

*Looking for the Blessed Hope*

A Brief Look at Islam and the Qur'an

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**Ground Rules**

- Yes, bless Israel...but not at the expense of others
  - Either/or....or....Both/and?
- Jesus said:
  - "Love your enemies." (Mt 5:44, Lk 6:27, 35)
  - "Blessed are the peacemakers." (Mt 5:9)
  - "Be at peace with all men, if possible." (Rom 12:18)

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**Ground Rules**

- Bashing Islam/Muslims - not the goal, not valued
- Sharing facts - important, but without evil intent
- Stand boldly/firmly on Scripture - attitude pleasing to the Lord
- Oppose false theology, but love the people
- Discuss honestly, but avoid criticism/debate

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## An Age-Old Problem

- God's Covenant with Abram included the promise of a son through Sarai.
- Abram and Sarai grew old and the promise did not look possible.
- Abram and Sarai attempted to "help God out!"
- The result: Ishmael...the son before the son of promise.
- Two religious systems evolved:
  - Descendants of Isaac - Jews (Judaism)
  - Descendants of Ishmael - Muslims (Islam)

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## Beginnings

- Judaism - based on the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
  - Abraham - father of God's people
  - Moses - given the law, instituted the tabernacle, led Israelites through the wilderness
  - Joshua - led Israelites into the Promised Land
- Islam - based on the god of Muhammad
  - Muhammad - prophet

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## Muhammad the Prophet

- Born 570 AD
- Father died before birth, mother died early in his life, raised by an uncle
- 12-years old: visited by angels who took out his heart, purified it, and put it back in!
- Was supposedly illiterate until he was squeezed very hard by an angel
- Ministry:
  - 13 years in Mecca (peaceful, small following)
  - 10 years in Medina (jihad/violence, large following)

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**Qur'an:  
Islamic Holy Book**

- Qur'an = "recitation"
- Muslims: "Qur'an is inspired, Bible is expired"
  - Many versions of the Qur'an
  - Recitations kept in perfect memory for 35+ years
  - Later addition of vowels and diacritical marks, leaving room for many different interpretations
  - Earth is flat, sun revolves around the earth, man was created from nothing!

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**Qur'an:  
Islamic Holy Book**

- No reference to God's interaction with people
- No guarantee of salvation
- Must be read in Arabic!

...Well, maybe not!

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**The Bible...According  
to the Qur'an**

- The Torah was sent for guidance (Sura 3:3)
- No man can change the Word of the Lord (Sura 6:115)
- Reference to the Old Testament (Sura 21:105)
- Re-purpose the New Testament
  - Muhammad applied Mark 4 to Muslim people (Sura 48:29)
- One may use deception if it is for "a higher purpose!" (Sura 3:28, 16:106, 2:225, 66:2)

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## Sects of Islam

- Two major sects:
  - Sunni (about 80% of all Muslims)
  - Shi'ite (about 10% of all Muslims)
- Other minor sects:
  - Sufi's (spiritual mystics)
  - Wahhabi's (strict, traditional, often associated with terrorism)
  - Cultural (know little, simply "are" Muslim)
  - Various others

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## This Week's Study

- The truth about Islam
  - Is Islam a religion of peace?
- The Iranian Agenda
- Radicals, Reformers and Revivalists
- In search of the One True God
  - (Don't miss this one!)

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## Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. May peace be within your walls and prosperity within your palaces." For the sake of my brothers and my friends, I will now say, "May peace be within you." For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

Psalm 122:6-9

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