etc.
- b. Abu Bakr requested that the pieces be gathered.
- c. Later, during the Uthmanic caliphate (3rd caliphate), Uthman purged competing copies.
- d. But even today, there are divergent texts. • The Sunnis and Shiites have different texts.
- e. Shiites claim that Uthman eliminated many verses that spoke of Ali.
- f. The Ibn Masud Codex used by the Sunnis has over 150 variations in the second sura alone! Further, Islamic tradition reports certain things as being in the Quran, but those things are no longer in the Quran.

Camel Method – Controversy: Shadit Hussein, used verses in the Qu’ran, to bridge to the Gospel. Became the *camel book* after a western missionary learned from Shadit.

- 1) A bridge
- 2) Over-contextualization? Syncretism?
- 3) Redeemable? Yes, it can be used. Consider the “Parable of the Well of Living Water.” If I found a well in your land, would I be a good man or a bad man if I kept knowledge of that well from you? Well, I’ve found a well of living water, I’ve learned about from others and I want to share some from you. “I recently learned that the Qu’ran speaks about Isa. I am a devoted follower of Isa. Can you please help me understand what your religion teaches about Him. Would you please read Surah Al-Imran 3:42-55 so we can talk about it?” [find the text to use/read/understand]
- 4) Modified version: a very short bridge. See above which distinguishes between “my book” and “your book.”

Clarification:

- ⌘ We are not using the Koran for evangelism.
- ⌘ The Koran IS NOT scripture from God. Mohammad himself thought that he was demon-possessed. Satan masks lies by lacing them with truth.
- ⌘ Statements in the Koran are only true in so far as they agree with the inspired, inerrant and infallible Biblical revelation.
- ⌘ We are using the Koran as a bridge to make it acceptable to speak about the Biblical Jesus.

CONSIDER THIS APOLOGIA...

Surah Al-Imran 3:42-55

f42. And when the angels said: O Marium! surely Allah has chosen you and purified you and chosen you above the women of of the world.[3.43] O Marium! keep to obedience to your Lord and humble yourself, and bow down with those who bow.[3.44] This is of the announcements relating to the unseen which We reveal to you; and you were not with them when they cast their pens (to decide) which of them should have Marium in his charge, and you were not with them when they contended one with another.[3.45] When the angels said: O Marium, surely Allah gives you good news with a Word from Him (of one) whose name is the 'Messiah, Isa son of Marium, worthy of regard in this world and the hereafter and of those who are made near (to Allah).[3.46] And he shall speak to the people when in the cradle and when of old age, and (he shall be) one of the good ones.[3.47] She said: My Lord! when shall there be a son (born) to I me, and man has not touched me?He said: Even so, Allah creates what He pleases; when He has decreed a matter, He only says to it, Be, and it is.

1. **Isa is holy. 3:45-47** Isa holds the same quality of holiness as Allah. Why did Allah have Isa born from the virgin Marium? Do you know of anyone else that was born without an earthly father? Adam was. The Taurat says that Allah created him from the dust. But Isa' was not created like that. The Injil teaches that the Holy Spirit of God place Isa', the uncreated One, into her womb. Therefore, it seems that there is something very special about this Isa' making him different from any man that ever lived.

[3.48] And He will teach him the Book and the wisdom and the Tavrat and the Injeel.
[3.49] And (make him) an apostle to the children of Israel: That I have come to you with a sign from your Lord, that I determine for you out of dust like the form of a bird, then I breathe into it and it becomes a bird with Allah's permission and I heal the blind and the leprous, and bring the dead to life with Allah's permission and I inform you of what you should eat and what you should store in your houses; most surely there is a sign in this for you, if you are believers.

2. **Isa has power over Death. 3:49** Miracles display the power of Allah. Tell the story of _Isa raising Lazarus from the dead. The Injil teaches that Isa' has the power of life within him because "he is the life" (John 1:4 and 14:6) Do you think that people fear death? Do you know any other prophet that had power over death?

[3.50] And a verifier of that which is before me of the Taurat and that I may allow you part of that which has been forbidden to you, and I have come to you with a sign

from your Lord therefore be careful of (your duty to) Allah and obey me.[3.51] Surely Allah is my Lord and your Lord, therefore serve Him; this is the right path.[3.52] But when Isa perceived unbelief on their part, he said Who will be my helpers in Allah's way? The disciples said: We are helpers (in the way) of Allah: We believe in Allah and bear witness that we are submitting ones.[3.53] Our Lord! we believe in what Thou hast revealed and we follow the apostle, so write us down with those who bear witness.[3.54] And they planned and Allah (also) planned, and Allah is the best of planners.[3.55] And when Allah said: O Isa, I am going to terminate the period of your stay (on earth) and cause you to ascend unto Me and purify you of those who disbelieve and make those who follow you above those who disbelieve to the day of resurrection; then to Me shall be your return

3. Isa knows the way to heaven. 3:55 _Isa himself has traveled the direct path to Allah and is with Allah now. In the Injil he says, "I am the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Who is best suited to lead you to my house?

We are a part of Adam's bloodline so even if we've done some good things, we are still separated from Allah because of sin. We can never become holy ourselves and earn our way to the presence of Allah. (Romans 3:23 and 6:23) Out of all the prophets, which one do you think is most capable of reconciling you to Allah?—_Isa? (When they answer Isa' proceed to the Cube)—Mohammed? Read 46:9

If asked what you think of Mohammed, respond: "I say Mohammed is who he said he was in the Koran. Look at Surah 46:9, "I am nothing new among the Prophets; what will happen to me and my followers, I do not know; I am only a plain warner."

CONSIDER ANOTHER APOLOGIA...

Muslim Contextualized Cube/Quadratic:

1. Tell the story of Prophet Ibrahim placing his son on the altar.
2. God provided the substitute sacrifice.
3. If Ibrahim needed a substitute, surely we do too.
4. Where is the substitute that God provided for you?

OUR SIN SEPARATES US FROM ALLAH

THE PERFECT QUARBANI [substitute sacrifice] OF GOD . . . 'ISA!

Allah's Plan in Isa's death

'ISA LIVES!

'ISA ALONE KNOWS THE WAY TO ALLAH

TRUST ALLAH AND FOLLOW 'ISA

Before you go . . . PRAY expecting results. God is at work!

- ⌘ Have them provide the Koran.
- ⌘ Any truth in the Koran is mixed with gross error. It is impossible to lead them to salvation using the Koran. Start there only as a short bridge and quickly make your way to the Bible.
- ⌘ "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the WORD OF CHRIST!" Romans 10

PRACTICAL ADVICE

1. PRAYER is the most strategic thing you can do because only God can change someone's heart!
2. Understanding. Christians need to be aware of Islamic beliefs and be firmly grounded in biblical teaching.
3. Relationships. A confrontational evangelism style rarely is effective with Muslims. Christians need to be respectful and genuinely befriend them getting to know them as individuals.
4. Respect. Never ridicule the beliefs or customs of a Muslim, even those with which you disagree. Respect the individual and realize that they have been blinded by Satan.
5. Reverence for Scripture. Muslims treat their holy book, the Qur'an, with utmost respect, and they expect Christians to show similar respect for the Bible.
6. Common ground. Begin with the Hebrew Scriptures to apply the word of God, since the foundations of our salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ start there.
7. Parables. Use gospel narratives rather than theological explanations to explain biblical truth.
8. Avoid offense. Be culturally sensitive! 1 Peter 3:13ff

If you wait until you feel "ready" to witness to a Muslim,
you never will. Trust Holy Spirit to lead you to a "person of peace."

Transitioning to the Bible

1. Surah Jonah 10:94
2. Surah The Women 4:136
3. If they believe the Bible has been changed, read Surah Cattle 6:115-116
4. Surah The Table Spread 5:65-66

SCALE OF CONTEXTUALISM

- ⌘ C1—church is foreign to the Muslim community; church looks just like “home.”
- ⌘ C2—church speaks local language, but avoids use of Islamic terminology.
- ⌘ C3—incorporates non-Islamic cultural elements into worship; own language and own architecture and own clothing; communion with water and crackers (in those instances where wine or grape juice is not available).
- ⌘ C4—incorporates biblically acceptable Islamic cultural elements; jamatt as church, iman as pastor.
- ⌘ C5—Muslim follower of Jesus; maintains identity as Muslim but a follower of Jesus as the Son of God.
- ⌘ C6—secret believers possibly still participating in mosque activities but praying and worshipping Jesus; “do all the stuff,” but pray to Jesus.

Note: the IMB is comfortable up to C4; a few with C5; C5 & C6 probably saved.

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM—A CALM APPROACH

A – Appreciate.

1. Why don't Muslims believe Jesus the Christ is the Son of God?

- a. God is _____.
- b. God is _____.
- c. God is _____.
- d. Resurrection proves _____.

2. How does Islam characterize the nature of humanity compared to Christianity?

3. What do you find attractive about Islamic belief and/or practice?

4. What do you find problematic about their beliefs and/or practice? Why are the beliefs below particularly useful within the Islamic belief system?

- Paradise = the absence of hell. _____
- Sin = anything not submissive to God. _____
- God's nature = inexplicable. _____
- Your choice: _____ = _____

Why?

APOLOGETICS

C → Comprehend,
A → Appreciate,
L → Love, and *then* seek to
M → Master:
 C—Contain,
 C—Control, and
 C—Combat:
 I—Influence,
 L—Latitude, and/or
 L—Lethality.

L – Love.

1. What name would you use for the “Lord God Jehovah” when talking to a Muslim?

2. How would you go about expressing affection for Muslims during Eid and Ramadan?

Eid al-Adha _____

Ramadan _____

3. How would you show respect to Mohammed? _____

4. What specific doctrine would you pray be changed among Muslim believers?

M – Master by

C – Containing

C – Controlling, and/or

C – Combating Islam’s...

I – Influence. Make as many Muslim friends as possible. Why? _____

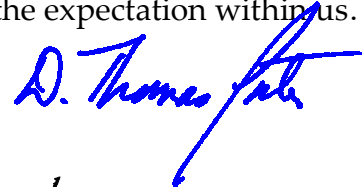
L – Latitude. Resist the application of Sharia Law politically. Why? _____

L – Lethality. Seek vehicles and other energy systems not dependent upon petro chemicals.

Why?

CAVEAT EMPTOR

- Be wary of those who wish to kill rather than understand, those who would denigrate rather than appreciate, and eliminate rather than love. It is all too easy to be poisoned by the toxicity of a world caught up in its own self-righteousness, its own sense of flagrant jingoism, and its need to be right rather than righteous.
- We have only scratched the surface of understanding Islam. While that scratching has taught us much, we need to understand even more, not so much about Islam, but the Bible is His Word, and as such, as Paul said in Ephesians 6, is Holy Spirit's weapon for us in these battles against the enemies of Christ.
- Perhaps, one day, with sufficient love, Moslems will adapt their doctrine to Biblical Christianity. I look forward to the day when we can call them brothers in the effort to glorify the Lord God Jehovah. Until then, Peter's call to be gentle and respectful with a heart focused on *Christ* as Lord as we provide an explanation for the expectation within us...



Those are our marching orders...