

The God of the Bible or the God of Islam?



Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Is There a Difference?

Introduction

Approximately one fifth of the world's population follows the religion of Islam. Islam means "submission to God." One who adheres to the teachings of Islam is called a Muslim. According to the religion of Islam, Jesus Christ was Muslim because He followed Islam and submitted to Allah (Arabic for *God*). Is the God of the Bible the God of Islam? The God of the Bible is One God. This is called monotheism, "the belief in God being one" – Deuteronomy 6:4. Islam, like Bible Christianity, is a monotheistic religion. Islam teaches that the "One" God alone is to be worshipped.

Do Bible Christians and Muslims worship the same "One" God, or is there a difference?

You be the judge as we compare the God of Christianity from the Bible with the God of Islam according to the life of Mohammad and the teachings of the Koran.

I. Where did Islam begin?

In A.D. 570, a boy was born in the city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. His name was Mohammad. He grew up in an environment where people worshipped a plurality of gods and violence was used to get one's way. For example, raiding caravans to obtain wealth, wives and slaves was considered normal.

“They lived by the code, ‘eye for an eye and tooth for tooth.’ Vengeance came upon all them that hurt or insulted them. Revenge was a way of life. Violence was normal for people living in such a barbaric culture” - Gene Gurganus.

Mohammad had an unstable family upbringing; his father died before he was born and his mother died when he was five years old. He then went to live with his grandfather, Abdel Muttalib. When Mohammad's grandfather died only a few years later, Mohammad then lived with his uncle. By the age of ten, Mohammad had been orphaned three times. Because of this instability in his family life, he was illiterate. He also suffered from epilepsy.

Even with these setbacks, Mohammad was well respected by his peers and, by his early twenties, had developed a reputation for honesty and integrity. He was known as a man with a pleasant countenance, piercing eyes and a gracious smile. At the age of twenty-five, he married a wealthy widowed woman who was forty years old. They had four daughters and two sons.

Mohammad hated the idolatry, degeneracy and commercialisation of religion in his hometown. He often resorted to the hills and caves outside Mecca to fast and meditate. In A.D. 610, at the age of forty, Mohammad was in a cave meditating when he had a revelation from God by the angel Gabriel. He was told to proclaim the message given to him. Over the next twenty-two years, Mohammad claimed that he received further messages from God, which were to be proclaimed. Because he could not write, he transmitted these divine revelations from God orally, beginning with his family, during the remaining years of his life. Mohammad was initially persecuted for his beliefs; and, as a result, he moved to a nearby city named Medina. Medina became Mohammad's headquarters until his death. As Mohammad continued to spread his teachings, the religion of Islam grew slowly but surely.

After Mohammad's death, one of his successors, Ali, collated his messages into a book called the *Koran (Quran)*. The *Koran* was initially in the Arabic language, but today it has been translated into 112 languages. It is still believed that the pure form of the *Koran* is within the original Arabic language. The *Koran* is 2/3 the size of the New Testament in the Holy Bible. It has 6,225 verses divided up into 114 chapters known as “Surahs.” The *Koran* is the holy book for Muslims; there is no paradise (heaven) for those who deny the teachings of the *Koran* - Surah 7:40-41.

Islam has continued to spread throughout the world to the present through population growth and the aggression of the sword. “All faiths but Islam must be destroyed” - Surah 8:39.

In contrast, biblical Christianity has spread all over the world through the message of love found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ within the Word of God - I Corinthians 15:1-4.

II. What are the core beliefs of Islam?

- A. **There is no other God but Allah.** Monotheistic (God is One), not polytheistic (many gods). Islam denies the biblical teaching of the Trinity. The Bible teaches that God is 'One' but also teaches that there are three Persons within the Godhead: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These are equal in power and divine attributes but differ in responsibilities - **Deuteronomy 6:3-4; I John 5:7; II Corinthians 13:14.**
- B. **God has revealed His truth through His prophets.** According to Islam, there have been many prophets down through history. They believe that five of the six greatest prophets are mentioned in the Bible. They are Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus Christ. The greatest and most recent prophet is Mohammad. He is the last of the prophets of Allah and the greatest - Surah 33:40. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is full of grace and truth, one with God the Father and the Son of God. He is the Creator God, eternal and immutable. He is greater than all, because He is Lord of all. He proved His greatness by not only paying for the sins of the entire world, He arose from the dead. His tomb is still empty today. - **John 1:1,14,29; 8:48-59; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Hebrews 1:1-8.**
- C. **Angels intercede for men.** Islam teaches that there are spirit beings. These spiritual beings intercede before Allah for the Muslim. The Bible teaches that there is one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus - **I Timothy 2:5.** Jesus Christ intercedes for the child of God - **John 17:1-26.** The Holy Spirit helps the Christian to pray - **Romans 8:26.** We see angels ministering in various ways within the Scriptures, even within the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ - **Matthew 4:11.**
- D. **Divine decrees** of fatalism (meaning "what will happen, will happen, no matter what"); therefore, just submit to Islam. The Bible teaches that God is sovereign. He is in control of all and by Him all things consist - **Colossians 1:15-20.** God is able to bring good out of any situation - **Romans 8:28-29.** This was the testimony of the Patriarch Joseph- **Genesis 50:20.**
- E. **Retribution:** Allah will punish evil—all who reject Islam and the teachings of the *Koran*. Allah will reward virtue—all who obey Allah by following the *Koran* and the beliefs of Islam. There is no Heaven for those who reject the *Koran* - Surah 7:40-41. The Islamic faith controls its adherents from birth to death. Islam has much that is seemingly good, but it stands as an intolerant faith, unwilling and unable to live peacefully with non-Muslims.

The Bible teaches the principles of sowing and reaping – **Galatians 6:7**. The Bible teaches judgment for all – Hebrews 9:27. There will be a judgment for those who reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ – **II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:11-15**. There will be a “judgment seat” for Christians – **Romans 14:10; I Corinthians 3:11-15**. Christians’ works will be judged before receiving rewards. This judgment is for eternal rewards. The issue of salvation has already been settled. As Christians, we have the hope of Heaven at death because of the Person and work of Jesus Christ – **II Corinthians 5:6-8**.

The core beliefs of Christians are found in the Holy Scriptures. The Holy Scriptures are the basis of faith and practice for Christians – II Timothy 3:16-17.

III. **What duties should every committed Muslim fulfill if he is to have any hope of Paradise when he dies?**

A. **Repeat the “Creed” according to Islam:** “There is One God. He is Allah, and Mohammad is his prophet.”

A Christian’s doctrine is in the Divinely inspired Word of God – **II Timothy 3:16-17**. Also, through Jesus Christ, Christians have a relationship with God and commune with Him daily – **Luke 11:1-6**.

B. **Pray five times a day facing the city of Mecca**, the birthplace of Mohammad (daybreak, noon, afternoon, after sunset and at night). Prayer is to be made in a number of positions: standing, bowing, kneeling and falling forward while repeating verses from the *Koran* (initially Surah I).

Christians can pray anywhere and at any time. They have a personal walk with God, Whose presence is with them all the time – **I Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrews 13:5-6**.

C. **Give to the poor (alms)—2.5%** of your wealth needs to be distributed to the needy. This is referred to as a “purification contribution.”

Christians give tithes (10%) and offerings (beyond the tithe) to God for the furtherance of the Gospel and the work of God, through the local church – **Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 3:10; II Corinthians 8 & 9**. As they give by love, God promises to provide the needs of the giver – **Luke 6:38; Philippians 4:15-19**. Giving is by grace, not by a strict percent – **II Corinthians 9:5-7**.

- D. **Make one pilgrimage to Mecca**, the birthplace of Mohammad, in a lifetime. Bible-believing Christians worship God in spirit and in truth – **John 4:24**. Because they have a spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ, they can worship Him anywhere in truth. The Lord Jesus is always with us – **Hebrews 13:5-6; Matthew 28:19-20**. The Christian’s body is the temple of God, the Holy Spirit – **I Corinthians 6:19-20**.
- E. **Fasting, especially during the month of Ramadan**. This is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. It is a twenty-eight-day fast from sunrise to sunset. No liquids, food or sex is allowed during these times. A Christian fasts as God leads and during times of intense spiritual battle. The issue is not *if* one fasts but *when* he fasts, which is between God and the Christian – **Matthew 6:16-18; Mark 9:29**.
- F. **Jihad, which means “exertion” or “application by force.”** A Muslim is called to commit jihad in protecting the faith, overcoming non-believers (those that reject Islam) in “Holy Wars” and purifying those who have fallen away from Islam. The sword is the instrument of advancing Islam, and it has always been this way. Islam claims to be a religion of peace; however, it is the opposite, for people are converted to Islam through fear. The history of Islam is one long, continual battle to conquer the world and bring it forcibly under Islamic rule and dominance.

“Muslims are commanded to fight and kill everyone who chooses NOT to convert to Islam” - Surah 2:193; 9:5,10-15,29

“...smite their necks till when you have killed and wounded many of them....But those that are killed in the way of Allah, He will never let their deeds be lost.” - Surah 47:4

The advancement of Christianity is not by fear but by hope, the hope of eternal life that God the Father has provided through His Son, Jesus Christ. This is a message of love for all mankind - John 3:16; Titus 1:2. Man is given the opportunity to either receive or reject Jesus Christ and thereby reap the consequences – **I John 5:12-13**.

“The God of the Bible teaches that the whole duty of man can be summed up in this statement: Fear God (the God of the Bible) and keep His Commandments (the Bible) - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. Jesus Christ taught that all the law and the prophets hang on two commandments: (1) Love God and (2) love thy neighbor as thyself - Matthew 22:37-39.

What about God's command to destroy in the Old Testament?

Since the entrance of sin into the world, men have become violent in killing and destroying one another.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Genesis 6:11-12 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

Violence became normal in the history of man with the organisation of military forces within nations. These armies, through battle and conquest, became the means of political and national negotiations, advancement and survival. Thus, this is how it has been for the majority of man's existence and continues to be today in much of the world. It is within this setting of human history that the events of Bible history take place. Sin—not God—introduced destruction, killing and violence into the world.

The God of the Bible is loving and just – **Genesis 18:25; John 3:16**. This is evident in the laws given in the Bible. For example, God provides guidelines concerning unsolved murders, witnesses and military service – **Deuteronomy 19-21**.

God commanded Israel to possess the Land of Canaan. This involved warfare with the inhabitants of the land. The command to destroy was only with specific nations that opposed the nation of Israel – **Deuteronomy 20:10-18**. The option of a peaceful resolution was to be offered first and foremost.

Deuteronomy 20:10-12 When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim peace unto it. And it shall be, if it make thee answer of peace, and open unto thee, then it shall be, *that* all the people *that is* found therein shall be tributaries unto thee, and they shall serve thee. And if it will make no peace with thee, but will make war against thee, then thou shalt besiege it:

This mandate to destroy was within a capped time in history (1500-1400 B.C.), it was with specific ungodly nations; and it was to take place within a specific location (Land of Canaan). The God of Israel wanted His people to remain holy and not walk in the ways of heathen nations.

In conclusion, the Nation of Israel in the Old Testament is not New Testament Christianity. They are separate and distinctively different. God works differently with different groups of people – **1 Corinthians 10:32**.

What about the Christian Crusaders who killed those that opposed their faith?

These Crusades are a fact of history that took place predominately between A.D. 1000-1300. The Roman Catholic Church specifically commissioned the Crusaders to conquer (with the sword) areas like Jerusalem that were dominated by other religions like Islam and Judaism.

The Roman Catholic Church ruled with an iron fist down through history and is responsible for the bloodshed of countless lives, including Bible believing Christians who refused to submit to the authority of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Roman Catholic Church is not New Testament Christianity. It is a combination of portions of the Bible and traditions formulated within a church system.

Therefore, to say that the God of the Bible also promoted forms of “jihad” is unfounded. Israel as a nation was governed by God to destroy the unrepentant at a specific time, for a specific purpose, toward only a specified people and in a specific place. Also, the Crusaders were Roman Catholics and not New Testament Christians, who hold to the Bible alone as their complete basis for faith and practice – 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

Jesus Christ, the founder of biblical Christianity taught, practiced and promoted peace with fellow man.

Luke 9:56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save *them*. And they went to another village.

Matthew 5:9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

IV. Is the God of the Bible the same as the God of Islam? You be the judge...

- A. **The God of the Bible loves unconditionally - I John 4:7-8.** The God of the Bible loves the whole world, and He desires to have a personal relationship with all people through Jesus Christ - John 3:16; John 1:12. He offers eternal life to all who will receive Him as their personal Saviour - Romans 10:9-10,13. Those who receive Jesus Christ as Saviour are born into the family of God - Ephesians 3:15. As Christians draw nigh to God, He will draw nigh to them - James 4:8. He becomes their Heavenly Father, Whom they can approach in prayer – Matthew 6:9.

1. Islam is impersonal: In position and rank, a Muslim is a servant to his master, Allah.

2. According to Islam, Allah's love is conditional. If you love Allah, he will love you – Surah 3:31.
3. Islam rejects the Jewish and especially the Christian view of God as our Heavenly Father. Islam considers it degrading for God to be considered a Father. The word is seen to carry the idea of a human-level relationship, such as the relationship of a mother to a child.
4. The great difference between Islam and Christianity is how outsiders (non-Muslims and non-Christians) are viewed. To the God of the Bible, non-Christians are loved; and the provision of salvation is made available to them. To Islam, all non-Muslims are enemies; and, if they will not submit to Islam, they must be killed. Muslims even kill Muslims. Muslims are split into two main branches, the **Sunnis** and **Shia**. The split originates in a dispute soon after the death of the Prophet Muhammad over who should lead the Muslim community. Shia Muslims will kill Sunni Muslims.

The great majority of Muslims are **Sunnis** - estimates suggest the figure is somewhere **between** 85% and 90%.

5. Christians commanded to love God with all their ability and to love one another. On these two commandments hang all the laws and words of the prophets - Matthew 22:36-40.

B. The God of the Bible has given a "Great Commission." This commission is to preach the Gospel throughout "all the world" - Mark 16:15. God desires for all to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour - II Peter 3:9. The three-fold command in the "Great Commission" is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, to baptise them in water by full immersion and then to establish them with the teachings of Jesus Christ – Matthew 28:18-20. People are free to accept or reject God's offer of eternal life - John 1:11-12. This is the biblical principle of individual soul liberty -Romans 10:13.

1. Islam employs the usage of violence and the sword in the spreading of the Islamic religion.
2. According to Islam's holy book, the *Koran*, all faiths but Islam must be destroyed – Surah 9:10-15; 8:39.
3. The purpose of Islam is to impose the Islamic faith and rule (Sharia Law) upon the entire world. In contrast, the purpose of Jesus Christ is to call out of all nations a people unto Himself through faith.

C. The God of the Bible established a church. Jesus Christ founded the New Testament church. This church is made up of individuals who have a spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ. Since the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ with His disciples, to this day, this church has continued to exist; and the gates of Hell have not prevailed against it – Matthew 16:16-18. When an individual places his faith in Jesus Christ, he is then baptised and becomes a

member of a local church. It is within the church that men, women and children gather weekly for spiritual instruction, worship, and prayers – Acts 2:41-47. The members of this church are commanded to faithfully attend the services and to use their spiritual gifts and abilities to build others up spiritually – Hebrews 10:24-25; Romans 12:1-8.

In Islam, Muslims assemble regularly in a mosque for prayers and instruction. Only men are allowed to enter a mosque. Women and children are forbidden.

D. The God of the Bible teaches that man is sinful and needs to be born again. Man is a sinner by nature and by choice and needs a Saviour (Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:9-23; 5:12; 6:23; Acts 4:12). There is nothing man can do in his own strength to remedy his sin problem (Romans 4:5). Jesus Christ stressed to a religious man named Nicodemus that he needed to be born again. Natural birth brought you into this world with a sinful nature, and therefore you need a second birth from above in order to enter God's kingdom. The Holy Spirit performs this birth when we place our faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour from sin – John 3:1-18.

1. Islam teaches that man is essentially good and does not have a sinful nature. Man has no need for redemption from sin. He just needs to keep the rules of Islam.

2. Because Islam teaches that human beings are basically born without sin, the *Koran* does not speak of rebirth. To be a Muslim, one must simply profess the Islamic "Creed."

E. The God of the Bible promises eternal life to all who receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour - John 10:28-30; I John 5:11-13. This is a guaranteed home in Heaven; there is nothing that can separate us from God's love - Romans 8:32-39. According to the Bible, salvation is by faith alone, without works– Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 4:5.

1. Islam does not give this certainty. Like all other religions, Islam requires works for salvation but cannot guarantee that one will ever attain it.

2. If you are called to jihad, you have the greatest hope of entering God's Paradise. This is no different from the pope granting "forgiveness of sin" to all those involved in Catholic Crusades during the Dark Ages. Men who commit jihad are promised paradise and as many females for sexual pleasure as they desire -Surah 22:58; 47:4-6; 52:17-24; 78:31-34.

3. Muslims teach that, by obeying Allah and Mohammad his prophet, you can enter Heaven – Surah 3:31,85; 4:124; 9:63; 48:13.

4. Paradise in the *Koran* is filled with pleasures that delight the senses. Paradise is a beautiful garden, like an oasis in the dessert, with flowing streams and every kind of delicious fruit. Paradise is promised to all woman and men who do good works. Allah promises that all men who

enter paradise will wed beautiful women who will fulfill all their sexual desires and fantasies – Surah 2:25; 52:17-24; 55:46-62; 78:31-34.

5. There are two main types of religions in the world. One is based on *works* for salvation, but the other is based upon *faith* in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Which one will you choose? The way of faith that guarantees eternal life or the way of works that gives no assurance of paradise? – Matthew 27:33-54; Romans 4:1-25.

F. The God of the Bible (God the Father) is one with God the Son and God the Holy Spirit – Matthew 6:9; Hebrews 1:8; Acts 5:3-4; Matthew 28:18-20. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is the eternal Creator God - John 1:1-3. To deny Jesus Christ's deity is to die in your sins – John 8:24; 10:30; I John 5:7. Jesus Christ claimed to be the only Way to Heaven – John 14:6.

1. Islam teaches that Jesus was just a man. Jesus Christ is considered to be “one of the prophets” of Allah but not to be the greatest prophet, for that designation is given to Mohammed.
2. Muslims believe that Islam is the only way to Paradise - Surah 3:45-47; 4:171; 5:19; 5:75; 17:111.

G. The God of the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin - Matt 1:23. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life and ultimately died on the cross for our sins. Then, He was buried and on the third day rose again from the dead - I Corinthians 15:3-4; John 17:3. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ is central to the Christian faith. If Jesus Christ did not die on the cross for our sins, there is no hope of forgiveness for mankind – Romans 5:6-8.

1. Islam teaches that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary and that He is the Messiah and a great Prophet.
2. However, Islam wrongly teaches that Jesus Christ was born under a palm tree in a deserted place – Surah 19:23-25. The Bible teaches Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2.
3. Islam denies that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for man's sin (somebody else is said to have died in His place) and that He rose again bodily after three days - Surah 4:157.
4. To deny the divinity of Jesus Christ is to forfeit the hope of having our sins forgiven – John 8:24.

H. The God of the Bible highly esteems womanhood. The Bible gives equal and high dignity to women as being created in the image of God. In Jesus Christ, there is no distinction between male and female; we are one in Christ Jesus – John 1:12. Jesus Christ welcomed the service of women toward Himself and others – Luke 10:38-42. He showed compassion toward them – John 8:1-11. God made a woman from the man to complete him in marriage – Genesis 2. Though men and women are equal in status before God, they have different roles to fulfill. A woman is to submit to her husband's leadership, and a man is to lovingly lead and cherish his wife as Jesus Christ loves the church –

Ephesians 5:21-33. A woman is to dress modestly and thereby not defraud a man to lust – I Timothy 2:9-10. She is to be adorned with long hair, which is her head covering – I Corinthians 11:14-15.

1. While women have dignity through creation by Allah, the *Koran* makes them subject to men in general, not just to their husbands. Islamic women as a whole suffer under Sharia, or Islamic, Law. Under strict Islamic law, they can be held in extreme subjection – Surah 24:31

2. The veil (burka) is a sign of humility and modesty for Muslim women – Surah 33:59. Girls begin to wear a veil at the age of ten or at puberty.

3. Muslim men are likewise to be modest. “Tell the men to lower their gaze and be modest. This is purer for them” – Surah 24:30.

I. The God of the Bible has ordained the family unit. One man married to one woman for life - Genesis 2:21-24; Matthew 19:6. Within this relationship, a husband and wife are to bear children and raise them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord - Ephesians 6:1-4. The husband is to protect, provide for, love and lead his wife. The wife is to honour, complete and submit to the leadership of her husband - Ephesians 5:18-33. Children are to obey and honour their parents - Ephesians 6:1-4.

1. Islam teaches that a Muslim man can have as many as four wives, regardless of the laws of a country. This is according to Sharia Law – Surah 4:3. “After Mohammed’s first wife died, he married between 9-16 women. His youngest bride was six years old (Aishah) and the marriage was consummated at the age of nine. Mohammad believed he received a special dispensation for more wives” – Surah 33:50.
2. A Muslim woman is not allowed to marry multiple husbands.
3. Muslim men are allowed to beat their wives – Surah 4:34. They can marry non-Muslims, but a Muslim woman is not allowed this privilege. The Muslim man will determine the religion of the children.
4. Within Islam, if there are marital problems, reconciliation is encouraged; however, the *Koran* makes it very easy to divorce one’s spouse – Surah 2:228-230. The Bible, in contrast, gives no warrant for divorce. Marriage is for life – Matthew 19:1-12.

J. The God of the Bible teaches on angels. Angels were active throughout Jesus Christ’s ministry. They were involved in announcing Christ’s birth, during times of temptation by the Devil and surrounding Christ’s death and resurrection. They will also be prominent around His return and final judgments. Angels were created to serve their Creator God. They are not to be worshipped – Matthew 1:18-25, 4:11, 28:5-6; Revelation 22:9.

1. Islam teaches that angels have the task of interceding for mankind and imploring forgiveness – Surah 40:7; 42:5.

2. Nineteen angels guard Hell. Angels also guard and help Muslims and receive their souls back to Allah at death - Surah 74:30-31.

3. Jinn are mentioned often in the *Koran*. They are created by Allah. They are powerful, intelligent creatures who possess freedom of choice. Therefore, some are good and some are evil. They are half-way between men and angels – Surah 15:27; 72:11.

4. The *Koran* has a persistent and mysterious focus on the Jinn. The Jinn fill the Muslim with fears. The Devil is the chief Jinn; he is the tempter and misleader. The Jinn entice people to deny Allah.

5. The Bible teaches that the Devil in his rebellion took one third of the created angels. They are called demons. The Devil with his demons opposes the work of God. The Devil is powerful, but he is not all-powerful; therefore, we do not need to fear him. Instead, we need to resist him by putting on the whole armour of God – II Timothy 1:7; Ephesians 6:10-17.

K. The God of the Bible teaches that God created man in His image. In the Word of God, the Lord personally and specifically formed man from the dust of the ground. God personally breathed into him the breath of life. Then God made the woman with one of Adam's ribs. God brought the woman to Adam, and they become one as husband and wife in marriage – Genesis 1-2. Man and woman were created in the image of God – Genesis 1:27.

1. Islam teaches that Allah took a drop of 'semen' fluid with which he formed a clot and fashioned male and female. He also created man of potter's clay. Male and female were not created in the image of God, since Allah allows no image to be made of him. Therefore this kind of intimacy and communion with man is unthinkable to Allah – Surah 75:37-40; 15:26; 2:30.

2. The practice of homosexual behavior is considered an abomination in the *Koran*. It is viewed as wrong and unnatural.

3. The *Koran* teaches the sanctity of life; therefore, acts such as murder, suicide and abortion are forbidden but, what about 'Jihad'?

L. The God of the Bible has given His complete Word, the Holy Scriptures. It is perfect, divinely inspired by God and teaches all that we need to know for doctrine, holiness and equipping for service - II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; Psalm 19:7-9. The central theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ and Christ's plan of redemption for mankind - Luke 24:44. The Bible is accurate internally, historically, scientifically and has successfully predicted the future.

1. Islam teaches that the *Koran* is Allah's holy book. There are no fulfilled prophecies in the *Koran*. The *Koran cannot* bring transformation to a person's life. Only the Bible can change a person from within in the power of the Holy Spirit, because it is the living "Word of God" - Hebrews 4:12.

2. According to Islam, the differences between the Jesus of the *Koran* and the Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible are that the Christians corrupted the Word of God and Mohammad has restored this corruption through his messages recorded in the *Koran*. **This claim is unfounded and cannot be proven historically or biblically.**

3. Those who believe that the Word of God is divinely inspired also believe that all of its accounts are trustworthy, accurate and truthful. Jesus Christ confirmed the Word of God as truth and eternal - Matthew 5:17-18; John 5:39. God pronounces judgment on those who "take away" or "add to" God's Word - Revelation 22:18-19.

4. Here are some conflicting statements between the *Koran* and the Bible:

a. Cain learned how to bury Abel from a raven - Surah 5:31. There is nothing in the Bible to imply that Cain even buried his brother Abel.

b. One of Noah's son drowned - Surah 11:42-43. The Bible teaches that Noah and his wife and his sons and their wives were all safe in the Ark - Genesis 7:13.

c. Jacob worked eight years for Rachel - Surah 28:27. The Bible teaches that Jacob worked seven years for Rachel - Genesis 29:20.

d. Pharaoh threatened to crucify every one - Surah 7:123-124. The Bible makes no mention of crucifixion in relation to Pharaoh of Egypt. Crucifixion was a Roman form of execution.

e. There were nine signs spoken against Pharaoh - Surah 27:12. The Bible teaches that there were ten plagues against Pharaoh - Exodus 7-12.

f. Abraham sacrificed Ishmael on Mount Moriah - Surah 37:102-107. The Bible teaches that Abraham sacrificed Isaac on Mount Moriah - Genesis 22.

g. The wife of Pharaoh adopted Moses - Surah 28:9. The Bible teaches that the daughter of Pharaoh adopted Moses - Exodus 2:10.

h. The days of creation add up to eight days in the *Koran* - Surah 41:9-12. The Bible teaches that God created in six days - Genesis 1 and Exodus 20:11.

5. The Koran claims to be scientifically accurate, but what about these examples?
 - a. The sun sets in a spring of black, muddy water? Surah 18:83-86
 - b. The stars are closer to earth than the sun and moon are? Surah 67:5; 37:5-6
 - c. Heaven has a roof? Surah 21:32
 - d. The earth is flat like a bed? Surah 20:53
 - e. All fruit come in pairs of male and female? Surah 13:3
 - f. The sun floats in an orbit? Surah 36:40
 - g. Mountains make decisions and possess fear? Surah 33:72
 - h. Fiery comets chase evil spirits around the earth? Surah 15:16-19
6. In contrast, the Bible is scientifically accurate. Here are some examples:
 - a. The life of the flesh is in the blood – Leviticus 17:11.
 - b. The earth hangs upon nothing – Job 26:7.
 - c. The earth is round, not flat – Isaiah 40:22.
 - d. The earth is rotating; therefore, it is day or night in different parts of the world – Luke 17:34-36.
 - e. There is circulation in the atmosphere – Ecclesiastes 1:6.
 - f. Air has weight – Job 28:25.
 - g. Each star is different – 1 Corinthians 15:41.
 - h. Clouds hold great amounts of water – Job 26:8.
 - i. All the chemical elements necessary to make a person are in the earth – Genesis 2:7.
7. Internal contradictions within the Koran?
 - a. How many angels were talking to Mary? When the Qur'an speaks about the annunciation of the birth of Jesus to the virgin Mary, Surah 3:42,45 speaks about (several) angels while it is only one in Surah 19:17-21.
 - b. Does Allah's day equal to 1,000 human years (Surah 22:47, 32:5) or 50,000 human years (Surah 70:4)? How many gardens are there in paradise? ONE as stated in 39:73, 41:30, 57:21, 79:41 or MANY 18:31, 22:23, 35:33,78:32?

c. What was man created from? A blood clot [96:1-2], water [21:30, 24:45, 25:54], "sounding" (i.e. burned) clay [15:26], dust [3:59, 30:20, 35:11], nothing [19:67] and this is then denied in 52:35, earth [11:61], a drop of thickened fluid [16:4, 75:37]

d. Can slander of chaste women be forgiven? Yes [24:5], No [24:23].

e. Three contradictions in 2:97 and 16:101-103, who brings the revelation from Allah to Muhammad? The ANGEL Gabriel [2:97], or the Holy Spirit [16:102]? The new revelation confirms the old [2:97] or substitutes it [16:101]? The Qur'an is PURE Arabic [16:103] but there are numerous foreign, non-Arabic words in it.

f. What about Noah's son? According to Surah 21:76, Noah and his family is saved from the flood, and Surah 37:77 confirms that his seed survived. But Surah 11:42-43 reports that a son of Noah drowns.

g. Will Christians enter Paradise or go to Hell? Surah 2:62 and 5:69 say "Yes", Surah 5:72 (just 3 verses later) and 3:85 say "No".

h. Wine: Good or bad? Strong drink and wine are an infamy of Satan's handiwork. [5:90, also 2:219]. Yet on the other hand in Paradise are rivers of wine [47:15, also 83:22,25]. Satan's handiwork will be in Paradise?

8. External contradictions with the Koran?

a. Solomon listening to ants? In Surah 27:18-19 Solomon overhears a conversation of ants. Fact is that ants do not use sound but smell to communicate.

b. The stars and the moon The Qur'an teaches that there are seven heavens one above the other [67:3, 71:15], and that the stars are in the lower heaven [67:5, 37:6, 41:12], but the moon is depicted as being inside the seven heavens [71:16], even though in reality the stars are much further away from the earth than the moon.

c. All things are made in pairs? Surah 51:49 claims that everything is created in pairs. But this is not true. there are quite a number of things that have no counterpart and species where only one gender exists.

*** Please go to <http://www.answering-islam.org> for fuller details concerning contradictions within Islamic teaching and the Koran.**

9. The Bible has successfully predicted the future; this is clearly evident concerning the coming of Jesus Christ. There is at least a four-hundred-year gap between the writings of the Old Testament and the New Testament. Here are **some predictions** concerning Jesus Christ:

- a. Born of a virgin – Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:18-25
- b. Born in Bethlehem – Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:1-6
- c. Called *Emmanuel* (“God with us”) – Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:22-23
- d. Anointed by the Spirit – Isaiah 11:2 and Matthew 3:16-17
- e. Entered Jerusalem on a donkey – Zechariah 9:9 and Matthew 21:1-7
- f. Betrayed by a friend – Psalm 41:9 and John 13:18-27
- g. Sold for thirty pieces of silver – Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:14-15
- h. Rejected and wounded by His own people – Isaiah 53; Matthew 26-27
- i. None of His bones broken while on the cross – Psalm 34:20; John 19:32-36
- j. His side pieced with a sword while on the cross – Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34, 37
- k. Arose from the dead – Psalm 16:8-11 and Acts 2:24-31
- L. Ascended back to Heaven – Psalm 68:18 and Ephesians 4:8-10

8. The Bibles addresses and answers life’s deepest questions in relation to our existence, death, sin, pain, suffering, diseases and how we can find deliverance, hope and happiness – John 1:1-3; 3:16; 10:10; Romans 5:12; Titus 1:2

M. The God of the Bible teaches that God has ordained those in civil government as ministers of God. We are to obey and honour those in authority over us as unto God Himself - Romans 13:1-7. The Ten Commandments are the basis of our laws and government – Exodus 20.

1. Islam teaches there is another law system, Sharia Law. This is the higher law for Muslims. It is based upon the *Koran* and Mohammad’s teachings.
2. Here are some practical expressions of Sharia Law:
 - a. Muslims have no issue with being dishonest and dishonorable (lying) towards non-Muslims. This is acceptable in advancing Islam – Surah 66:1-2.
 - b. It is the duty of every Muslim to be at war against non-Muslims in order to establish Islam – Surah 3:151; 8:59-60.

- c. A percentage of all charity money is to go towards jihad funding.
 - d. A Muslim that leaves Islam must be killed – Surah 8:67; 4:89.
 - e. A Muslim will not get the death penalty for killing a non-Muslim but will if he kills another Muslim – Surah 47:4.
 - f. Stoning, beheading, amputating of limbs and public flogging are means of punishment for crimes such as stealing and adultery – Surah 5:38; 24:1-3.
 - g. Non-Muslims do not have equal rights with Muslims – Surah 9:23.
 - h. Muslims are permitted to beat their wives – Surah 4:34; 38:44.
- “beat them lightly, if it is useful.”**
- i. It is illegal to try and convert a Muslim to another religion.
 - j. A Muslim woman will only inherit half of what the man inherits – Surah 4:11.
 - k. Muslims are not to obey (non-Muslim) laws – Surah 33:1.
 - l. A Muslim woman must cover every part of her body in public places – Surah 33:59.

N. The God of the Bible is holy. He calls for holiness and godliness from the child of God. Christians choose to live within the boundaries of God’s Word not to earn salvation but to prove they have salvation. They want to please their Saviour because they have a personal relationship with Him and they love Him – Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; II Peter 1:15-17; Titus 2:11-13.

1. Islam teaches a code of moral conduct that forces conformity in the life of the Muslim and provides ways to earn salvation through good works.
2. Muslims are not allowed to smoke, eat pork, view pornography, gamble or drink alcohol. Women are to dress modestly, and fornication and adultery are forbidden.
3. The Bible teaches that we are saved from our sin and inherit eternal life by repenting of our sin and placing our faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour – Ephesians 2:8-9. Then, once we are saved, we are to give evidence of our new life in Christ by living according to the Word of God – Ephesians 2:10.

O. The God of the Bible is truthful, unchanging and loving. He never acts contrary to His divine nature. He is totally and perfectly consistent; He is the same yesterday, today and forever. God is eternal, He changes not – Hebrews 13:8; Psalm 15:4.

1. According to Islam, Allah, changes – Surah 2:106. His concern for man is doubtful – Surah 32:13. He deceives – Surah 8:30; 10:21. He is selective as to whom he punishes and saves – Surah 2:284.

“...Allah is the best of those who plot”.

2. The attributes of the God of the Bible and the Allah of the *Koran* are not the same.

P. The God of the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is coming again – I Thessalonians 4:13-17. When Jesus Christ returns, all the Christians will be taken from the earth and then there will be a seven-year time of judgment known as the Tribulation Period – Revelation 6-19. Then, Jesus Christ will return to the earth with the saints and reign on the earth for one thousand years – Revelation 20. The Great White Throne Judgment will follow this for all non-Christians. All non-Christians will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever – Revelation 20:11-15. Then, God will create a new Heaven and a new earth, and we will enter the eternal realm – Revelation 21-22.

1. Islam teaches that Jesus Christ will come again and kill all the Jews and Christians, live forty years and then die.
2. On the last day, there will be a time of resurrection and judgment. Those that follow Allah and Mohammed will go to Islamic Heaven or Paradise. Muslims believe that, on that day, everyone will be resurrected for God’s judgment according to their beliefs and deeds. Those who do not follow Allah will go to Hell.
3. Islam promises its followers entrance to Heaven through the door of Paradise – Surah 2:25; 57:21. Muslims believe that if you enter Paradise, you will be very happy. There will be no sickness, pain, sadness or death; and it will last forever.
4. Also, Islamic Paradise is pictured as a place where the faithful will enjoy many lustful pleasures, including sexual relationships with virgins accompanied with exotic food and wine – Surah 9:111; 56:12-45.
5. The Bible gives a clear description of what Heaven will be like:
 - a. God will be worshipped forever – Revelation 4-5.
 - b. It is the permanent abode for all those that have received Jesus Christ as their personal saviour – Revelation 7:9-17.
 - c. There will be a holy city called ‘New Jerusalem’ in heaven. This is where God will be with His people for eternity – Revelation 21:3, 10-21.
 - d. There will be no tears, death, sorrow, crying, pain nor sin or wickedness in heaven – Revelation 21:4,8,27.

Q. The God of the Bible loves the Jewish people (the Nation of Israel) – Genesis 12:1-3; Romans 9-11. Abraham is the father of the nation of Israel. God promised to bless Abraham and make him a blessing to the world. Thus, the Jews are God’s chosen people, providing the world with the Scriptures and a Saviour—Messiah Jesus Christ – Matthew 1:1-18; Luke 24:44.

The Bible teaches that Abraham by faith was made righteous before God – Genesis 15:6. The spiritual children of Abraham are those that likewise place their faith in Jesus Christ as their Saviour – Galatians 3:29; Romans 4:3-5. Jesus Christ the Messiah testified that, before Abraham was born, He was the “I AM” – John 8:58. By this statement, Jesus Christ was declaring that He was the one who appeared to Moses at the burning bush and therefore He is God eternal – Exodus 3:14.

1. The *Koran* teaches that Islam is a return to the beliefs of Abraham. According to the *Koran*, Abraham was “upright,” one who had surrendered to Allah, rejecting idolatry. He was obedient in fulfilling the commands of Allah in times of testing. Because of Abraham’s obedience, he is a leader for humankind. By belief in Allah and obedience, he would enter Paradise.
2. The Bible teaches that Isaac was the son offered to God as a sacrifice, and it is through the line of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that God provided a Messiah in Jesus Christ – Matthew 1:1-17.
3. Muslims believe that Deuteronomy 18:18-19 refer to Mohammed, but these verses teach that the coming prophet will come from within the Jewish people. This is a prophecy of the coming of Jesus Christ through the family line of Israel – Acts 3:13,17-23.
4. Islam teaches that Abraham sacrificed Ishmael, not Isaac. Islam hates Israel – Surah 47:4. Since the Israelites were recognized as a nation in 1948, the Arab nations have tried to destroy and push them out of the Middle East – Surah 5:18. Jews are accused of blaspheming against Allah. Muslims believe that Allah will transform Jews into pigs and monkeys – 7:166-168. Jews are blamed for killing the prophets – Surah 2:91. They are considered greediest of all mankind – Surah 2:96.

“Which God will you serve? The God of the Bible or the God of Islam?”

Is there a difference?

Yes, there is!

You must make a decision; your eternal destiny rests on what you will do with Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God.

How can you know the God of the Bible?

- A. You must accept that the Holy Bible is the Word of God – 1 Peter 1:23-25.
- B. You must believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, One with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit – John 8:24; 10:30; I John 5:7.
- C. You must admit that you are a sinner before a holy God, deserving death physically and spiritually – Romans 3:23; 6:23.
- D. You must believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins, was buried and rose again on the third day, bodily, visibly and personally – 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.
- E. You must understand that God's salvation is received by faith, not earned by our own works – Ephesians 2:8-9.
- F. You must repent of your sin and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior by faith – Acts 17:30; 20:21.

If you believe in your heart these teachings from God's Word and confess with your lips the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal saviour, you can receive God's eternal salvation – Romans 10:9-13.

This short prayer may help you to make a definite commitment to Jesus Christ:

“Dear God, I admit that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, Who died for my sins on the cross, was buried and rose again on the third day. I now repent of my sin and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord. Help me to grow as a Christian from this day forth. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask this, Amen.

If this was the true expression of a belief in your heart, then the Bible gives the promise that you now have eternal life. Because God does not lie, He always keeps His promises.

Titus 1:2 “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.”