

# Christianity, Cults & Religion

Scientology

New Age

Wicca



Islam

Buddhism



Christianity

Taoism



Judaism

Hinduism



Christian  
Science

Jehovah's  
Witnesses

Mormonism

# Christianity, Cults & Religion

Purpose –

- To strengthen our foundation as Christians
  - Know what others believe
  - Know what their beliefs are founded on
  - Compare those beliefs and foundations with Christianity
- To be better prepared in evangelism

# Overview

Week 1 Hinduism

Week 2 Buddhism

Week 3 New Age

Week 4 Islam

- Origin
- Beliefs
- Practices
- Writings



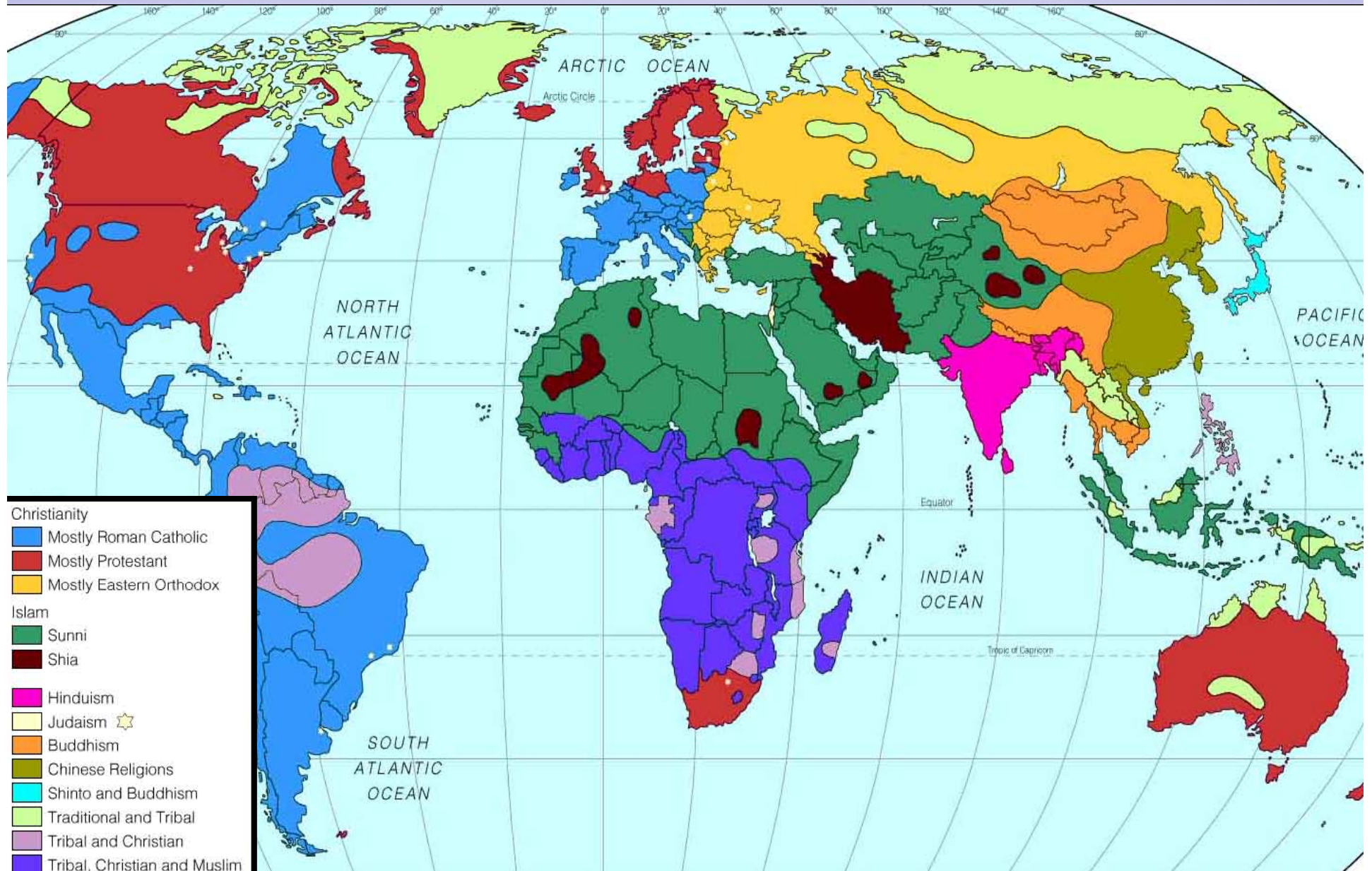
# Growth

- In less than 30 years the number of adherents to Islam has tripled.
  - In 1982 there were 450 million, today 1.5 billion worldwide
  - 1 out of every 4 people are Muslims





# Distribution of World Religions



# Definitions

- Islam = submit, surrender, commit
- Muslim = the one who submits
- Allah = Arabic for God
- Quran = to recite
- Jihad = to strive, exert, fight
  - Could be inner struggle against evil
  - Struggle for the betterment of the Islamic community
  - An exertion to convert unbelievers

# Background - Birth

570 AD  
Muhammad was  
born in Mecca,  
Saudi Arabia



# Background - Revelation

610 AD  
at the age of 40,  
while meditating  
in a cave on Mt.  
Hira, received  
revelation from  
the angel Gabriel.

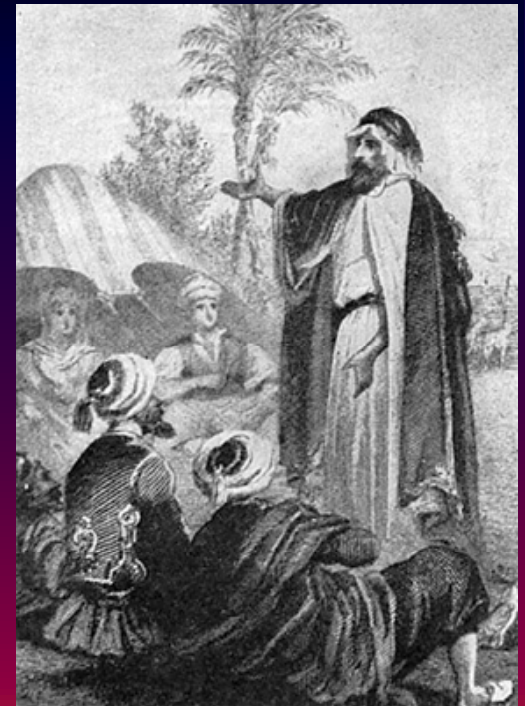




# Background - Message

Muhammad, as a prophet, began preaching two fold message

1. There is only one God to whose will people must submit
2. There will be a day of judgment based on whether or not one has obeyed God



# Background - Opposition

Muhammad fled Mecca in 622 AD to escape assassination

He fled 250 miles north to Medina

Hijra = Muhammad's migration to Medina



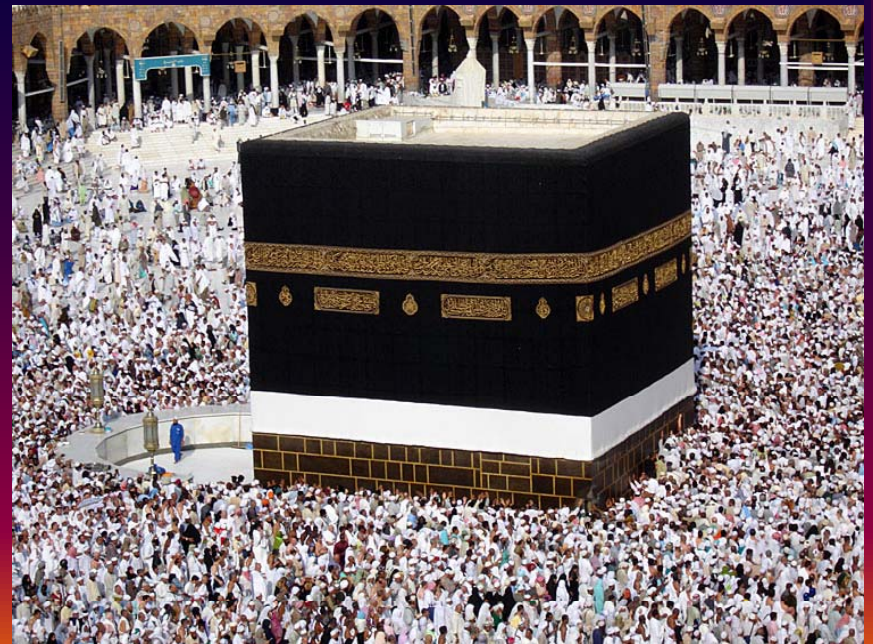


# Background

8 years later in 630 AD, with 10,000 men, Muhammad invaded Mecca and conquered it without a fight.

He cleansed the Ka'ba of idols and dedicated it to Allah.

Now the most sacred site in Islam



The Ka'ba

# Background

According to Islamic tradition, the rock is the spot from where Muhammad ascended to Heaven accompanied by the angel Gabriel.



The Dome of the Rock

# Sects of Islam

Sunnis: 85-90% of all Muslims

Believed successor should be elected democratically from among close followers

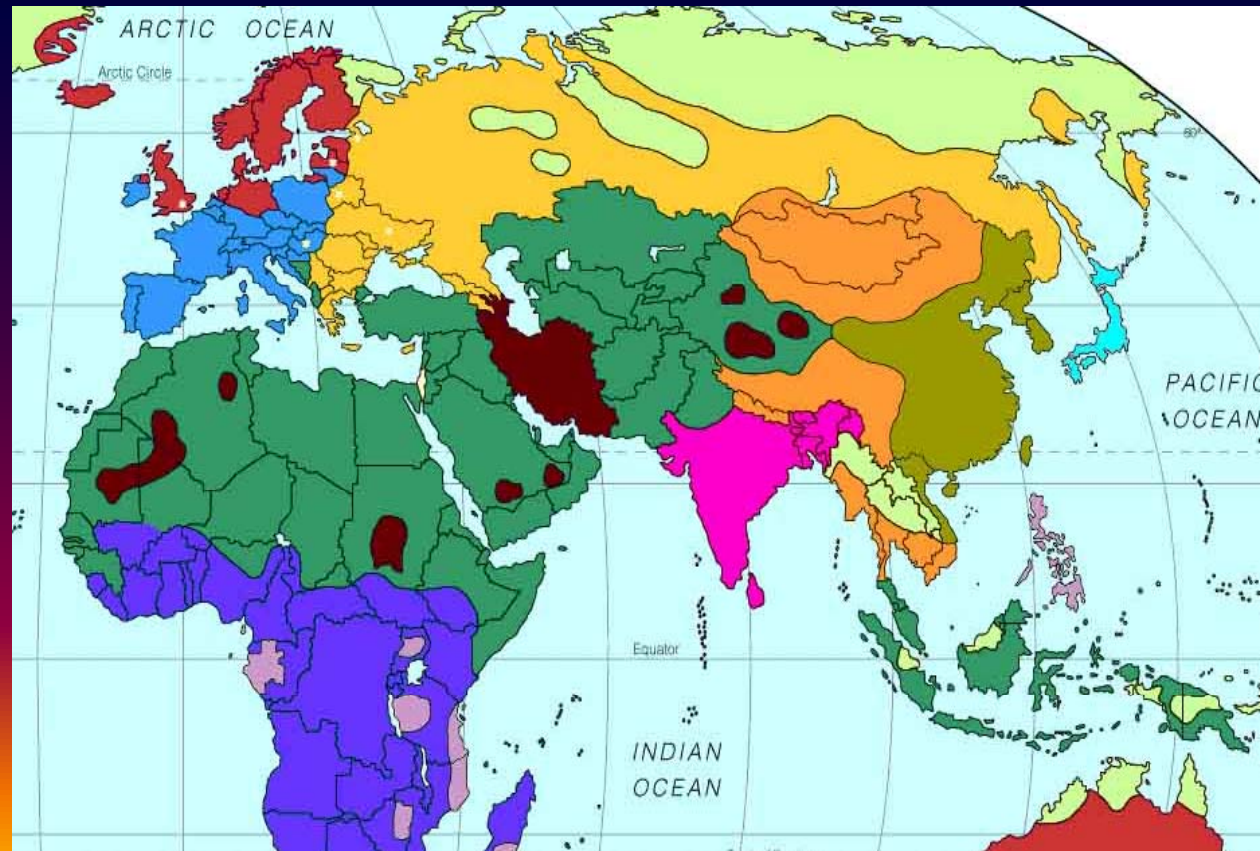
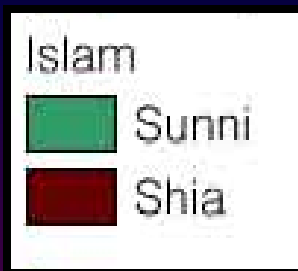
Shi'ites: 10% of all Muslims

Believe successor should be related to Muhammad.

# Sects of Islam

Sunnis: 85-90%

Shi'ites: 10%



# Sects of Islam

## Wahhabi

18th century by  
Abd al-Wahhab

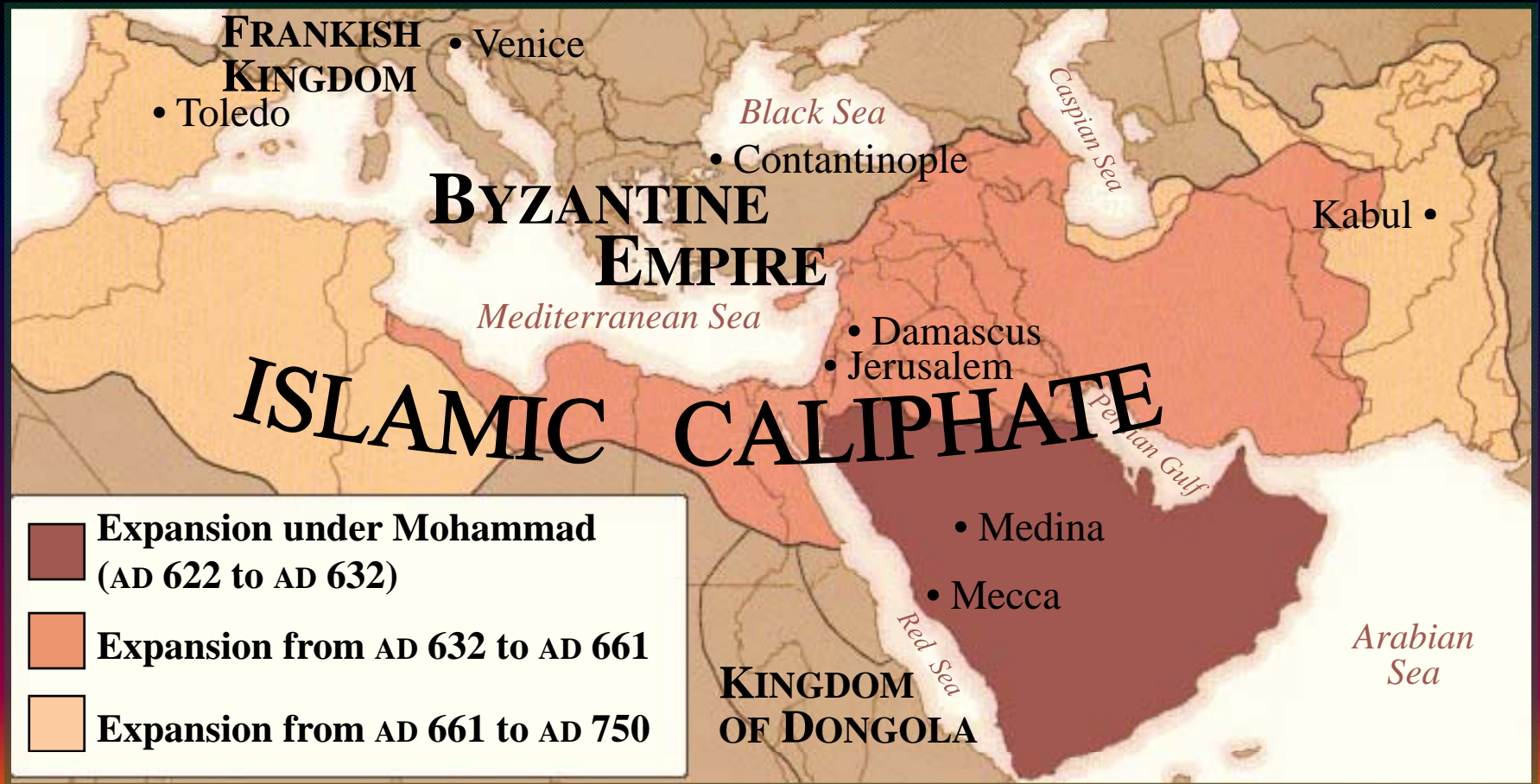
Ultra-conservative,  
puritanical,  
often terrorism friendly



Osama bin Laden



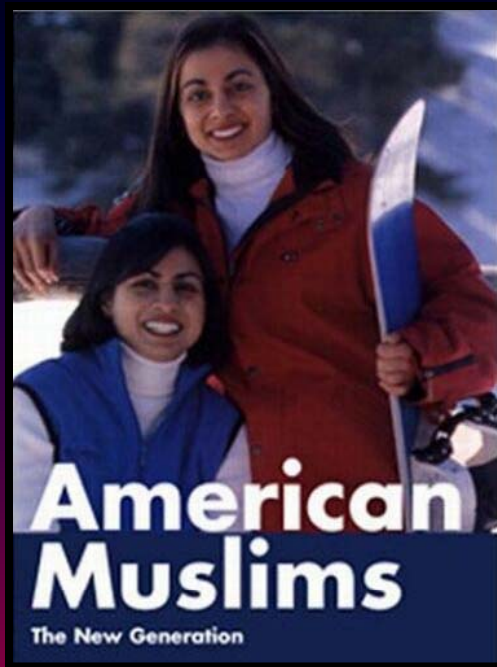
# Spread of Islam





# Islam

## Peace or Violence



# Islam

## Peace or Violence



### Sura 2:190

“Fight in the way of Allah against those who fight against *you*, but begin not hostilities. Lo! Allah loveth not aggressors.”

# Islam

## Peace or Violence



### Sura 29:46

“And dispute ye not with the People of the Book, [speaking of the Bible, a reference to Christians and Jews].”

# Islam

## Peace or Violence

### Sura 9:5

“So when the sacred months have passed away,  
Then slay the idolaters  
Wherever you find them,  
and take them captives  
and besiege them and lie  
in wait for them in every ambush, then if they  
repent and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate,  
leave their way free to them”





# Islam

## Peace or Violence

Sura 8:39

“Make war on them until idolatry shall cease and God’s religion shall reign supreme”



# 5 Beliefs



Belief in One God, Allah



Belief in Prophets



Belief in Angels



Belief in Holy Books



Belief in the Final Judgment



# God

## 1. Belief in One God, Allah

Allah is an Arabic word which means "God"

- The Quran teaches that Allah is just, all-knowing, mighty, compassionate, merciful, sovereign, and even loving.
- This has led some to think that Allah and Jehovah are the same.
  - Not true

# God

## The Bible Teaches that God is Triune

One God

(Deuteronomy 6:4),

yet three distinct  
persons who are divine

(John 1:1, Acts 5:3-4)



# God

## Quran: Allah does not love sinners

Sura 2:276 says...

“Allah does not love any ungrateful sinner.”

Sura 3:32 says...

“surely Allah does not love the unbelievers.”

Sura 4:36 says...

“surely Allah does not love him who is proud.”

Sura 6:141 says...

“surely He does not love the extravagant.”

# God

## Bible: God loves the world

### **John 3:16**

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

### **Romans 5:8**

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

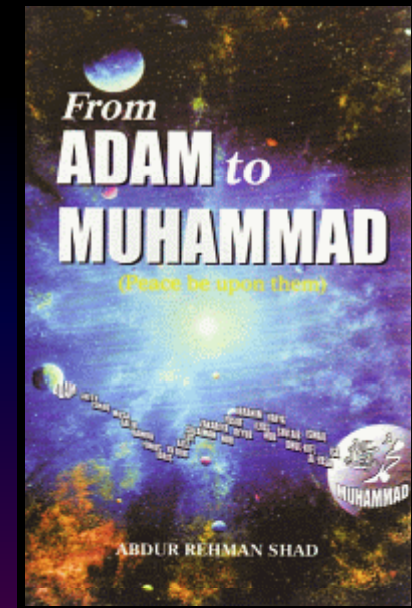
# 5 Beliefs

## 2. Belief in Prophets

Muslims believe that Allah has sent 124,000 different prophets to mankind down through the ages

Even Biblical characters such as Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, John the Baptist, and Jesus, make their list of prophets. [see sura 6:84-86]

The last and most respected of all Allah's prophets, is Muhammad.



# 5 Beliefs

## 3. Belief in Angels

Muslims believe angels function as guardians, recorders, and messengers for Allah.

Muslims believe that each person has two angels, one on his right who records his good deeds and one on his left who records the bad deeds (Sura 50:17).





# 5 Beliefs

## 4. Belief in Holy Books

**Muslims believe that Allah has given 4 books to mankind:**

1. The Law of Moses
2. The Psalms of David
3. The Gospel of Jesus
4. The Qur'an of Muhammad



# 5 Beliefs

## Manuscript Evidence for the Bible

Today there survives more than 24,000 partial and complete, ancient handwritten manuscript copies of the New Testament.

An examination of these manuscripts by scholars and textual critics has verified that the Bible we have in our possession today is the same Bible that the early church possessed 2,000 years ago.



# 5 Beliefs

## The Early Church Fathers

In their writings, they quoted the New Testament alone 86,000 times! In fact, they referred to it so often and so thoroughly that textual critics can reconstruct the entire New Testament (except eleven verses) from their quotes.



**The Early Church Fathers, 38 Volumes**

# 5 Beliefs

## 5. Belief in Final Judgment

The Qur'an teaches that all human beings will be physically resurrected on what it calls “the Last Day.”

A person's life will be examined and they will be permitted to spend eternity in heaven (sura 4:57) or hell (sura 4:56; 14:48-51).



# 5 Beliefs



Belief in One God, Allah



Belief in Prophets



Belief in Angels



Belief in Holy Books



Belief in the Final Judgment



# 5 Pillars of Islam



**Confession**



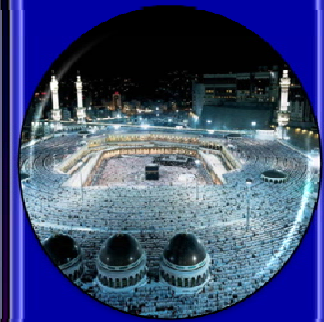
**Prayer**



**Giving**



**Fasting**



**Pilgrimage**



# 5 Pillars of Islam

## 1. Confession

“There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.”

This declaration of faith is called the “shahada” and is repeated constantly by faithful Muslims.

# 5 Pillars of Islam

## 2. Prayer

Muslims are required to pray at 5 specific times a day, facing Mecca.

Daybreak, noon, mid-afternoon, after sunset, early evening



# 5 Pillars of Islam

## 3. Giving

Muslims are required to give 2.5% to help the poor and for emergency situations.



# 5 Pillars of Islam

## 4. Fasting

In the month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, Muslims fast from sunrise until sundown (Sura 2:183-185).

Ramadan is the month that Muslims believe Muhammad first received the revelation of the Qur'an.





# 5 Pillars of Islam

## 5. Pilgrimage *Hajj*

It is required within Islam that all who are physically and financially able go to Mecca at least once in their lifetime (sura 2:196).

While in Mecca,  
Muslims are required  
to circle the Ka'bah  
seven times...

2 Million People a Year



# 5 Pillars of Islam



**Confession**



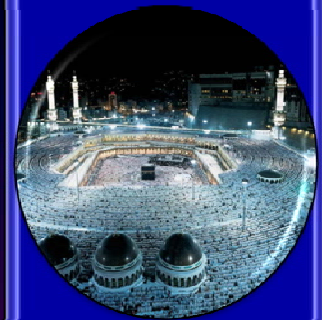
**Prayer**



**Giving**



**Fasting**



**Pilgrimage**

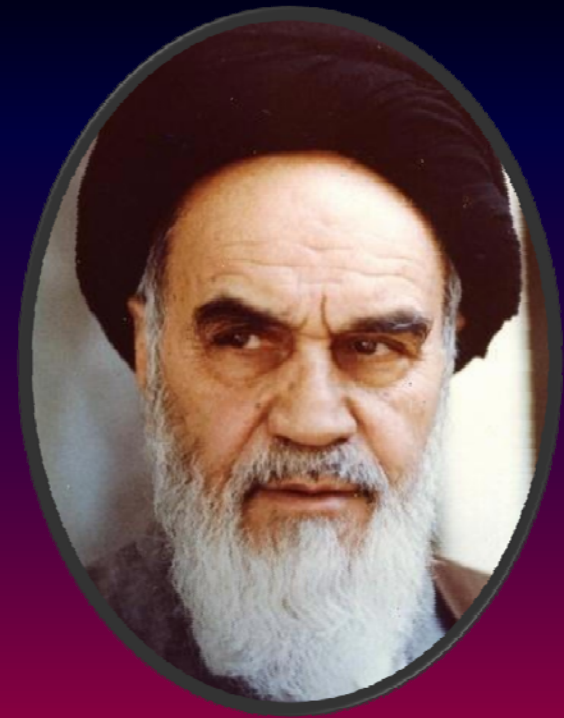


# Jihad

- Some Muslims would include a sixth pillar, Holy Struggle (*Jihad*).
  - This struggle could be internal (a struggle in the soul to do the right thing) or external (an effort against the enemies of Islam).
  - The interpretation of *jihad* can determine the difference between moderate and radical Muslims.

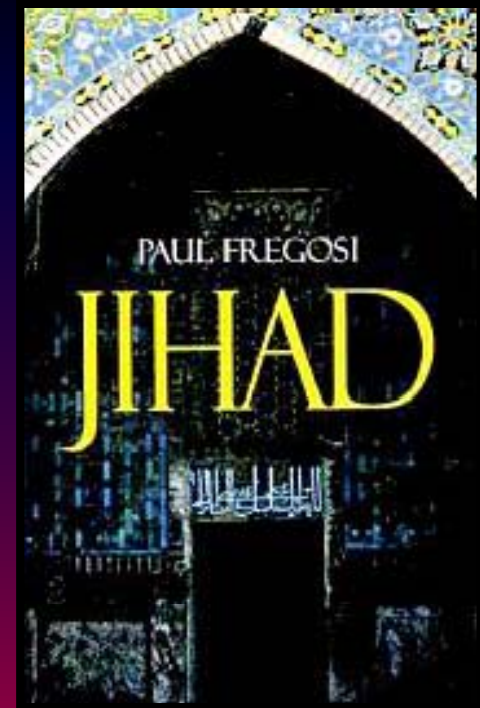
# Jihad

Ayatollah Khomeini,  
“Jihad means the  
conquest of non-Muslim  
territory. The domination  
of Koranic law from one  
end of earth to the other  
is...the final goal...of  
this war of conquest.



# Jihad

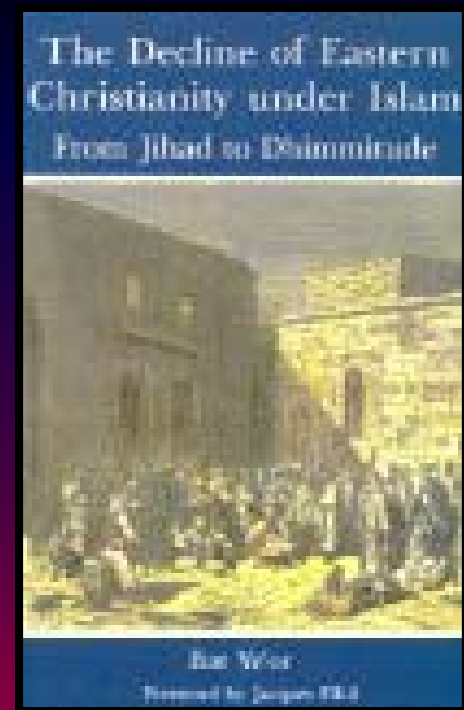
Paul Fregosi, Jihad in the West,  
“The jihad war of conquest is a historical reality that has lasted so far for 1,300 years. The purpose of the Jihad became, and still is, to expand and extend Islam until the whole world is under Muslim rule. The Jihad is essentially a permanent state of hostility that Islam maintains against the rest of the world, with or without fighting, for more sovereignty over more territory.





# Jihad

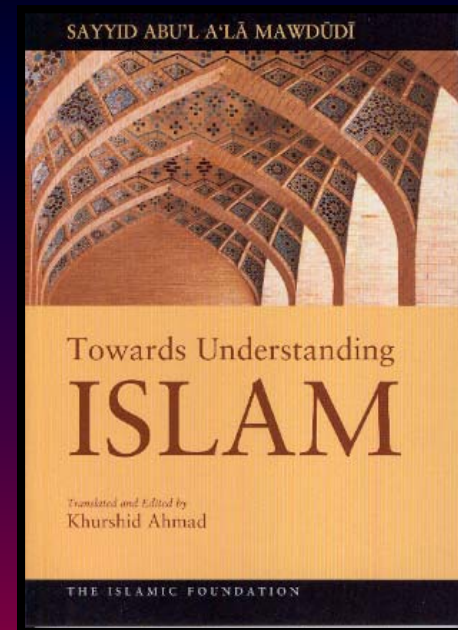
Jacques Ellul,  
The Decline of Eastern  
Christianity under Islam,  
“In Islam jihad is a religious  
obligation. Jihad is not a  
spiritual war but a real  
military war of conquest.



# Jihad

Abul A'la Mawdudi,  
Towards Understanding Islam,

“Jihad is part of this overall defense of Islam. In the Shariah this word is used particularly of a war that is waged solely in the name of Allah against those who practice oppression as enemies of Islam.”



# Jihad in the Quran

Surah 5:51

O ye who believe! Take not Jews and Christians for your friends and protectors...

Surah 9:29

Fight [ghatala = slay] those who believe not in Allah nor the Last day...

Surah 47:4

Therefore, when ye meet the Unbelievers (in fight), smite at there necks; at length, when ye have thoroughly subdued them, bind a bond firmly (on them): thereafter (is the time for) either generosity or ransom: until the war lays down its burdens.



# The Quran

114 Chapters called Suras

Muslims believe Allah gave it to Gabriel

Gabriel gave it to Muhammad over a period of 23 years.



# 4 Weaknesses with the Quran





# 4 Weaknesses with the Quran

## Salvation by Works



Sura 23:102-103

“Then those whose balance (of good deeds) is heavy, they will attain salvation: But those whose balance is light, will be those who have lost their souls, in Hell will they abide.”

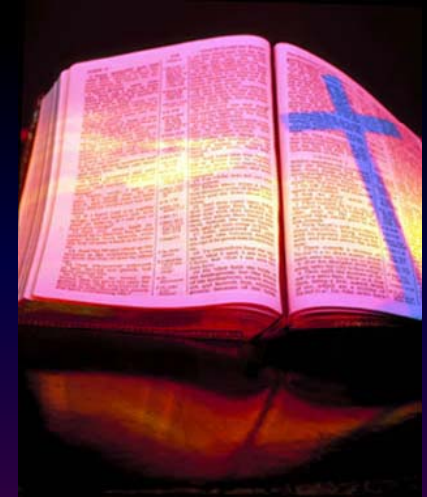
Sura 18:107

“As to those who believe and work righteous deeds, they have, for their entertainment, the Gardens of Paradise”

Sura 18:110

“And whoever hopeth for the meeting with his Lord, let him do righteous work”

# What the Bible Says



## **Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Ephesians 2:8-9**

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

# What the Bible Says

## **Galatians 1:8-9**

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.



# 4 Weaknesses with the Quran

## Contradicts Science

Sura 18:86

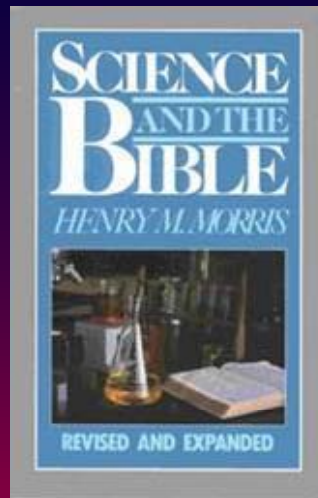
“till, when he reached the setting-place of the sun, he found it setting in a muddy spring”



# What the Bible Says

## Psalm 19:6

Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.



It discusses astronomy, geophysics, hydrology, biology, the flood, the theory of evolution, supposed transitional forms, ape-men, archaeology and more!

# 4 Weaknesses with the Quran

## Contradicts History

Sura 4:157

“And for claiming that they killed the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the messenger of GOD. In fact, they [speaking of the JEWS] never killed him, they never crucified him - they were made to think that they did. All factions who are disputing in this matter are full of doubt concerning this issue. They possess no knowledge; they only conjecture. For certain, they never killed him.”





# What the Bible Says



## **Matthew 28:6**

He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.



# Evidence for the Resurrection



*Simon Greenleaf, Royal Professor of law at Harvard University, examined the value of the historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ to ascertain the truth. This noted legal authority came to the conclusion that, according to the laws of legal evidence used in courts of law, “There is more evidence for the historical fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ than for just about any other event in history.”*

# 4 Weaknesses with the Quran

## Internal Inconsistencies



The Qur'an teaches that Noah and all of his family survived the flood in one place (Sura 21:76), but in another place it states that one of Noah's sons drowned (Sura 11:42-43)

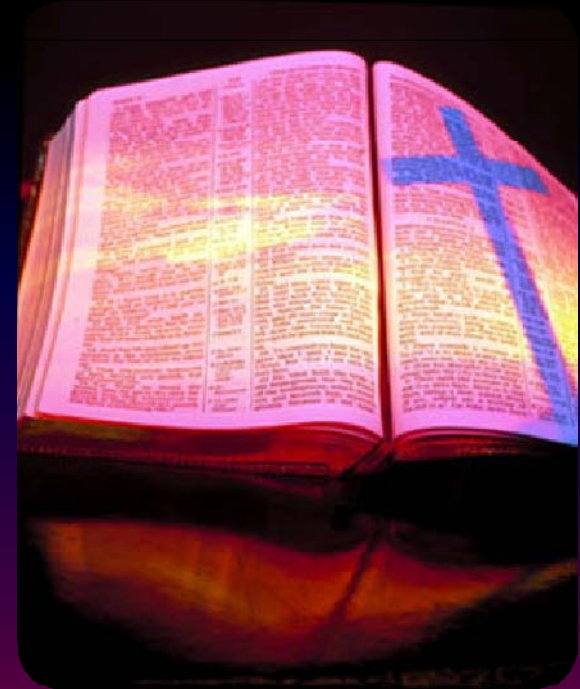
The Qur'an states that Pharaoh drowned (Sura 28:40 and others 17:103, 43:55) but in another place it says say that he survived ( Sura 10:90-92).



# The Continuity of the Bible

66 books, written by 40 different authors, over 1500 years, in 3 different languages, on 3 different continents.

What is more, this collection of books shares a **common storyline**- the creation, fall, and redemption of God's people; a **common theme**- God's universal love for all of humanity; and a **common message**- salvation is available to all who repent of their sins and commit to following God with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength.



# BAHÁ'Í WORLD FAITH



## FOUNDERS

- Siyyid 'Ali Muhammed – “the Báb” (1819-1850)
- Mirza Husayn- 'Ali – “Bahá'u'lláh” (1817-1892)
- 'Abdu'l-Bahá (1844-1921) - shown below



## DATE

- Founded 1844 in Shiraz, Iran

## LOCATION

- Headquarters in Haifa, Israel

# BAHÁ'Í WORLD FAITH



## KEY WRITINGS

- Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá:
  - *Kitáb-i-Aqdas* (“Most Holy Book”)
  - *Kitáb-i-Iqán* (“Book of Certitude”)
- The Bible, interpreted spiritually to conform to Bahá'í theology





# BAHÁ'Í WORLD FAITH



## WHO IS GOD?

- God is an unknowable divine being who has revealed himself through nine “manifestations” (religious leaders), including:
  - Moses
  - Buddha
  - Jesus
  - Muhammad
  - Bahá'u'lláh
  - ... and others
- No Trinity



Bible

# BAHÁ'Í WORLD FAITH



## WHO IS JESUS?

- Bahá'ís teach that Jesus is one of many manifestations of God.
  - Each manifestation supersedes the previous, giving new teachings about God.
- Jesus, who superseded Moses, was superseded by Muhammad, and most recently by the greatest, Bahá'u'lláh (“Glory of Allah”).



# BAHÁ'Í WORLD FAITH



## WHO IS JESUS?

- He is not God and did not rise from the dead.
- He is not the only way to God.
- He has returned to earth in the form of Bahá'u'lláh.



# BAHÁ'Í WORLD FAITH



## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- Holy Spirit is divine energy from God that empowers every manifestation.
- “Spirit of Truth” refers to Bahá'u'lláh.



# BAHÁ'Í WORLD FAITH

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## HOW TO BE SAVED

- Faith in the manifestation of God (Bahá'u'lláh).
- Knowing and living by Bahá'u'lláh's principles and teachings.



# BAHÁ'Í WORLD FAITH

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## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH

- Personal immortality based on good works, with rewards for the faithful.
- Heaven and hell are conditions, not places.





# BAHÁ'Í WORLD FAITH

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## OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- Bahá'í faith originated as an Islamic sect and is severely persecuted in Iran.
- Bahá'í faith teaches that all religions have the same source, principles, and aims.
- Stress on oneness and world unity.

# BAHÁ'Í WORLD FAITH



## OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- Regular local gatherings called “feasts”
- Administrative meetings called “spiritual assemblies”
- “Universal House of Justice” in Haifa, Israel is the ultimate governing body.

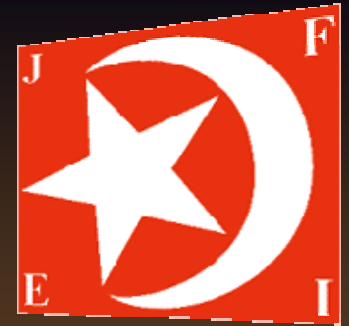
# NATION OF ISLAM

## FOUNDER

■ Wallace D. Fard (1897-?)

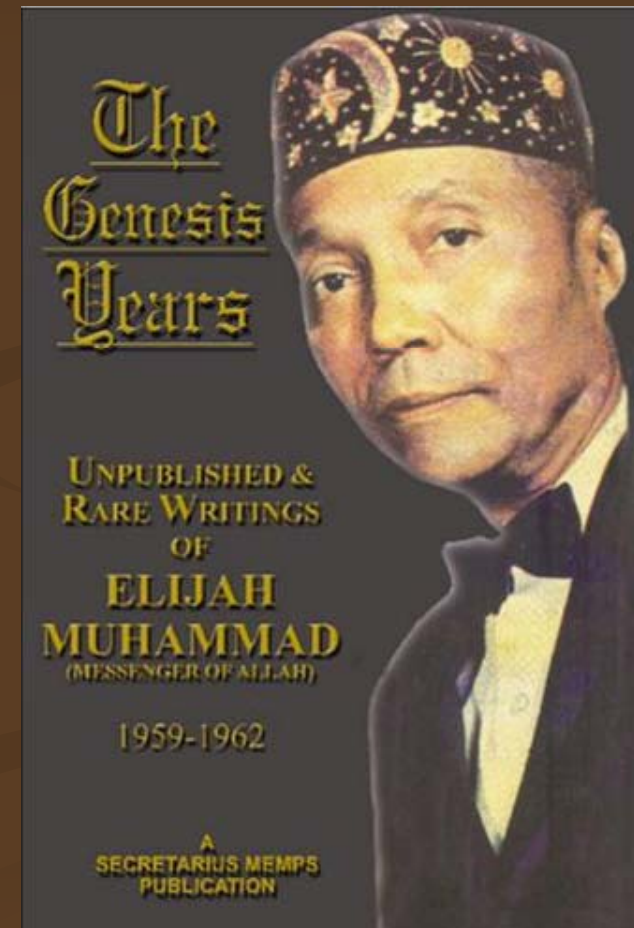


# NATION OF ISLAM



## FOUNDER

- Wallace D. Fard (1897-?)
- Led by Elijah Muhammad (1897-1975)



# NATION OF ISLAM



## FOUNDER

- Wallace D. Fard (1897-?)
- Led by Elijah Muhammad (1897-1975)
- Current head is Louis Farrakhan (b. 1933)

## LOCATION

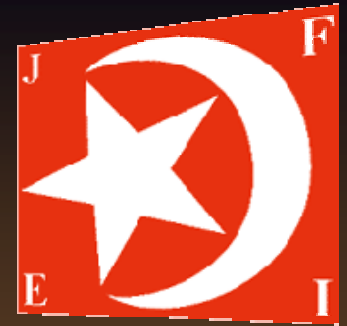
- Headquarters in Chicago, IL

## DATE

- 1930 in Detroit, MI



# NATION OF ISLAM



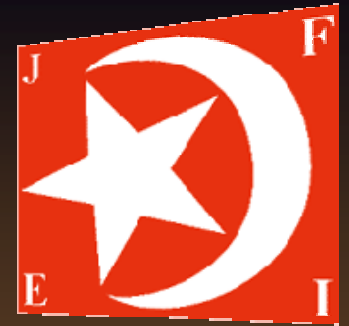
## KEY WRITINGS



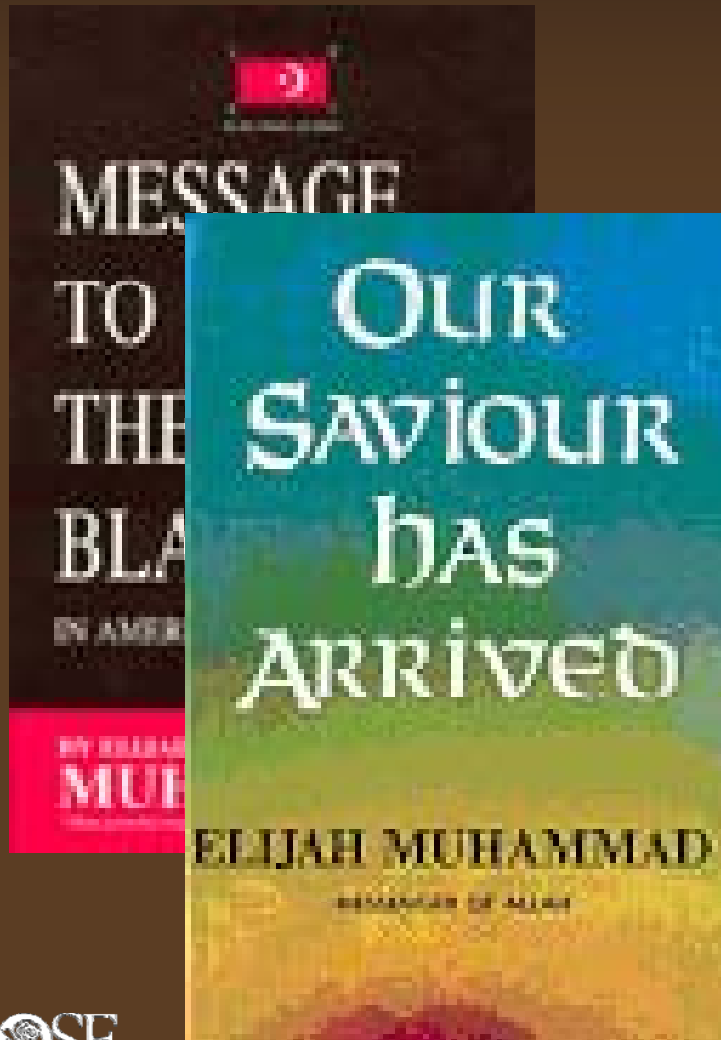
- The Holy *Qur'an* (Koran) is authoritative
- The Bible is quoted often



# NATION OF ISLAM



## KEY WRITINGS



- *Message to the Blackman in America*
- *Our Saviour Has Arrived*
- Other books by **Elijah Muhammad**

# NATION OF ISLAM

## KEY WRITINGS



- Current teachings are in *The Final Call* newspaper and speeches of Minister Farrakhan



FinalCall.com News

# NATION OF ISLAM



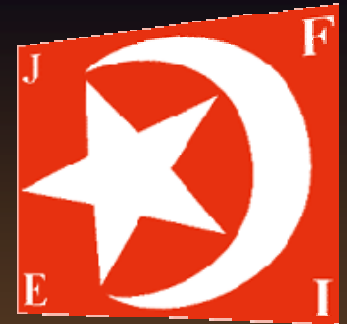
## WHO IS GOD?

- Officially, there is one God, Allah, as described in the Qur'an
- Elijah Muhammad's teachings are also true:
  - God is a black man
  - Millions of Allahs have lived and died since creation
  - Collectively the black race is God
  - Master Fard is the Supreme Allah and Saviour



**Bible**

# NATION OF ISLAM

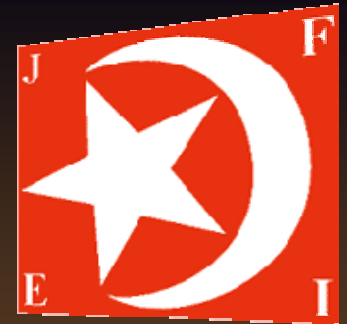


## WHO IS JESUS?

- Officially, Jesus is a sinless prophet of Allah
- Privately, Jesus was born from adultery between Mary and Joseph, who was already married to another woman
- Jesus was not crucified, but stabbed in the heart by a police officer



# NATION OF ISLAM

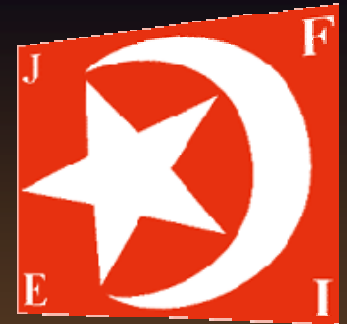


WHO IS JESUS?

- Jesus is still buried in Jerusalem
- Prophecies of Jesus' return refer to Master Fard, Elijah Muhammad, or to Louis Farrakhan



# NATION OF ISLAM



## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- The Holy Spirit is not significant to this belief
- The Holy Spirit is generally regarded as the power of God
- Occasionally, the Holy Spirit is regarded as the angel Gabriel who spoke to the prophet Muhammad



**Bible**



# NATION OF ISLAM

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## HOW TO BE SAVED

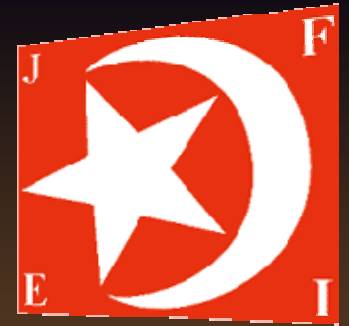
- People sin, but are not born sinful
- Salvation is through submission to Allah and good works
- Older beliefs still held:
  - Fard is the saviour
  - Salvation comes from knowledge of self and realizing that the white race are devils who displaced the black race



**Bible**

# NATION OF ISLAM

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## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH

- There is no consciousness or any spiritual existence after death
- Heaven and Hell are symbols
- Statements about the resurrection refer to awakening “mentally dead” people by bringing them true teachings



# NATION OF ISLAM

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## OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- Farrakhan's public messages coexist with earlier, esoteric doctrines
- Elijah Muhammad's older views (such as polytheism, God as the black race, Master Fard as Allah incarnate, whites as devils bred to cause harm) are still distributed, but public preaching now focuses on Islamic themes (one eternal God, non-racial emphasis) with frequent use of the Bible

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Christian  
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