



Introduction to Islam

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Agenda

- Recitation of Surat Al-Fatiha, First Chapter of the Quran
- Discuss Fundamental Concepts
 - Islam
 - Allah
 - Mohamed
 - The Quran
 - Muslims
- The Five Pillars of Islam
- Q & A

Introduction to Islam



Surat Al- Fatiha (Chapter 1, The Opening)

1. In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.
2. All Praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.
3. The Beneficent, The Clement;
4. Master of the Day of Judgment.
5. You alone we worship, and you alone we seek for help.
6. Guide us to the straight path
7. The path of those upon whom you bestowed your favors; not the path of those upon whom your wrath is brought down, or those who went astray

What is Islam

- Islam: a word that comes from the Arabic root verb SILM which means Peace & Submission
- Islam is not based on a name of a tribe, locality, or a geographic location
- Islam: to achieve Peace with God, self and other creation of God through Submission to Him
- Submission to God is by choice, in trust & love that is affirmed by acceptance & obedience to God

What is Islam (Cont.)

- Islam is a monotheistic faith. The belief in One God.
 - Not just unity – because many parties can be involved in unity.
 - It's Absolute Oneness of God
 - “Say, He is Allah: the One, the Only. Allah: the Eternal, the Absolute. He begets not, nor is He begotten; and there is none like Him” Chapter 12

Allah



- The Arabic word for God
 - *How do you think God is translated in an Arabic Bible?*
- The word has nothing to do with a tribe, the Arabs, or the Lord of the Arabs.
- It's a unique word; it has no plural.
- The One True God.
- Nothing is like him:
“No vision can grasp him, but his grasp is over all vision” (42:11)
- No particular image or physical shape

Allah – continued

- He has the Most Beautiful Names/Attributes (Al-Asma' Al-Husna).

From his Attributes:

Al-Rahman : The Most Merciful

Al-Raheem : The Most Gracious

Al-Baqee : The Ever Lasting

Al-Aleem : The Most Knowledgeable

Al-Malek : The King / The Owner

Al-Salam: The Peace

Al-Awal : The First

Al-Akhir : The Last

- These attributes compel the Muslim to live in peace and tranquility through out his/her life

Allah - continued

- One's relationship with God is direct
 - No hierarchy in Islam
 - “When my servants asks you about me, tell them that I am Close, I reply to the supplications of those who asks me” (2:186)

Mohammad

- The message of Islam came to us through Prophet Mohammad; peace be upon him.
- Born in Mecca, SA. in 570 CE ~ 600 years after Jesus, peace be upon him.
- Started the message of Islam when he was 40 years old
- The message continued for 23 years
13 in Mecca and 10 in Madina
- Lived for 63 years
- Died in 632 CE and buried in Madina, SA.



Mohammad - Continued

- He was known well before Islam as Al-Ameen: The Trustworthy one.
- Known with his excellent moral character well before Islam.
“I was sent to perfect moral excellence”
- *“My example to the rest of the prophets before me, is like a person who built a beautiful building and left one brick out. The people visit this building and wonder: how beautiful this building is - if he just finishes the last brick. I am, to the rest of the prophets, like that brick.”*
- Mohammad, peace be upon him, is the seal of the prophets
- Mohammad is not the founder of Islam.
- Mohammedans is an offensive term to Muslims.
- Muslims do not worship Mohammad!

Mohammad - Continued

- Muslims believe in all the previous Prophets:
Adam, Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Jesus, David, Salamon ...
 - 23 Names mentioned in the Quran!
 - Muslims do not distinguish between the prophets – they are all respected Messengers of Allah.
- Muslims also believe other Holy Books *were* also revealed by God. Al-Zapoor (Psalms), Al-Tawrah (Torah), Al-Injeel (Gospel)
- Mohammad: the last prophet of this purified caravan. He was sent to All Mankind:
“ Oh, Mohammad: We have sent you mercy to All Mankind”
(21:107)
- It's important that people study his life, and what he called for.

Al-Quran



- Al-Quran: Islam's Holy Book
- It's the literal word of God
- It was revealed to prophet Mohammad via angel Gibreel (Gabriel) over 23 years
 - *Mohammad was illiterate!*
- It's 114 Chapters, vary in length. (604 pages, 6,236 verses)
- It's in Arabic. There are translations in all different languages.
 - Translation is not a Quran!
- Al-Quran and the Sunnah (Tradition) of the prophet are the sources of Sharia (Islamic Law).

Muslims



- A Muslim: the one who submits to God by choice.
“There is no compulsion in religion” (2:256)
- A Muslim does not mean an Arab and an Arab is not necessarily a Muslim
 - Did you know that:
 - Arabs account for only 18% of the totally population of Muslims in the world
 - Largest Muslim country in terms of its population is Indonesia
- Islam is the second largest religion in the world
- Are the actions of a Muslim = Islam?

Muslims - continued

- Muslims are about 1.6 billion world wide
 - 95% Sunni, 5% Shia
- Muslims in America:
 - About 1/5 of the slaves who came to the US are Muslims!
 - They started to arrive in 1875
 - Today there is an estimated 6 million Muslims in America

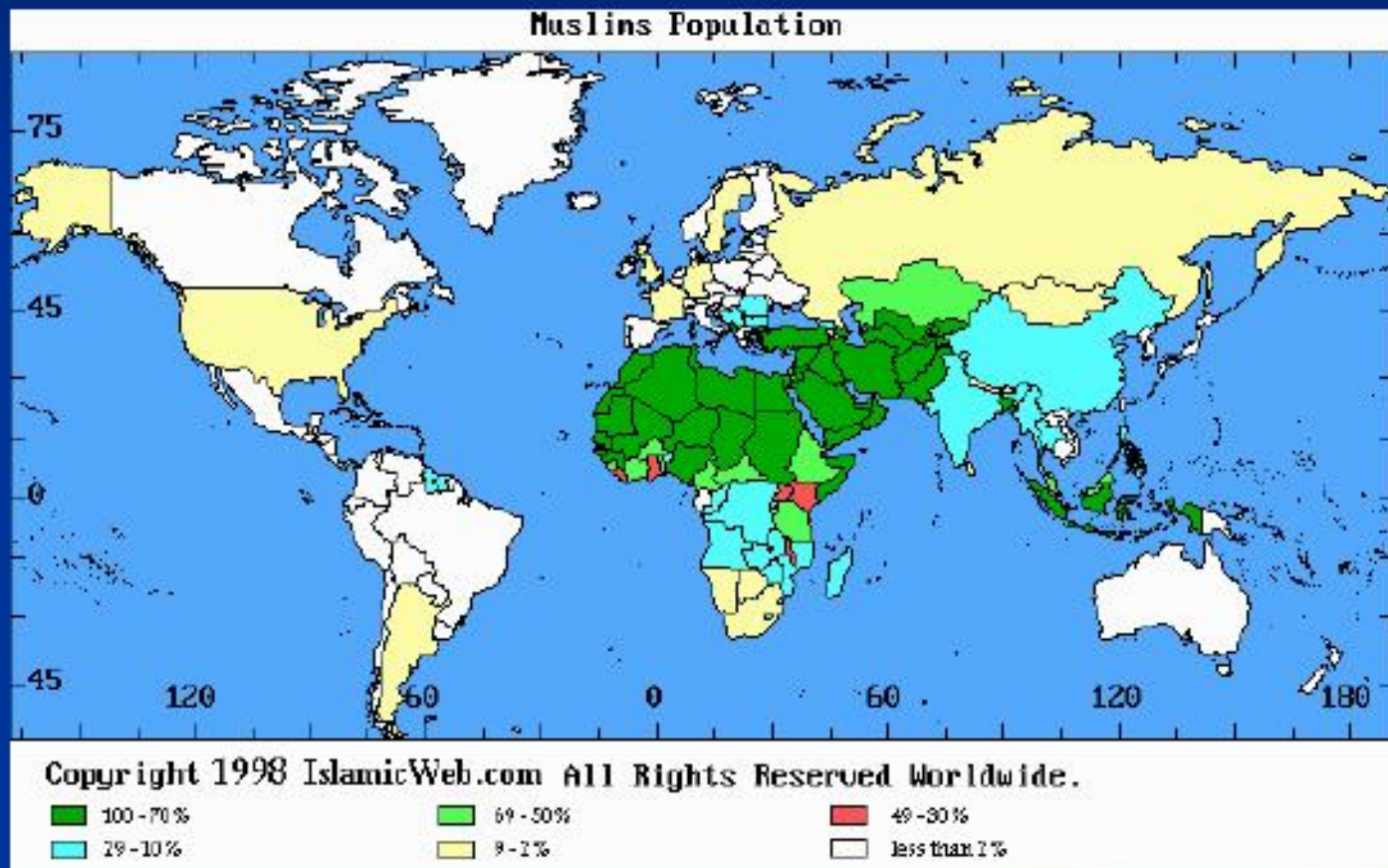
Muslims – World Wide

Africa	308,660,000	27.4 %
Asia	778,362,000	69.1 %
Europe	32,032,000	2.8 %
Latin America	1,356,000	0.1 %
North America	5,530,000	0.5 %
World	1,126,325,000	100 %

Source: Britannica Yearbook, 1997

Latest Count: 1.6 Billion & in the USA ~ 6M.

Muslims – World Wide



Muslims – World Wide



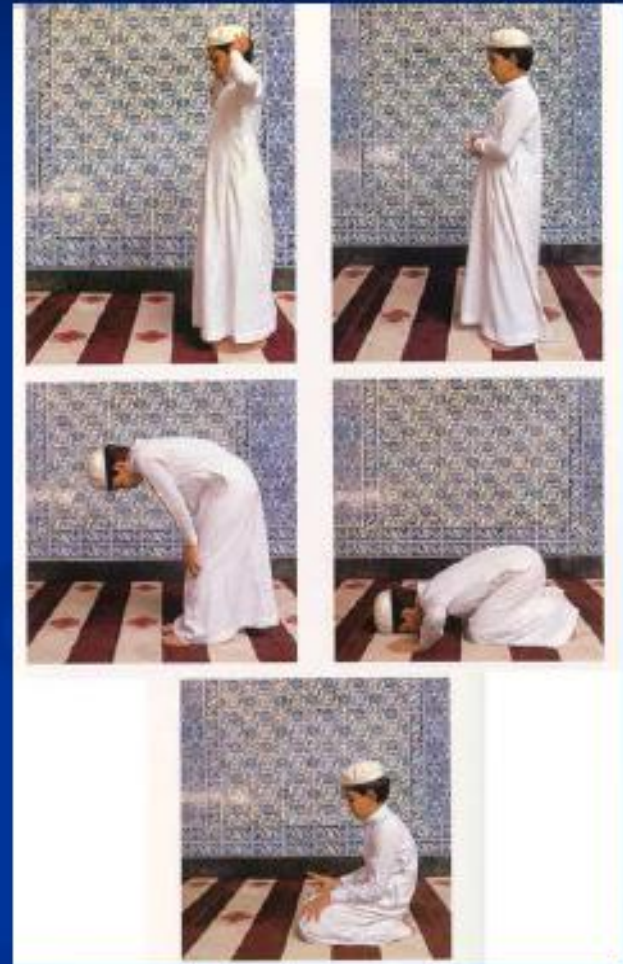
Five Pillars of Islam - 1

- Shahada : Testimony that there is no God except Allah, and Mohammad is his Messenger



Five Pillars of Islam - 2

- Iqam Al-Salat: Perform the Prayers
 - 5 daily Prayers
 - Fajir / Dawn
 - Zuhur / Noon
 - Asir / Afternoon
 - Maghrib / Sunset
 - Isha / Night
 - Friday Prayer



Five Pillars of Islam - 3

- *Iyta' Al-Zakah: Give Charity*
 - ~ Specific law about its value based on ones profession.
 - ~ About 2.5% of the savings annually.
 - ~ Islam uses the Lunar Calendar



Five Pillars of Islam - 4

- Syamo Ramadan: Fasting the Month of Ramadan
- The Quran was revealed in the Month of Ramadan
- Muslims fast by abstaining from Food, Drink or Sexual Activity from Dawn to Sunset
- Ramadan is the 9th Month of the Muslim Calendar (Hijri Date). It's 29 or 30 days
- Eid ul Fitr at the End of Ramadan



Five Pillars of Islam - 5

- Hajj: Perform the Pilgrimage once in a life time for those who can afford it.
- Mecca is the First Place on earth to worship God.
- Walking in the footsteps of prophet Ibrahim (Abraham)
- Eid ul Adha at the End of Hajj



Q&A