

# Three Monotheistic Abrahamic Faiths

1. Islam – trace origin to Hagar (mother of Bedouin life) through Ishmael.
2. Judaism – trace origin to Sarah through Isaac.
3. Christianity – trace God's covenants from Abraham through Isaac to Christ and His church.
4. Arabic Speaking Muslims, Jews, and Christians all use Allah as their primary name for God.



# Biblical Narratives Related to Islam

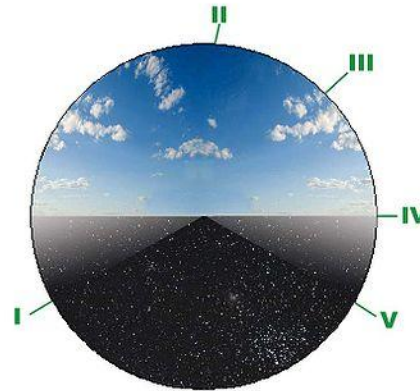
1. Genesis 16 – Hagar pregnant, runs away to the wilderness, returns, Ishmael is born.
2. Genesis 17 – Promise of a son from Sarah, Abraham pleads that Ishmael may live before God, God hears his prayer and promises large and powerful progeny, eternal covenant will be made through Isaac not Ishmael and includes the land of Canaan.
3. Genesis 21 – Isaac displaces Ishmael, Ishmael and Hagar cast out, promise kept.



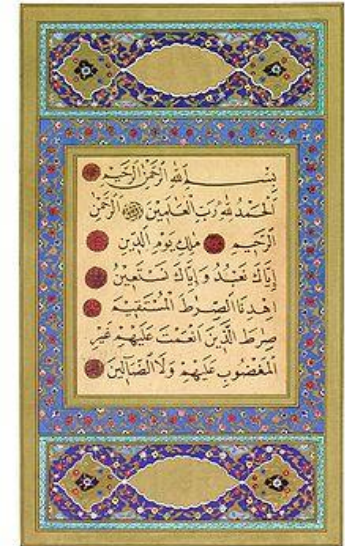
# Sights and Sounds of Islam



The Kaaba, Mecca



Prayer Times



First Chapter (sura) Qu'ran



Muslim Prayer (salah)



The Great Mosque 670  
Tunisia



# Historical Overview

1. Rise of the Caliphate and Civil War (632-750)
2. The Golden Age (750-1258) Mongol Empire put an end to Abbasid Dynasty in Bagdad in 1258
3. Fragmentation and Invasion
4. New Dynasties and Colonialism (1030-1918)  
Ottoman Empire rose to power in the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> centuries
5. Modern Times (1918-Present)
6. Islamic Revival and Islamist Movements



# Word Meanings & Sacred Writings

1. Islam (al-Islam) accept, surrender, submit to God
2. Qur'an (recitation) is the central religious text
  - A. Directly from God through Gabriel in oral form
  - B. Given to Muhammad between 610-632
  - C. 114 *suras* or chapters and 6236 *ayat* or verses
  - D. Written down by Muhammad's companions
  - E. It was compiled and standardized during the time of the first 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Caliphs.
3. Hadith are words and deeds of Muhammad that are narrated and are significant for jurisprudence and holy life.



# Muhammad

1. c. 570-June 8, 632 began as a trader.
2. Did not create a new religion but rather restored the original uncorrupted primordial faith of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and others. All of their revelations (Torah/Gospels) have been corrupted in transmission.
3. He is the last and greatest in a series of prophets and possess all virtue and perfections.
4. By 629 Muhammad ruled the Arabian peninsula.
5. Muhammad's life is normative for all Muslims and his actions, words, and personal virtues are collected in the Hadith.



# The Five Pillars of Islam

1. The Creed (*shahadah*) *I testify there is none worthy of worship except God and I testify that Muhammad is the messenger of God*
2. Prayers (*salah*) five times a day facing Mecca and done to focus the mind on God and communion with him in gratitude and worship
3. Alms-giving (*Zakat*) is obligatory to help the poor and needy and to assist the spread of Islam.
4. Fasting (*Swam*) during Ramadan with no food or beverage from dawn until dusk
5. Pilgrimage (*Hajj*) to Mecca in the sacred last month of the year.



# Muslim Population by Percentage

1. 2009-232 countries 23% (1.57 billion people)  
Muslim
2. 87% - 90% are Sunni 10%-13% are Shia
3. 62% of the worlds Muslims live in Asia (with 683 million in Indonesia, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh)
4. 13% of Muslims live in Indonesia
5. 50 countries have Muslim majority
6. Second largest religion in the world & fastest growing



# Weakness of the West

1. Continuing myopia of the West's intellectual, political and cultural elites that Islam has always been a tolerant religion in a multicultural setting.
2. Any marriage has been short lived and shotgun in character. In the colonial period the west provided the gun boats which the east has replaced with roadside bombs and suicide bomb packs.
3. In the name of globalization we hear the media; *if the west would just respect the Muslim world more the conflict would abate. bin Laden; there can be no compromise or mutual respect.*



# Clash of Civilizations:

1. Muslims have a long and lasting historical memory.
2. Islam has been boiling with resentment over its gradual loss of world supremacy and its humiliating subordination to Western powers, values and commercial interests.
3. Many are itching to settle the score and level the playing field especially in the Balkans, Palestine and Spain.
4. Struggle is to eliminate the intrusive Western power and corrupting Western influence from all the lands of Islam & restoration of Islamic authority.



# Clash of Revelations

## Judaic/Christian

1. Eternal covenant with Abraham through Isaac includes the whole land of Canaan.
2. Circumcision from that moment on is bound up with call and election.
3. Special revelation and choice gives rise to special destiny.
4. Romans named the land Palestine and from 63 BC to 1948 it was never a sovereign nation.



# The Clash of Revelations

## Qur'an/Hadith

1. Torah & Gospels are corrupt and the Qur'an supersedes and corrects them.
2. Pitch of global Islam is not to true fellow believers but to the *umma* (global Muslim community).
3. Bin Laden's see himself as the true, legitimate leader of a planetary *umma* as opposed to a political/religious ascendancy over the dominant Western world order. A new *Dar al-Islam* without borders or national distinctions. Israel the *Little Satan* & the US *Great Satan* must be destroyed.



# Weakness of Western Christianity-1

1. Fatal attraction to consumer culture and a fatal alliance with it in the name of the blessing of God.
2. Qutb, came to the US in 1950's and was shocked by the sexual licentiousness of teenage pop culture. His experience prompted him to formulate a program of revival of Islam as a counter force to what was sweeping the middle east and bin Laden adopted his program as his own.
3. Who really is God in the Western church?



## Weakness of Western Christianity-2

4. Consumer idol of relevance and growth.
5. Globalization offers some benefits to the church including facilitating gospel proclamation and church planting while offering global Islam the same in their conflict with secularization.
6. We continue with the old colonial mentality that Islam is just a folk religion while forgetting at one time it almost completely overwhelmed – and in the right situation could still overwhelm – the Christian West.

