

Tonight's Question

**How does Islam Compare with
Christianity?**

**Is there a difference between
Christianity and Islam?**

Two Books: Bible & Qur'an

BIBLE

40 Inspired writers

Over 1600 years

Chronological order

Complete stories

Theme

God's love stressed

Jesus central character

QUR'AN (Koran)

One man

Over 23 years

No order

Fragmented

No theme

God's anger

Mohammad

ISLAM & CHRISTIANITY:

Contrasting Worldviews

Muhammad

put his enemies to the sword and confiscated their property and wives.

commanded his followers to fight for their faith.

taught that those who died in battle would enter paradise.

died a natural death after consolidating his power and wealth.

It is true that Muslims may be “peaceful” when they are a minority in a strong democratic nation. When they hold the reins of temporal power in an Islamic state, however, it is often a different reality for non-Muslims. Some scholars believe the greatest persecution in the history of Christianity is occurring now, primarily in Islamic countries.

ISLAM & CHRISTIANITY: Contrasting Worldviews

Jesus

never amassed worldly wealth.

told his disciples to “put away the sword” (John 18:11).

healed the one wound inflicted by his followers (Luke 22:51).

allowed his enemies to take his life (1 Peter 2:21-24).

and prayed from the cross for those who were executing him (Luke 23:34.)

ISLAM & CHRISTIANITY:

Contrasting Worldviews

- **Jesus envisioned a fellowship of believers drawn by the example of his own sacrificial death (John 3:14-16, 12:31-32) and subsequent resurrection.**
- **Muhammad fashioned a community based on the conviction of a manifest destiny and triumphant military expansion.**
- **The founder of Christianity was put to death by the authorities.**
- **The founder of Islam *was* the ultimate political authority who put to death thousands of others.**

ISLAM & CHRISTIANITY:

Contrasting Worldviews

The “story” of Christianity makes an explicit distinction between the political and the spiritual.

The “story” of Islam is one of an all-encompassing system of religious, political, and military power.

ABOUT GOD

ISLAM...

- 1. Teaches there is one God - Qur'an 3:64**
- 2. Rejects the concept of the Trinity**

CHRISTIANITY...

- 1. Teaches there is one God - [1Co 8:6](#)**
- 2. Reveals that the Godhead is composed of three distinct personalities - Father, Son, Holy Spirit; one in essence and substance - cf. [Jn 1:1-5](#); [Php 2:5-8](#); [2Jn 9](#); [Mt 28:19](#)**

ABOUT JESUS

ISLAM

- 1. Considers Jesus only a prophet, like Noah, Abraham, Moses (and Muhammad).**
- 2. Rejects the divinity of Jesus, denies his preexistence - Qur'an 4:171**
- 3. Believes in the virgin birth, however**
- 4. Does not believe Jesus died on the cross nor was raised from the dead - Qur'an 4:157**

CHRISTIANITY...

- 1. Declares that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God - [Mt 16:13-18](#)**
- 2. Teaches the preexistence of Christ - [Jn 1:1-5](#)**
- 3. Proclaims that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and was raised from the dead**

ABOUT SALVATION

ISLAM

1. Salvation comes by works
2. Personal righteousness is weighed against personal sin, which ever is greater determines salvation - **Qur'an 23:101-103**
3. A Muslim can be forgiven by repenting of sin - **Qur'an 39:53-54**
4. Paradise is assured for one who dies as a martyr for Islam
5. One becomes a Muslim by confessing "There is no other god but God; and Muhammad is the Prophet of God"
(**la ilaha ill'Allah, Muhammad rasul Allah**).

CHRISTIANITY...

1. Salvation is by grace through an obedient faith - [**Ep 2:8-9**](#)
2. Jesus died on the cross as atonement for our sins - [**Ro 3:21-26**](#)
3. He is the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him - [**He 5:9**](#)
4. Those whose names are in the Lamb's book of life will be spared condemnation - [**Re 20:11-15**](#)
5. One becomes a Christian by:
 - a. Believing that Christ died for your sins - [**Jn 8:24**](#)
 - b. Repenting of your sins - [**Ac 2:38**](#)
 - c. Confessing your faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God
- [**Mt 10:32,33**](#)
 - d. Being baptized into Christ for the remission of your sins
- [**Mk 16:16**](#); [**Ac 2:38**](#)

ABOUT ETERNAL JUDGMENT

ISLAM

1. Believes in a resurrection of the dead and judgment at the Last Day
2. Paradise for the faithful, served by beautiful virgins - **Qur'an 56:1-38**
3. Hell for unbelievers, with eternal torment - **Qur'an 56:39-56**

CHRISTIANITY

1. Believes in a resurrection of the dead and judgment at the Last Day.
2. The eternal City, New Jerusalem, in the new heavens and new earth for those whose name is in the Lamb's book of life
- [Rev. 21:1-7](#), [9-27](#); [22:1-5](#)
3. The lake of fire for the unbelieving and wicked – [Rev. 20:15](#);
[21:8](#)

ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD

ISLAM

1. Believes in 4 inspired books - the **Torah** (5 books of Moses), **Zabur** (the Psalms), **Injil** (the Gospel), and **Qur'an**
2. The first three have been corrupted; the Qur'an provides the final revelation of God's Word

CHRISTIANITY

1. Believes Old and New Testaments contains the revelation of God's Word - [2Ti 3:16-17](#)
2. Believes that God's Word cannot be corrupted, but is preserved - [1Pe 1:23-25](#); [Mt 24:35](#); [Isa 40:8](#)
3. Believes that revelation of God's Word is fully and finally revealed - [2Pe 1:3](#); [Jude 3](#)

WAR AND VENGEANCE

ISLAM

1. Allows war and vengeance for self-defense against persecution.
2. Allows use of war in promoting the faith against unbelievers and idolaters.

CHRISTIANITY

1. Forbids war and vengeance when persecuted for righteousness' sake - [**Mt 5:10-12,38-48**](#)
2. Forbids use of war to promote the cause of Christ and the gospel - [**2Co 10:3-5**](#)

OTHER MAJOR DIFFERENCES

Dhimmitude

Treatment of women

Jihad

Morals and marriage

Worship (Prayer, Fasting, Washings, Beads)

Understanding of God, Revelation, Sin & Salvation

What constitutes the religious community (Umah)

Political consequence of Islam



- ❖ **There are more than a billion Muslims (about 1 out of every 5 people on the planet); the U.N. projects that by 2055 at least half of the global birthrate will be Islamic.**
- ❖ **Muslims have targeted the United States with an aggressive missionary program. Saudi Arabia has given millions of dollars to Harvard and the University of Arkansas to fund Islamic study centers.**



Islam: History, Religion, and Conflict

A study of the Arab-Israeli-US Conflict from an historical and biblical perspective

A lecture series delivered by Ernest Clevenger available for listening, reading or printing.

The following are Windows Media and Microsoft Word¹ files.

| Media Archive | | | |
|---------------|---|-------|-----------------------------|
| | Topic | Audio | Text |
| Lecture 1 | The People and the Problem: A look into the biblical background of the People | | Lesson Text |
| Lecture 2 | The Preparation of the People: The roles of Abraham and Muhammad | | Lesson Text |
| Lecture 3 | The Development of the People: A history of the opposing sides | | Lesson Text |
| Lecture 4 | The Sacrifice for the People: The claims of Islam vs. the Bible | | Lesson Text |
| Lecture 5 | The Coronation of the People's King: Basic differences between Muslims and Christians | | Lesson Text |

All five lectures consolidated into a book form may be downloaded for printing if desired.

[DOWNLOAD BOOK](#)

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