

Islam and Christianity

Important Words and Facts

Mohammad – the man who began the religion named Islam.

Islam – the name of the religion. “Islam” means submit, to submit to God.

Muslim – a person who follows the religion of Islam.

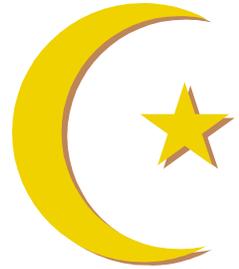
Qur’an – holy book of Islam, also spelled Quran and Koran.

Allah – the name Muslims use for God. In Arabic, “Allah” means “The God.”

Mecca – Islam’s holy city in Saudi Arabia. Medina is another holy city in Saudi Arabia.

Number of Muslims in the world – about 1 billion, mostly in the Middle East, Africa, and South-East Asia.

Number of Muslims in the U.S. – about 7 million.



History

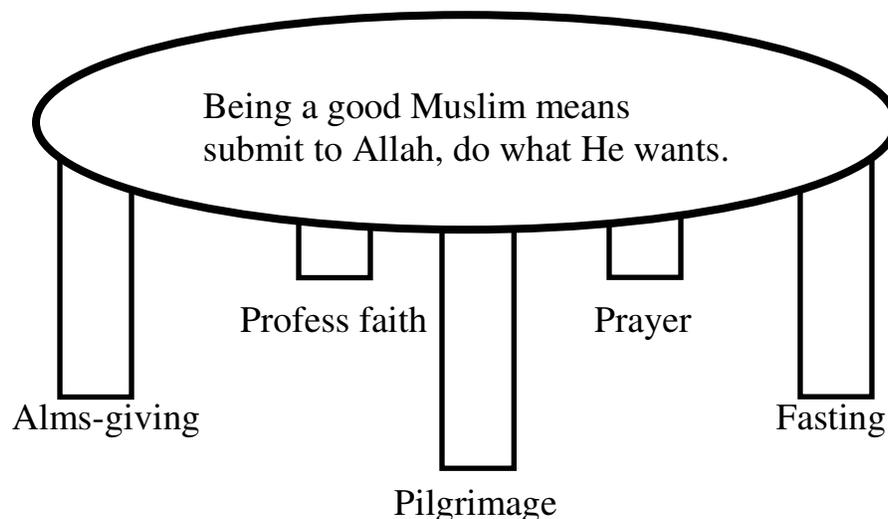
Mohammed was born in 570 A.D. in Saudi Arabia. In Mecca, around 610 A.D., Mohammed said the angel Gabriel came to him many times and gave him messages from God. Mohammed said he wrote those messages and they became the Koran. In 622, Mohammed moved to the city of Medina and made that the first full Muslim city. From there, he made strong armies that defeated people around them and made them become Muslim. By the time Mohammed died in 632, all of Saudi Arabia was Muslim.

Beliefs

Islam is a religion that believes in Allah, that means “the God.” They say he is the same god that Jews and Christians worship. But they say Jews and Christians changed God’s teachings.

Muslims have a saying, “I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and that Mohammad is his prophet.” They say that the prophets in the Bible were God’s prophets, that Jesus was a prophet, and that Mohammed was the last and greatest prophet.

Islam is built on 5 pillars, 5 foundations. Picture it like a table with 5 legs.



Profess faith: When a Muslim says, “I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and that Mohammad is his prophet,” he is professing (announcing) faith. They say that is enough to make you Muslim, but you should also believe and obey Allah.

Prayer: Muslims have five times for prayer every day – dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and evening. When they pray, they always face Mecca. They stand, bow, kneel, and face the ground, while saying their prayers or verses from the Koran. Friday is special time for prayer, can have sermons that day.

Fasting: During the month of Ramadan, Muslims eat nothing during the day. From sunset to sunrise, they can eat.

Alms-giving: This is more like a tax, and not like giving offerings in church. The money goes to help poor people, helping people in trouble, missions, and the mosques.

Pilgrimage: Every Muslim, if they are able, should go to Mecca at least once in their lifetime. In Mecca, they do things to remember what Mohammed did, also to remember Abraham and Ishmael.

Compare Islam and Christianity

1. Muslims say there is only one God. What does the Bible say? Read Deuteronomy 6:4 and Matthew 28:19.
2. Muslims say Jesus was only a prophet, and Allah saved Him from death. He didn't get crucified. What does the Bible say? 1 Corinthians 1:22-23.
3. Muslims trace their history back to Abraham and Ishmael. They say they worship the same God as Abraham worshiped. Do they? What does the Bible say? John 14:6-10.
4. The Koran encourages Muslims to fight against non-Muslims. Non-Muslims can be killed if they don't convert. Mohammed did that. What does the Bible say? Matthew 5:38-42, Matthew 24:9.
5. The Koran says you are responsible for your sins. That is why you don't have a savior, because you must fix your sins yourself. What does the Bible say? Romans 14:10-12, Romans 3:10-20, Ephesians 2:8-9.