

How Should Christians Think About Islam?

I. What is Islam?

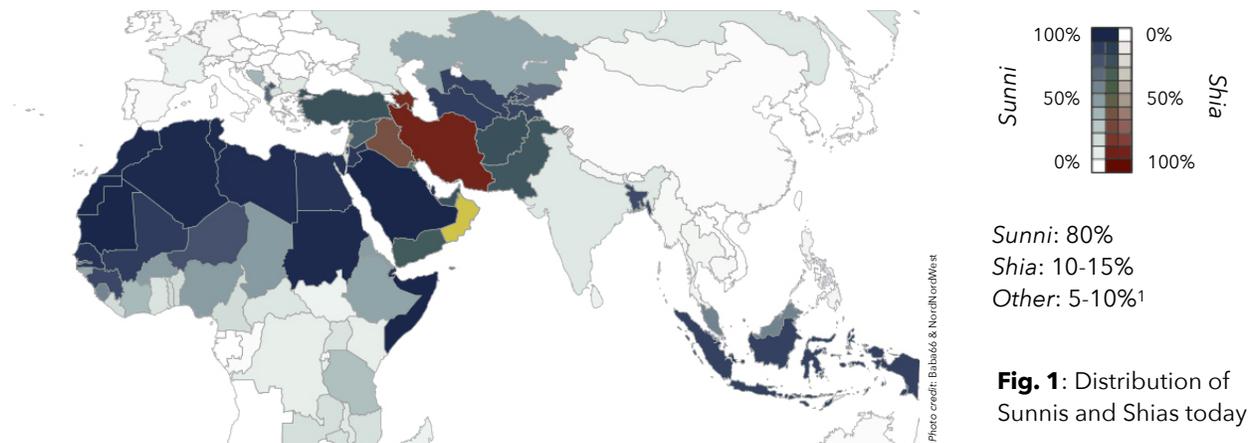
A. How did Islam start?

1. Muhammad (570-632 A.D.)

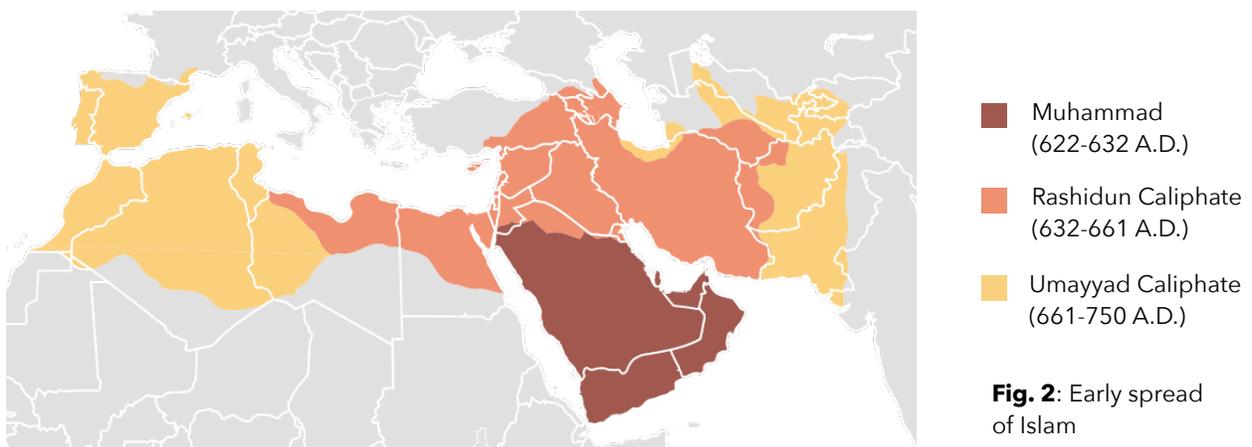
- a. 610: First revelations
- b. 622: Mecca to Medina (*hijra*)
- c. 630: Retakes Mecca

2. Schism

- a. [Sunnis](#): supported Abu Bakr
- b. [Shias](#): supported Ali



3. Spread



¹Nabeel Qureshi, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016), 55.

B. What does Islam teach?

1. Five pillars

- a. [Faith](#) (*Shahada*)
- b. [Prayer](#) (*Salat*)
- c. [Almsgiving](#) (*zakāt*)
- d. [Fasting](#) (*ṣawm*)
- e. [Pilgrimage](#) (*Hajj*)

2. Christianity and Islam compared

a. *God*: Yahweh vs. Allah

- Do Christians and Muslims worship the same God?
- [Tawhid](#): Islamic doctrine of Allah’s oneness
- [Trinity](#): Christian doctrine that

God is three persons sharing one substance

Tawhid vs. Trinity	<i>Allah</i>	<i>Yahweh</i>
<i>Can God be known?</i>	No	Yes
<i>Can God love?</i>	No	Yes
<i>Is Jesus God?</i>	No	Yes

b. *Founders*: Jesus vs. Muhammad

- The Islamic view of Muhammad
- [Hadith](#): Accounts of Muhammad’s life that shape Islamic doctrine

“For Muslims, I cannot express to you how high on a pedestal Muhammad is. [...] He is the most generous, he is the most merciful, he is the most loving, he is the most giving, he is the most kind, he is the best statesman, he is the best diplomat, he is the best general, he is the best father, he is the protector of widows and orphans. He is everything to Muslims.” (Nabeel Qureshi, former Muslim and convert to Christianity)²

- The Islamic view of Jesus

Qur’an 4.157: “They did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, though it was made to appear like that to them”

Qur’an vs. Bible	<i>Qur’an</i>	<i>Bible</i>
<i>Word of God?</i>	100%	100%
<i>Word of man?</i>	0%	100%
<i>Preservation</i>	Perfect	Sufficient
<i>External control?</i>	Yes	No
<i>Scholarly scrutiny?</i>	No	Yes

c. *Scriptures*: The Qur’an vs. the Bible

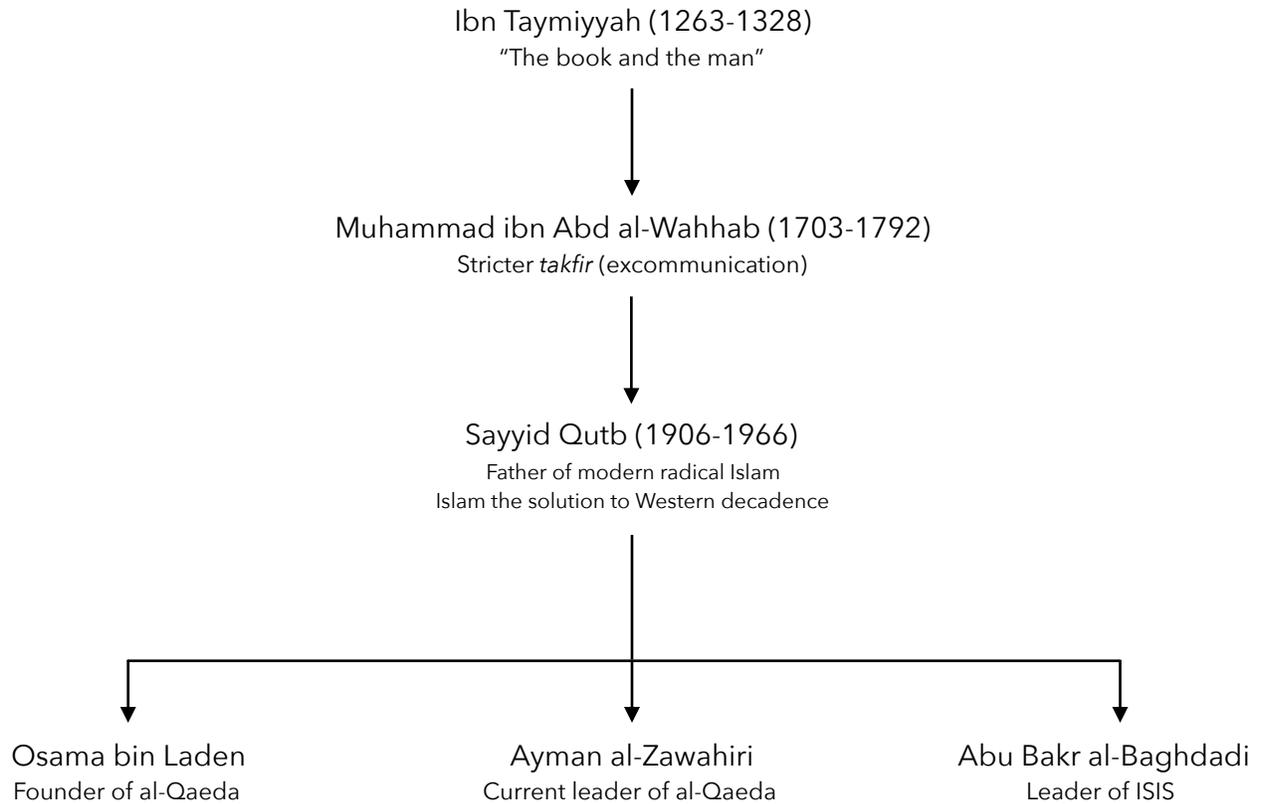
- Different claims about Scripture!
- Two problems: *Tawhid* and Uthman

²Nabeel Qureshi, “My Testimony,” (lecture, RZIM Summer Institute 2013, Wheaton, IL, June 14, 2013).

II. Radical Islam and the West

A. How do we explain radical Islam?

1. Historically



2. Theologically

- Violence in the life of Muhammad (*see appendix*)

- Violence in the Qur'an (*see appendix*)
 - Doctrine of abrogation
 - Surah 9: Latest and bloodiest

- An Islamic reformation?

B. Some common questions

1. Is Islam a religion of peace?

- Islam [isn't](#) a religion of peace, even though most Muslims are [peaceful](#) people.
- The 21st century: A crisis point for Muslims

"Even though Muslims are often raised with the teaching that 'Islam is the religion of peace,' when they study the texts for themselves, they are faced with the reality that Muhammad and the Quran call for jihad. They will stand at the crossroads for only so long before they choose what path they will take—**apostasy, apathy, or radicalization.**" (Nabeel Qureshi)³

2. Are Muslims trying to take over the West?

- Some are. Some aren't.
- Stages of jihad
 - (1) Preach tolerance
 - (2) Defensive jihad
 - (3) Offensive jihad

3. Why do radical Muslims want to attack the West?⁴

- Because we are not Muslim

"[A]lthough some might argue that your foreign policies are the extent of what drives our hatred, this particular reason for hating you is secondary [...] The fact is, even if you were to stop bombing us, imprisoning us, torturing us, vilifying us, and usurping our lands, we would continue to hate you because our primary reason for hating you will not cease to exist until you embrace Islam." (From *Dabiq*, ISIS's English-language magazine)

"So you can continue to believe that those 'despicable terrorists' hate you because of your lattes and your Timberlands, [...] or you can accept reality and recognize that we will never stop hating you until you embrace Islam"

- Because of Western decadence

"Your secular liberalism has led you to tolerate and even support 'gay rights,' to allow alcohol, drugs, fornication, gambling, and usury to become widespread [...] As such, we wage war against you to stop you from spreading your disbelief and debauchery [...] You've made it your mission to 'liberate' Muslim societies; we've made it our mission to fight off your influence and protect mankind from your misguided concepts and your deviant ways of life."

³Nabeel Qureshi, *Answering Jihad: A Better Way Forward* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016), 145.

⁴Quotes from "Why We Hate You & Why We Fight You," *Dabiq* 15 (July 2016): 32-33, accessed October 15, 2016, <http://www.clarionproject.org/factsheets-files/islamic-state-magazine-dabiq-fifteen-breaking-the-cross.pdf>.

III. What can Christians do?

A. Weep

B. Pray

C. Befriend

- Consider becoming a “Cultural Companion” with World Relief! (More information: <http://worldreliefseattle.org/culturalcompanions/>)

D. Go

Recommended resources:

Books

- Mandryk, Jason. *Operation World*. 7th edition. Colorado Springs, CO: Biblica, 2010. *[A incredibly detailed (though slightly out-of-date) prayer guide for every country]*
- Qureshi, Nabeel. *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016. *[A gripping story of a Muslim who found Christ and the best introduction to Islam that I know]*
- Qureshi, Nabeel. *Answering Jihad: A Better Way Forward*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.
- Qureshi, Nabeel. *No God but One: A Former Muslim Investigates the Evidence for Islam and Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016. *[A great handbook for apologetics to Islam]*
- Silverstein, Adam J. *Islamic History: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Apologists to Islam

Nabeel Qureshi
David Wood
Jay Smith
Keith Small
Andy Bannister

Appendix: Violence in the Qur'an and the hadith⁵

Qur'an 5.33: "Those who wage war against God and His Messenger and strive to spread corruption in the land should be punished by death, crucifixion, the amputation of an alternate hand and foot, or banishment from the land: a disgrace for them in this world, and then a terrible punishment in the Hereafter."

Qur'an 9.29: "Fight those of the People of the Book who do not [truly] believe in God and the Last Day, who do not forbid what God and His Messenger have forbidden, who do not obey the rule of justice until they pay the tax promptly and agree to submit."

Qur'an 9.39: "If you do not go out and fight, God will punish you severely and put others in your place, but you cannot harm Him in any way: God has power over all things."

Qur'an 9.111: "God has purchased the persons and possessions of the believers in return for the Garden—they fight in God's way: they kill and are killed—this is a true promise given by Him in the Torah, the Gospel, and the Qur'an. Who could be more faithful to his promise than God? So be happy with the bargain you have made: that is the supreme triumph."

Sahih al-Bukhari 2795: "Narrated Anas bin Malik: The Prophet said, 'Nobody who dies and finds good from Allah (in the Hereafter) would wish to come back to this world even if he were given the whole world and whatever is in it, except the martyr who, on seeing the superiority of martyrdom, would like to come back to the world and get killed again (in Allah's Cause).'"

Sahih al-Bukhari 2808: "Narrated Al-Bara: A man whose face was covered with an iron mask (i.e. clad in armor) came to the Prophet and said, 'O Allah's Messenger! Shall I fight or embrace Islam first?' The Prophet said, 'Embrace Islam first and then fight.' So he embraced Islam, and was martyred. Allah's Messenger said, 'A little work, but a great reward.' (He did very little [after embracing Islam], but he will be rewarded in abundance."

Sahih al-Bukhari 2925: "Narrated 'Abdullah bin 'Umar: Allah's Messenger said, 'You (i.e. Muslims) will fight with the Jews until some of them will hide behind stones. The stones will (betray them) saying, 'O 'Abdullah (i.e. slave of Allah)! There is a Jew hiding behind me; so kill him.'"

Sahih al-Bukhari 3018: "Narrated Anas bin Malik: A group of eight men from the tribe of 'Ukil came to the Prophet and then they found the climate of Medina unsuitable for them. So, they said, 'O Allah's Messenger! Provide us with some milk.' Allah's Apostle said, 'I recommend that you should join the herd of camels.' So they went and drank the urine and the milk of the camels (as a medicine) till they became healthy and fat. Then they killed the shepherd and drove away the camels, and they became unbelievers after they were Muslims. When the Prophet was informed by a shouter for help, he sent some men in their pursuit, and before the sun rose high, they were brought, and he had their hands and feet cut off. Then he ordered for nails which were heated and passed over their eyes, and they were left in the Harra (i.e. rocky land in Medina). They asked for water, and nobody provided them with water till they died (Abu Qilaba, a sub-narrator said, 'They committed murder and theft and fought against Allah and His Apostle, and spread evil in the land.')

Sahih Muslim 21b: "It is reported on the authority of Abu Huraira that he heard the Messenger of Allah say: 'I have been commanded to fight against people, till they testify to the fact that there is no god but Allah, and believe in me (that) I am the messenger (from the Lord) and in all that I have brought. And when they do it, their blood and riches are guaranteed protection on my behalf except where it is justified by law, and their affairs rest with Allah."

⁵Qur'an passages cited from *The Qur'an*, translated by M. A. S. Abdel Haleem (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016). Hadith passages cited from *Sunnah.com*, accessed October 15, 2016, <http://www.sunnah.com>.