**Apologetics and Islam**

**Outline**

**I. Positive Apologetics of Islam and the Qur’an**

**II. Islamic criticism of the Bible and of Christianity**

**III. Apologetic Issues in the Qur’an**

**I. Positive Apologetics of Islam and of theQur’an**

As a rule, Islamic apologetics has been a response to Christian apologetics.

Their problem: No fulfilled prophecy, no miracles, no resurrection.

In a recent debate, Shabir Ally proved that the Qur’an is inspired by God using numerology.

**A. The word yom is in the Qur’an 365 times.**

Response: The Arabic year is 360 days and the Arabs are the people to whom the book was written.

**B. The number 19 and multiples thereof show up many times in the Qur’an.**

Sura 74:30 19 angels as guardians over the fire (hell)

The first ayat of the Qur’an (In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful) is made up of 19 letters in the Arabic.

114 Suras in the Qur’an 19x6 (Although there was a debate about two of the suras)

The first revelation to Muhammad 76 letters (19x4) The 19th from the last chapter of the Qur’an has 19 verses and 209 letters (19x11).

Response: The number of verses and the numbers of the suras were not even in the original. This is your best evidence?

Response: We know from the Sana’a manuscript that the Qur’an has changed considerably, undermining the significance of this.

Bottom line, the Qur’an has evolved over time!!! See below for more on the Sanaa manuscript.

**C. Muhammad’s ministry is the fulfillment of Jewish and Christian Prophecy.**

a. Deuteronomy 18:15-18 15The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet *like me from among your own brothers*. You must listen to him. 16For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.“ 17The Lord said to me: "What they say is good. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet *like you from among their brothers*; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.

Deut 17:15 (brother ≠ foreigner) “do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not a brother Israelite.”

Deut 34:10—“Since then no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, who did all those miraculous signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt”

Like Moses = miraculous signs and wonders, which Mohammed never did, but Jesus clearly did.

[b. Deut 33:1-2This is the blessing that Moses the man of God pronounced on the Israelites before his death. 2 He said:

“The LORD came from Sinai

and dawned over them from Seir;

he shone forth from Mount Paran.

He came with myriads of holy ones

from the south, from his mountain slopes.”

Muslims claim: Sinai = Moses

Seir = Jesus

Paran = Mohammed

Paran is nowhere near Mecca (Hab 3:3)

Seir is the capital of Edom. There is no association at all between Jesus and Seir.]

c. Isa 21:7 ”when he sees…riders on donkeys or riders on camels, let him be fully alert”

Muslim claim: riders on donkeys = Jesus, riders on camels = Mohammed. Context: fall of Babylon!

d. Jn 14:16— Muslim apologists claim parakletos 🡪 periclytos (praised one) (Muhammad means the praised one)—

1. No manuscript support whatsoever.

2. Jn 14:26 tell us that the Comforter is the Spirit.

3. The passage is a comfort for the apostles, who would not have much comfort from a man who would not come for nearly 600 years.

4. Jn 16 The Comforter to abide forever (but Muhammad is dead)

5. Jn 14:26 the Comforter to be sent in Jesus’ name. Muslims cannot accept that!

6. Acts 1:5 The Comforter will come in not many days, not the 7th century!

**D. Other evidence that the Qur’an is inspired:**

a.Because of the beautiful, perfect and pure Arabic, spoken by an illiterate Quraish Arab.

My resonse: If one reads the Qur’an in translation, it is nearly inpenetrable. It is very hard to translate and very hard to follow. It may very well be beautiful poetry, as the Arab culture was entirely oral and relied on poetry to remember things.

Qur’an perfect and pure Arabic?

clear pure, perfect Arabic?

Sura 12:1-2 “These are the verses of the Scripture that makes thing clear—We have sent it down as an Arabic Qur’an so that you may understand.”

Arthur Jeffery (1892-1959), professor of Semitic languages first at the School of Oriental Studies in Cairo and then at Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary, found hundreds of foreign words in the Qur’an, as recorded in his book Foreign Vocabulary in the Qur’an (1938).

The Qur’an is written in difficult, classical Arabic (in the Quraysh dialect) sprinkled with Hebrew, Greek, Egyptian, Syriac, Christian Aramaic, Christian Ethiopic

One reason Muslims do not want the Qur’an translated is that much of it is impenetrably difficult to understand.

b. Because of all the positively changed lives under the influence of Islam.

There is some truth in this in that the pagan/polytheistic culture of the Arabian peninsula was improved by a monotheism with a strong moral sense. There is some truth in Islam, but most or all of what is good in Islam is hijacked from Judaism.

c. Because of the rapid spread and the great number of conversions.

We can acknowledge that there are positive reasons for people to be attracted to Islam, but this is not proof that its teachings are from God.

The political and military spread of Islam was truly and amazingly rapid. However, the spread of the religion outside of Arabia was not nearly so rapid. Many conversions were “at the edge of the sword,” and the political and economic advantage which followed political domination was, arguably, the chief reason for the conversions over the next several hundred years. Once Islam is established as the majority, extreme forms of persecution is the main reason for the continued success of the religion.

**II Islamic Criticism of the Bible and of Christianity**

Islam has a big problem.

A. The Qur’an says that the Old and New Testaments are inspired and are to be obeyed by the people of the book. In fact, they use the prophecies in both the Old and New Testaments to support belief in the Qur’an. But….

B. If the Old and especially the New Testament, as we have received them are true, then Muhammad cannot be a prophet.

They are caught between a rock and a hard place.

Sura 5:47 The people of the Injil [gospel] shall rule in accordance with Allah’s revelations which are found there. Anyone who does not rule in accordance with Allah’s revelations there are wicked.

Also, “the people of the book” (ie Jews) are told to follow the Old Testament teachings. Sura 6:91-92 says that Allah sent the Book of Moses “And this is the book which we sent down”

Sura 3:83 We believe in Allah and that which is revealed to us, and that which was revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes, and that which was given to Moses and Jesus and the prophets from their Lord; we make no distinction between any of them, and to Him we submit.

Sura 29:46 And dispute ye not with the people of the book but say: We believe in the revelation which has come down to us and that which came down to you.

So, why do Muslims say the Bible is corrupted? Because they HAVE to.

Another problem: Muslims say OT and NT are corrupted, yet they use them as proof of Muhammad being a prophet, as noted above. Can they have it both ways?

Does the Qur’an teach that the Bible had been corrupted in the 7th century? No. Muhammad complained that they misinterpreted, not that they had a corrupted scripture.

Sura 2:75 …some of them have already heard the word of Allah and knowingly perverted it, after they had understood its meaning. 5:13 “they change words from their context.”

Is the evidence consistent with the claim that the New Testament has been corrupted? Consider the Rylands Papyrus or the Washington Manuscript, etc.

Consider the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were in existence 700 years before Muhammad wrote the words above. When were they corrupted?

Which verses are corrupted? What is the evidence for this corruption? This charge has only been made more recently when the apologetic issue came into focus. Early Muslims never made this charge.

For example, the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are specifically and definitely denied. Sura 4:157 And for their saying: We have killed the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the messenger of Allah, and they killed him not, nor did they cause his death on the cross, but he was made to appear to them as such.

No less than Bart Ehrman—arch atheist and skeptic of Christianity—said “One of the most certain facts of history is that Jesus was crucified on orders of the Roman prefect of Judea, Pontius Pilate.

Muslims find themselves friends with the most destructive liberal and atheist critics, yet they go beyond even them in their criticism of the Bible.

Are the accounts in the four gospels of Jesus’ crucifixion all made up? What about Tacitus and Josephus?

What about the Qur’an?

In 652 Uthman (580-656) ordered all Qur’ans burned except the single version he created, in an attempt to remove all differences.

In 1972 an exciting manuscript find of the oldest known Qur’an was found in Sana’a, Yemen. The manuscript is a palimpsest (ie was partially erased and printed on top of the original) has been dated AD 650.Were Muslims happy about this? Definitely not!!!

Why? There are hundreds of variations between it and the Uthmanic version. Sura 20 and 21 were missing, The text skips from Sura 26 to Sura 37!

The Ibn Masud Codex (from Kufa) has 150 variants from the standard Qur’an in Sura 2 alone!

The Topkapi Manuscript has 54 variants from the Uthmanic Qur’an.

L. Bevan Jones: “While it may be true that no other work has remained for twelve centuries with so pure a text, it is probably equally true that no other has suffered so drastic a purging.”

[of course something like that happened in Christianity in the creation of the Byzantine text in about AD 700 or so, but as far as we know, no effort was made to burn all other manuscript lines and we have dozens of varying text from before the Byzantine text]

It is worth noting that, although Muslim apologists spend great time and energy on disproving the reliability of the Bible, they completely avoid studying the history and reliability of the Qur’an.

For example, Muslim apologists try to attack the historicity of biblical statements, yet what is the biblical basis for Jesus speaking from the cradle or for him turning clay birds into living birds?

It is ironic that the Christians have devoted vast energy to studying biblical manuscripts in an effort to produce an accurate and reliable Greek and Hebrew text.

The irony is that Muslims do not do this. They are completely uninterested in establishing a reliable Qur’anic text, the result being that any fair analysis will prove that the Qur’an suffers in its textual reliability in comparison to both the Old and the New Testament. Muslim attacks only increase the resulting reliability of the Christian scripture.

Muslims assume that they have a perfect Arab original, and therefore it is impious and perhaps even blasphemous to study the textual evidence. Christians believe the originals are inspired but that the copiers were not perfect. Evidence simply does not support the Muslim positon.

Muslims believe that the Qur’an is eternal—that it preexisted creation—yet it has statements in response to situations that just happened to Muhammed, advice for battles that are about to happen.

The Quran is very clear about a number of facts.

Fact one: God's Word cannot contain err, and cannot change. Allah is said to preserve the Quran in Surah 15:9; 41:41-42

Surah 3:3 tells us that Allah "...sent down to thee (step by step), in truth, the Book, confirming what went before it; And he sent down the Torah and the Gospels… as guidance to mankind."

There is no word about textual corruption of the Torah or the Gospel. Surahs 3:7, 21, 23, 48, 84, 65, 93, 184, 199; 4:44, 51, 136; 5:15, 43-49, 57-59, 66-69, 113; 6:91, 154; 10:37; 11:17; 16:43; 17:2; 20:133; 21:7, 33; 23:49; 26:196; 32:23; 41:42-45; 46:10-12; 54:43; 57:27; 80:11-16; and 87:18-19 all *confirm*, rather than *repudiate* the Torah and Gospels.

Surah 5:43-49 for example starts off with a revealing passage:

5:43 But why do they come to thee for decision, when they have Torah before them? Therein is the plain command of Allah; yet even after that they would turn away.

5:47 Let the people of the Gospel judge by that which Allah had revealed therein.

5:66 If they had observed the Torah and the Gospel and that which was sent down to them from the Lord….

For a Muslim to be in accordance with the Quran in his *theology*, he cannot maintain that the Torah and the Scriptures are corrupted - unless the corruption took place *after* the Quran was written. Even then, the corruption would theoretically be disallowed.

It was not until the 1800s, in India, that we find any mention of the corruption of the Bible in Islamic apologetics, when they came into contact with Christian missionaries.

Three more Muslim criticisms:

1.Christianity is tritheism.

2. It is not just for one person to suffer for the sins of another.

3. The biblical descriptions of Abraham, Moses, David, Samson and others are scandalous and certainly are not accurate.

1. Christianity is tritheism.

I would not engage a Muslim in this debate because, arguably, the trinity is difficult to defend based on logic.

The rejection of trinity in the Qur’an is probably a reaction to Catholic/Coptic near tritheism. They called Mary “The mother of God.” This is why Muhammad is so strong about God not having a consort or a son.

Muslim: Only Allah is eternal. Yet, the Qur’an teaches that both Allah and the Qur’an are eternal and uncreated.

2. It is not just for one person to suffer for the sins of another.

The Qur’an includes the idea of substitutionary sacrifice

a. Ishmael’s death averted by sacrifice of a ram. 37:107

b. In the feast of Eid a goat is killed for purification of the faithful.

c. Shia: Muhammad’s grandson Husayn was murdered as a “ransom for the people for Mankind.”

Response: Jesus did this willingly. We will admit that the message of the cross is a stumbling block to Jews and Muslims alike (1 Cor 1:18f)

3. The biblical descriptions of Abraham, Moses, David, Samson and others are scandalous and certainly are not accurate.

Abraham, Ishmael, Jacob, Esau, David are presented in an unflattering way in the Hebrew Bible. Therefore these are not accurate descriptions of these prophets.

Jesus was executed. Allah would never allow one of his prophets to be executed in this shameful way.

Response: Which account is more likely to be correct?

a. The one recorded two thousand years closer to the events?

b. The one which does not appear to be a classic white-wash. The natural human tendency is to remove not to add embarrassing material about their heroes.

c. The claim is that these stories were changed. If so, when? Before the Dead Sea Scrolls? If so, then why would Muhammad command the Jews to obey their inspired scriptures?

**III. Apologetic Issues in Islam and the Qur’an**

1. **World View Issues**
2. **Historical Errors**
3. **Scientific Errors**
4. **Satanic Verses and Abrogation**

A. World View Issues Is Islam a better religion than Christianity?

**Islam and women**

**Works salvation**

**Predestination**

**Fate: Problem of Pain and Suffering**

**Islam: God unapproachable.**

Islam and women:

**“Men have authority over women because Allah has made the one superior to the other, and because they spend their wealth to support them. Good women are obedient… If they are rebellious, rebuke them, beat them, and send them to bed.”**

**-- 4:34**

**“Marry women of your choice, two, three, or four.” -- 4:3**

**Sexual relations with captive female slaves is acceptable**

**23:5,6 70:30**

Islam, Sin and Works Salvation

**“Surely good deeds take away evil deeds” (11:114).**

***Kabira* (big sins)—murder, adultery, drunkenness, disobeying parents, neglecting Ramadan or Friday prayers, gambling, dancing, shaving the beard, forgetting the Koran after reading it, usury… Forgiveness with repentance.**

***Saghira* (little sins)—deceit, anger, lust. Forgiveness if greater sins are avoided and good deeds are performed.**

***Shirk*—association (of other gods with Allah). No forgiveness.**

**Salvation by own effort**

**(40:9, 39:61, 7:43)**

**Charity atones for sins**

**(2:271,277)**

* **Earn grace.**
* **Earn favor of Allah.**
* **Earn salvation.**
* **Earn paradise.**

**Islam: Salvation is earned through the efforts of those who were pre-selected by Allah to inhabit a very sensual paradise.**

**Christianity: Salvation is granted by the grace of a loving God to those who, through faith and repentance and baptism accept that love.**

**Predestination**

**In Islam, Allah determines everything, even who will choose to follow him.**

**6:39 “Who Allah wills he leaves to wander, who Allah wills, he places on the way that is straight. ”6:125 Those whom Allah wills to guide, he opens their breasts to Islam. Those he wills to leave straying, he makes their breast closed and constricted.” Inshallah No free will. Sura 9:51 “Nothing will befall us except what Allah has ordained for us.”**

**Sura 5:40-41 “He punishes who he will and forgive who he will…. Those are they for whom the will of Allah is that He cleanse not their hearts.”**

**Hadith makes this even more plain.**

**“God created for Paradise those who are fit for it while they were yet in their father’s loins and created for Hell those who are to go to Hell. He created them for Hell while they were yet in their father’s loins” (Salih Muslim 33:6393)**

Islam on Pain and Suffering.

Islam: Inshallah

Christianity: Compassion

B. Historical Errors

Sura 7:124, 12:41 Crucifixion in Egypt in the time of Moses.

**Zechariah silent 3 days (not 9 months) 3:41**

Abraham and Ishmael come in a pilgrimage to Mecca and the Kabah, when there is no evidence of Mecca’s existence prior to the time of Christ.

* **Jesus’ childhood miracles 3:49, 5:110,**

3:49 5:110 Jesus makes a clay bird, breathes on it and it comes to life.

Sura 19:30-33 Jesus speaks while still in the cradle. “He [the infant] spoke, “I am indeed a servant of Allah. He has given me the Book and has appointed me a Prophet. And he has made me blessed wherever I may be and has commanded me to pray and to give charity to the poor as long as I live. And he has made me dutiful to my mother and not made me oppressive or wicked.”

These false claims are fairly obviously taken from the Infancy Gospel of Thomas, of which there was an Arabic translation in the 6th century.

Early Muslim writers agree that Muhammad believed the “trinity” in Christianity was the Father, the Mother and the Son. Tafsir al-Jalalayn quotes Muhammad as saying, “So believe in Allah and his messengers. Do not say, “Three gods: Allah, Isa and his mother.” Also Sura 5:116 “O Jesus son of Mary, didst thou say unto men: “Take me and my mother as gods, apart from God.”

In Surah 28:35-42 for example, we see Pharaoh commanding Haman (a Persian ruler born about a thousand years later…oops…) to build a tower that closely resembles the Biblical account of the tower of Babel (which was erected hundreds of years before) all in the time of Moses.

Noah’s 4th son drowns 11:43

Did not get on the ark

Pharaoh’s magicians repent 20:70

Judges 7 / 1 Sam 17 conflated 2:249

Gideon confused with David and Goliath

C. Scientific Errors

**23:14—*Creation from the clot of blood and man inserts baby into the woman.***

**“Then we made the sperm into a clot of congealed blood; then from that clot we made a lump; and we made out of that lump bones and clothed the bones with flesh.”**

**18:86—*Traveling west…***

**“… till, when he reached the setting-place of the sun, he found it setting in a muddy spring.”**

**Muslim authors quoted this as authoritative well into the Middle Ages.**

**21:32-33, 36:40—*Sun and stars orbit the earth* "Each one is travelling in an orbit with its own rounded course."**

**34:9, 52:44—*Piece of sky falls and kills someone.* “We could cause… a piece of the sky to fall on them.**

D. Satanic Verses: The doctrine of Abrogation.

Sura 6:34 “no one can alter Allah’s promises”

Sura 6:115 “No one can change His words”

Sura 10:64 “There is no changing the promises of Allah”

To abrogate is to annul or cancel.

Sura 2:106 *None of Our revelations do We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, but We substitute something better or similar: Knowest thou not that Allah Hath power over all things?*

Surah 16:101

*When We substitute one revelation for another,- and Allah knows best what He reveals (in stages),- they say, "Thou art but a forger": but most of them understand not.*

Sura 53:19 In “a moment of weakness” Muhammad said: “Have you thought of Al-lat, al Uzza and AManat? These are exalted intermediaries whose intercession is to be hoped for.” Later abrogated, of course.

**Sura an-Najm (Star) 53:19-22**

|  |
| --- |
| Now tell me about Al-Lat, Al-Uzza, and Manat, The third one, another goddess. What! For you the males and for him the females! That indeed is an unfair division. |

The earlier passages in the Qur’an in which Christians and Jews are considered also OK are abrogated by the later ones. The ones which are nice are abrogated by the violent ones.

Praying toward Jerusalem abrogated by praying toward Mecca. (Sura 2:142-145)

Only four wives (Sura 4:3) abrogated in the case of Muhammad. 33:50 and 33:52 (“This only for you and not for the believers”)

One *hadith* in particular addresses abrogation. It cites Abu al-A‘la bin al-Shikhkhir, considered by theologians to be a reliable source of knowledge about the Prophet's life, as saying, that "the Messenger of God abrogated some of his commands by others, just as the Qur'an abrogates some part of it with the other." Muhammad accepted that God would invalidate previous revelation, often making ordinances stricter.

**Modern Islam and Jihad**

Modern Muslim groups:

Sunnis >80% of all Muslims. The sect which rejected the requirement that the caliph be a direct descendant of Muhammad. The vast majority of radical Muslims and Islamic terrorists are Sunni, not Shia.

Shia 15% Those who taught that Ali was the true caliph. Doctrinal differences are relatively minor. They envision the Mahdi—a kind of Islamic messiah who will come back and rule just before the resurrection and Day of Judgment.

Sufi A more mystical and contemplative brand of Islam, most common in India and Pakistan. This brand of Islam can legitimately be described as a religion of peace.

Salafi literally ancestors. Fundamentalist Muslims who seek the application of sharia law and a return to primitive Islam. They seek a return to the Golden Age of Islam.

Wahabi. A fundamentalist sect of Sunni Islam which is the chief sponsor of Sunni terrorism, and is the accepted form of Islam in Saudi Arabia. It is occasionally used interchangeably with Salafism, but has separate historical roots

Fact: The vast majority of modern Muslims-especiallythose in the US—are peace-loving and oppose both terrorism and warfare in order to spread Islam. Their goal is to have a life and to fit in here in the US.

But this has been changing and in a bad direction.

In a recent poll, based on interviews in 39 countries, applying the result to Muslims in general, the Pew Forum estimated:

237 million Muslims favor capital punishment for apostasy (15%)

345 million favor honor killings for illicit sexual relations (23%)

469 million want to be governed by sharia law (35%)

What is Islam? Is it the accepted practice and interpretation of modern Muslims and their imams, or is it the practice and teaching of Muhammad?

The vast majority of practicing Muslims accept relatively uncritically the interpretation of Islam given them by their teachers, who accept their view from the accepted traditional interpretation of their school of teachers. Most reject violent jihad.

Yet, the unofficial 6th pillar of Islam is jihad.

Jihad literally = strife or struggle, and the majority of Muslims interpret this principally as a spiritual struggle.

Sura 22:78 is an example of jihad being used on a purely spiritual sense.

But much more common is Sura 2:216-218 “Warfare is prescribed for you, though you dislike it…. Behold, those who believe, emigrate, and undertake jihad, these have hope of the mercy of Allah.”

In general, the peaceful passages, such as Sura 2:256 and Sura 109 are acknowledged as early, Meccan suras.

If we look in the Hadith, the reality of jihad being warfare is even more strongly brought out.

On the positive side, most Muslim imams prescribed refraining from killing non-combatants, looting of property, and restraint from disfiguring the corpses of fallen enemies.

But, what is the meaning of Jihad in the context of the Qur’an?

The Encyclopedia of Islam; Djihad consists of military action with the object of the expansion of Islam and, if need be, of its defense.

Before the 20th century, jihad = warfare with a spiritual significance.

Islam was first called “a religion of peace” in 1930. The context is important here, because this was said in India during the time of prominence of Mahatma Ghandi.

Certainly, no one in a Muslim country ever said something like this.

But:

1. Muhammed fought in or oversaw many battles, many of which were offensive ones.

The last ten years of his life are known as the *maghazi* years literally the raid years.

This, of course, is the years when he had gone to Medina.

Ex. The Nakla raid while in Medina. Muhammad’s raiders attacked a Meccan caravan during the month of official sacred truce.

Muhammad’s justification: “They ask you about fighting in the holy months. Tell them, ‘Fighting in the holy months is a great sin, but a greater sin is to prevent mankind from following the way of Allah…. Oppression is worse than slaughter.” (Sura 2:217)

After the battle of Badr, “O Prophet, rouse the believers to fight. If there are twenty patient men among you, they will overcome two hundred. (Sura 8:65)

Muhammad launched 86 battles that we know of.

2. Muhammed ordered the execution and maiming of many people, including massacres of innocents.

Most famously the massacre of the Banu Qurayza tribe. After the “battle of the trench”, more than 600 men were beheaded and all the women and children were enslaved. Muhammad had accused them of supporting the Meccans.

According to Hadith, Muhammad ordered the assassination of several people for writing poems against him or his teachings.

In one case, an elderly gentleman Abu Afak, disagreed with the strictness of sharia. He was assassinated. When a breastfeeding mother objected to this, Muhammad had her executed as well.

3. The Qur’an teaches Jihad as a means to spread the faith and there is no possible question that this Jihad is principally warfare. Much of the Qur’an is advice for battle and conquest.

4. The Hadith agrees with this and even expands on it.

Ex. Sahih Bukhari has an entire book devoted to Muhammad’s teaching on violent jihad.

“I have been ordered to fight against the people until they testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and that Muhammad is Allah’s messenger…. Only then will they save their lives and property from me.” (Sahih Bukhari 1.2.25)

Sahih Bukhari also teaches that fighting in jihad is better than praying and fasting ceaselessly. “Instruct me as to such a deed as equals Jihad [in reward]…. I do not find such a deed.” (Sahih al Bukhari 4.52.44)

“A single endeavor [of fighting] in Allah’s Cause in the forenoon or in the afternoon is better than the world and whatever is in it.” (Sahih al Bukhari 4.52.50)

The second most trusted of the Hadith Sahih Muslim has, “I will expel the Jews and Christians from the Arabian Peninsula and will not leave any but Muslims.” (Salih Muslim 1767 a)

Note: We should be aware that most Muslims have never read these Hadiths, either in the original or in translation, and some would be shocked to see these passages, but we can say without doubt that these represent the thinking of Muhammad and his companions.

5. Muhammad’s vision was put into practice and by AD 700 his followers created one of the largest empires in history.

6. Muhammed promised immediate access to heaven to those who died in war for Allah.

Muslims are promised Paradise if they are killed in jihad (Sura 9:111) they give their lives in order that paradise be theirs.

7. Based on the doctrine of abrogation, what is acknowledged as the last or nearly the last of the suras is Sura 9—“The Disavowal”—the most violent of all the Suras. In this one, Muslims are told to no longer compromise with Jews or Christians, but to attack and defeat them.

About the polytheists, Muslims are told, after a period of time to repent, to “kill the polytheists wherever you find them, lay siege to them, take them captive and sit in ambush for them everywhere. If they convert leave their way” 9:5

Sura 9 did not teach the same with regard to Jews and Christians. Instead “Fight those who do not believe [in Islam] from among the people of the book until they pay their jizya (ransom tax) and feel their subjugation.” 9:29 “May Allah destroy them.” (9:30)

As justification, Muhammad accuses both Jews and Christians of shirk (associating partners with Allah).

Muslims are ordered to “disavow” all familial relationships with those who do not convert.

About warfare, Muslims are told, “if you do not march forth, He will punish you with great punishment…. March, whether heavy or light, and carry out jihad with your wealth and your lives in the way of Allah” (Sura 9:39-41)

Here is my concern: One of the reasons most Muslims have rejected Muhammed’s view on war and Jihad is that they no longer have access to the Qur’an or the Hadith. Their access is through their imams.

This is changing rapidly with the internet. One of the chief reasons for the recent explosive rise in violent Jihad is the increased access of common Muslims to translations of Hadith and the Qur’an in their languages.

If Muslims do what we hope Christians will do—return to their scriptures and to the primitive form of their religion taught by their founder—there is no doubt that one result will be an increase in militant Islam.. The LACK of exposure to the Qur’an and Hadith is a friend of peace. Reformed Islam is violent Islam. This is the exact opposite of the case with Christianity. Even Muslims recognize this to be true, at least about Christianity.

Nabeel Qureshi: “As long as Islam is practiced in way that calls Muslims to return to its foundations, violence will follow.”

Q; Has offensive war ever been fought in the name of Christ? Absolutely! The Crusades are an example.

But it is important to note that there was an 1100 year gap between the life of Jesus and the first time such a war was fought, and, to the extent that Christians return to Jesus, to that extent warfare in his name will be absolutely rejected.

Example: The debate between Shabir Ally, Doug Jacoby and Shmuley Boteach.

Christians do not need to fear violent jihad because we believe God is in control.

Besides, what is the solution to this problem? Jesus, the Prince of Peace!

How to reach out to Muslims today?

According to Moufid Thome, who visited us in April, the US is the key place in the world to begin the evangelization of the Muslim world. It is virtually impossible in Muslim countries.

1. Know the history and religious culture which is Islam.

2. Read the Qur’an and be aware of the importance of Hadith.

3. Arm yourself regarding Islamic apologetics.

4. Show honor and respect and find common ground.

4. Most importantly, introduce your Muslim friend to Jesus. This is the key.

Other notes:

The shahada is the proclamation which, if one makes it sincerely, makes one a Muslim. “There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his Messenger.”

The Five Pillars of Islam

shahada- the confession

salat- ritual prayers offered 5 times a day

zakat- obligatory charity

Ramadan- a month of fasting

The Haj- pilgrimage to Mecca

The 5 Pillars do not appear until the 9th century (Rippin, Muslims, vol.1, London, Routledge, 1990:86)