



MUSLIM

EVANGELISM

WORKSHOP



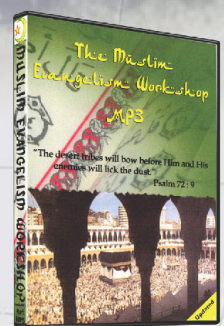
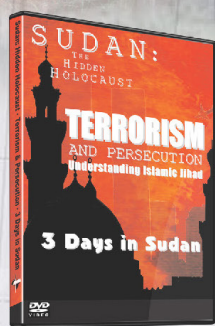
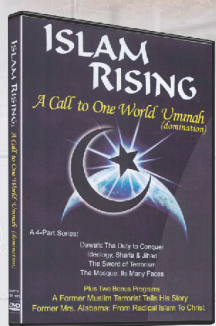
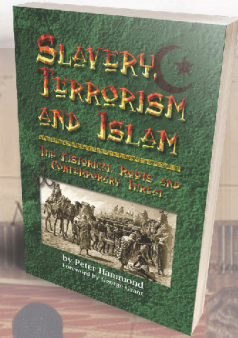
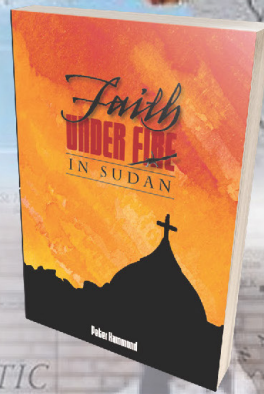
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Pray for the Muslim World



"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." Matthew 9:37-38

"All nations shall come and worship before You..." Revelation 15:4



"Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him and His enemies will lick the dust... all kings shall fall down before Him, all nations shall serve Him." Psalm 72:9-11

"At the Name of Jesus every knee should bow... every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." Philippians 2:10-11

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" Matthew 28:19



The Challenge of Islam

Points of Agreement and Contradiction

Christians and Muslim Agree that:

- ◆ God created the world and all that is in it, as well as Heaven and hell.
- ◆ God is all-powerful. He knows everything and He is everywhere - all the time.
- ◆ God revealed His will to mankind through certain prophets.
- ◆ God has given us laws which should govern our lives and prevent us from doing wrong.
- ◆ God will judge all people. Some will be permitted to go to Heaven, while all others are doomed to hell.
- ◆ Muslims also are allies of Christians in opposing evolution, atheism, pornography, gambling and abortion.

But Islam Contradicts the Bible by Saying that:

- ◆ Jesus was **no** more than a prophet. He was not the Son of God (S.5:78).
- ◆ Jesus was a good man, but was certainly **not** divine (S.5:19).
- ◆ God is **not** a Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) (S.4:171; 5:75-78, 119).
- ◆ Jesus did **not** die on the cross for sinners (S.4:157).
- ◆ There is **no** atonement or reconciliation of the sinner to God by means of the sacrifice of Jesus or any other substitutionary sacrifice (S. 22:36+37).

The Qu'ran Contradicts the Bible

Much of the Quran is made up of Bible stories. However, they are often distorted and misunderstood. For example:

- ◆ **Noah** had only one son - and he drowned in the flood (S.11:42-43) (Cf. Gen. 6 & 7).
- ◆ **The father of Abraham** in the Quran, was Azar (S.6:74). (Cf. Gen. 11:31).
- ◆ **Moses** in the Quran, was adopted by Pharaoh's wife (S.28:7-9). (Cf. Exod. 1:5-10).
- ◆ Although the Quran recites **Moses'** confrontation with Pharaoh 27 times, not even once does it include the most integral part of the story. The Passover is omitted!
- ◆ **Pharaoh** told Haman to build 'a lofty tower' so that he 'may go up to the God of Moses'. This is obviously referring to the Tower of Babel (S.28:38). (Cf. Gen. 10:32).
- ◆ The Quran teaches that **Mary** the mother of our Lord Jesus, was the sister of Aaron and the daughter of Imran who lived 1500 years before (S.19:16-28)!

Faith and Practice of Islam

The Five Fundamentals

Muslims must believe in:

1. **One God, Allah.**
2. The existence of **angels.**
3. All revealed **Books.** These are named to be:
 - The *Taurat* (the 5 books of Moses or perhaps the whole of the Old Testament.)
 - The *Zabur* (the Psalms of David).
 - The *Injil* (the Gospel or the New Testament).
 - The *Quran.*
4. **The Prophets** sent by God. Muslims believe that 124 000 have been sent to all nations, but only a few are mentioned by name. Among these are: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Jesus and Muhammad.
5. **Life After Death** which includes a fatalistic **Predestination** and the coming Last Day of Judgement which will determine whether a Muslim reaches Paradise or hell.

The Six Pillars of Islam

1. The open **confession** of faith ("*Shahada'*").
2. The five daily **prayers** ("*Salat*" [pronounce "*Salah*"]).
3. The keeping of the **fast** during the full month of Ramadan ("*Sawn* "). (But Muslims are allowed to eat and drink from sunset to sunrise.)
4. The giving of **alms** ("*Zflkat*" [pronounced: "*Zakah*"]).
5. The **Pilgrimage** to Mecca at least once in a lifetime, provided one has the means for that ("*Hajj*").
6. **Holy War** (Jihad).

What the Quran teaches about Jesus:

- He was born of a virgin - (S.19:20)
- He was holy and faultless - (S.19:19)
- He is the Messiah - (S.4:171)
- He is the Word of God - (S.4:171)
- He is a spirit from God - (S.4:171)
- He created life - (S.5:113)
- He healed the sick - (S.5:113)
- He raised the dead - (S.5:113)
- He came with clear signs - (S.43:63)
- He is a sign to all mankind - (S. 19:21; 21:91)
- He is illustrious in this world and the hereafter - (S.3:45)
- He was raised to heaven (where he still is) - (S.4:158)
- He will come back for Judgement - (S.43:61)

General Guidelines for Muslim Evangelism

1. Avoid offending your Muslim contact by way of inappropriate dress or behaviour.
2. Be humble and prepared to listen and to learn.
3. Be hospitable. Know that Muslims must observe the *'halaal'* law, i.e. they are not allowed to eat all kinds of food (particularly pork) and may be reluctant to eat at your home. Discuss this openly and try to find an acceptable arrangement.
4. Be positive. Do not enter a verbal boxing match determined to fight until one of you is knocked out! Share the Gospel lovingly. Make sure you are really understood. Explain all religious concepts and words and find out whether your listener has really understood your point. Focus on the Gospels and the words and parables of Jesus.
5. Do not compromise or be over-accommodating. Encourage your Muslim contact to test the Truth, to read the Bible for himself.
6. Do not just react. Muslims are likely to keep us on the defence, arguing one point after another. We must achieve a better level of communication. We should guide a conversation.
7. Do not unnecessarily ridicule or debase Islam, Muhammad, the Quran or even Allah! The door may be closed irrevocably by a hostile attitude.
8. Avoid short cuts and do not try to convey the whole content of the Gospel in too short a time. A Muslim needs to be well informed. Concepts or words of a religious nature will have to be defined.
9. Ultimately this is a spiritual battle between life and death, light and darkness, God and satan. Make prayer your primary weapon, and not your intellect or communication skills.

The Gospel and Abraham

“Do you believe in the God of Abraham?”

“Certainly I do believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; and I believe that He is the God of the living and not the dead.”

Abraham matters to Muslims.

1. The Title given to Abraham: The Friend of God [in Arab “Khalilullah’]

Bible: 2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23

Quran: S.4:125 [Pickthall translation: ‘the upright one’]

Ask: Why was Abraham called the Friend of God and what does this tell us about the relationship between God and Abraham?

(Note: This title tells us as much about Abraham’s God as about Abraham himself!)

God can be trusted. He keeps his promises. He does not change his mind. He even wants to share His plans with His servants (see Amos 3:7) What an amazing God!

2. Abraham is indeed the Father of all true people of God.

His was a special promise of God which made him to become a blessing for all peoples on earth: Gen 12:3; 15:1-6; 17:5+19. The **Jews** considered him to be their father. Luke 3:8; John 8:33+39-59.

Every true **Christian** has reason to see himself as a descendant of Abraham: Rom 4:16; 9:8; Gal 3:7+8.

(Note: John 8:56 and Gal 3:8 are truly remarkable statements. Who could have imagined that Abraham already looked forward to see Jesus’ day and received the Gospel in advance! Make sure to point this out clearly.)

3. Abraham found approval with God only by his faith.

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Muslims are encouraged to follow the faith of Abraham: S.3:95; 2:135, 6:161

Christians are reminded to consider Abraham's faith: Gal 3:6-9

Abraham's faith was a reflection of God's faithfulness [1 Cor 10:13; 2 Thess 3:3], and this God reckoned to him as righteousness. [Gen 15:6]

4. The promise of a son to Abraham.

This is stated in both the Quran and the Bible.

Quran: S.11:71 ['and we gave her glad tidings of Isaac . . . ' *Note: Isaac, not Ishmael is the promised son S.37:112.*]

5. The command to Abraham to sacrifice his son.

To Abraham the question must have arisen: **Can such a holy and moral God ask for such a sacrifice? . . . unquestionable obedience to God's will?**

Contrast with Gen 22:1-13: Abraham was probably shocked, but in faith he obeyed – and discovered that God intended to reveal to him the glory of His salvation.

It was a threefold test:

- 1) to show love for God
- 2) to maintain his trust in God
- 3) to persevere in his faith

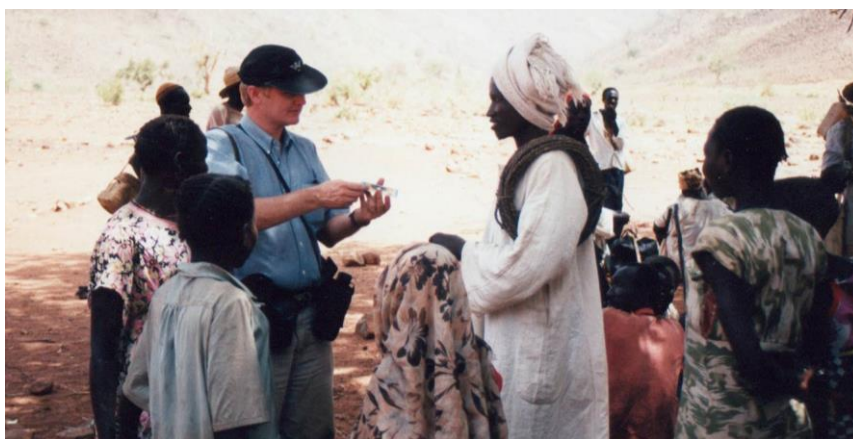
The only solution left for Abraham: **God will raise my son from the dead** [Heb 11:17-19; comp S.2:260]. Thus was Abraham's faith!

(Note: Abraham foresaw the whole Gospel:

- his son, whom he loved dearly*
- given through an unusual birth*
- to be sacrificed as a sin offering*
- his son's resurrection*
- becomes a blessing to others*

Thus: Isaac becomes the object lesson of the atoning work of God's Son.)

1. What has God done to show His love for you?
2. Has God ever done anything for the human race to match Abraham's supreme act of love and self-sacrifice in being willing to offer his own son for God?
3. If the greatest way a man could show his love for God was to be willing to sacrifice his son for God, what is the greatest way God could ever show His love for us?



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Jihad - Islamic Holy War

The relentless and often vicious persecution by Muslims against Christians is seldom recognised or understood. Many assume that the concept of *Jihad*, or Holy War, espoused by Muslim leaders like the Ayatollah Khomeini was an aberration not truly representative of Islam:

“We shall export our revolution, to the whole world. Until the cry ‘Allah Akbar’ resounds over the whole world. There will be struggle. There will be Jihad . . . Islam is the religion of militant individuals . . . Islam will be victorious in all the countries of the world, and Islam and the teachings of the Quran will prevail all over the world . . . This is the duty that all Muslims must fulfill . . .” These were the often repeated public pronouncements of the Ayatollah Khomeini after the revolution in Iran in 1979 (Quoted from *“The Blood of the Moon”* by George Grant).

Nor was the Ayatollah alone in such militant threats. Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud declared:

“We shall never call for or accept a negotiated peace. We shall only accept war – Jihad – the holy war. We have resolved to drench the lands of Palestine and Arabia with the blood of the infidels or to accept Martyrdom for the glory of Allah.”

The President of Sudan, Lt. Gen. Al Bashir often speaks of *Jihad*. At the 40th anniversary of Sudan’s independence, Al Bashir celebrated the spirit of *Jihad* which was engulfing the people of Sudan. The head of Sudan’s ruling party, the *National Islamic Front* (NIF), Dr. Al Turabi, has often declared his goal of an Islamic empire controlling (initially) the horn of Africa (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and Sudan). This he calls the Grand Islamic Project.

At a two week conference of Muslim leaders from 80 countries, hosted by Muammar Gaddafi in Tripoli, Libya (October 1995), strategies to transform Africa into an Islamic continent were discussed. Participants openly admitted that their goals were to make Arabic the primary language of the continent and Islam the official religion. One SA member of parliament, Farouk Cassim declared: *“It will probably be the biggest revolution to sweep Africa.”* Head of the Islamic Propagation Centre International (IPCI), Yousuf Deedat, announced afterwards that South Africa was high on the agenda of the Islamic offensive. *“We are going to turn South Africa into a Muslim state. We have the money to do it,”* he said (Sunday Times 22/10/95). At present less than 2 percent of South Africans are Muslims.

What few Westerners understand, however, is that those Muslim leaders who call for the overthrow of all governments and the establishment of an Islamic superstate controlling all aspects of life for every person on earth are not extremists on the fringe of Islam. Actually, *Jihad* (the subjugation and forcible conversion of all people to Islam and world domination) are central tenants of Islam. *Jihad* is ranked by many Muslims as the sixth pillar of Islam.

Jihad was so important to Muhammad that he declared it to be the second most important deed in Islam. *“Allah’s apostle was asked, ‘What is the best deed?’ He replied, ‘To believe in Allah and his Apostle.’ The questioner then asked, ‘What is the next (in goodness)?’ He replied, ‘To participate in Jihad (religious fighting) in Allah’s cause.”* – The Hadith, Al Bukhari, Vol. 1 no 25.

Muslims in fact divide the world into two sectors: *Dar-al-Islam* (the House of Islam) and *Dar-al-Harb* (The House of War). The only countries considered to be at peace are those where Islamic law (the *Sharia*) is enforced

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Islam in Arabic means submission, surrender or subjugation. A *Muslim* is one who submits. The Arabic word for peace is *Salam*. *Islam* is the active form of *Salam*. Muslims see themselves as a “*peace making force*” using argument, intrigue, commerce, threats, terrorism, warfare and every other means possible to secure Islam as the only religion worldwide.

Muslims are not permitted to make peace with a non-Muslim country until its inhabitants surrender to Islam. They can agree to a cease fire for a period of time – but never to peace with non-Muslims.

The Quran teaches that Muslims are superior to others: “*Ye (Muslims) are the best of peoples evolved for mankind . . .*” Surah 3:110.

Muslims are forbidden to befriend Jews or Christians: “*O ye who believe! Take not the Jews and the Christians for your friends and protectors. They are but friends and protectors to each other. And he amongst you that turns to them (for friendship) is one of them . . .*” Surah 5:54.

Islam instructs its adherents to fight until their opponents submit. Christians and Jews may be spared if they pay “*Jizya*” – a penalty tax – with willing submission: “*Fight those who believe not in God nor the last day . . . Nor acknowledge the religion of truth, (even if they are) of the people of the Book, until they pay Jizya (tribute taxes) with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.*” Surah 9:29

“*Fight and slay the pagans wherever ye find them and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait (ambush) for them in every stratagem (of war); but if they repent and establish regular prayers and practise regular charity, then open the way for them.*” Surah 9:5 (also 2:193).

For those who resist Islam – execution or mutilation is decreed: “*The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His apostle, and strive with might and main for mischief through the land is: execution or crucifixion, or the cutting off of the hands and feet from opposite sides or exile from the land . . .*” Surah 5:36.

The **Hadith** which is a record of the words and deeds of Muhammad is also viewed by Muslims as inspired. Next to the Quran, it is the most important source of Islamic Law. Its teachings are regarded as binding on all Muslims.

The Hadith teaches that apostasy is punishable by death: “*Whoever changes his Islamic religion, kill him.*” Vol. 9:57.

A Muslim may not be punished for killing a non-Muslim: “*No Muslim should be killed for killing a kafir (infidel).*” Vol 9:50

Those who die in holy war are guaranteed to go to Heaven. “*The person who participates in Jihad (Holy battles) in Allah’s cause and nothing compels him to do so except belief in Allah and His apostle, will be recompensed by Allah either with a reward or booty (if he survives) or will be admitted to paradise (if he is killed).*” Vol 1:35

It may be hard for Christians to understand the concept of such a militant religion, but the primary aim of Islam is not spiritual but political. The ultimate purpose of Islam is the establishment by force of a worldwide Islamic state where *Sharia* law is enforced on all.

To achieve this is the goal of *Jihad*. Islamic scholars identify a multitude of forms that Jihad can take.

1. There is **the Jihad of Words**. Muhammad was a brilliant and gifted orator silencing his enemies in a war of words. In Arab culture it was customary for feuding tribes to select a poet to mock and provoke the opposing forces with spontaneous verses of cursing. These linguistic warriors engaged in verbal combat sought to inspire their own side with a sense of superiority and strength whilst undermining the morale of the enemy. This war of words, which Muslim

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leaders such as Gaddafi, Saddam Hussein and Yassar Arafat have engaged in, is actually a war of nerves.

2. There is **the Jihad of Deception**. When Muslims are small in number they can follow the example of Muhammad's 83 followers who fled from persecution in Mecca to Abyssinia (present day Ethiopia). There the Christian *Negus* (king) offered them refuge. When the Meccans demanded their return as slaves, the Muslim exiles declared that Islam was merely a variation of Christianity. The Muslims selectively recited those passages of the Quran that agreed with the Bible such as the virgin birth and miracles of Jesus and His ascension to Heaven and ultimate return. They remained silent on the unbridgeable differences (such as the denial of the Trinity and the atonement) between the Quran and the Bible. As a result the Christian Abyssinians protected the Muslims from the Meccans. In this way, when it was most vulnerable, Islam grew and developed in a Christian environment. (If we only demonstrate our Christian love without proclaiming the truth of the Gospel we could be strengthening anti-Christian forces).

Muhammad also compromised with the Meccan merchants during a particularly intense time of persecution. Formerly he had fearlessly condemned polytheism. Then, under pressure, he accepted the Meccan belief that Allah had a wife, *Al-lat*, and two daughters, *Al Uzzo* and *Manat* (Surah 53:20-23). Later Muhammad repudiated these so called *Satanic Verses* and claimed that all previous prophets had been tempted by demonic influence.

3. There is **the Jihad of the Sword**. After fleeing to Medina (*the HIJRA*) in AD622, Muhammad started to summon his followers to attack and plunder the caravans of Mecca. His followers initially resisted these calls until Muhammad presented a series of "revelations" commanding *Jihad* (holy war) and permitting looting ("*Whoever has killed an enemy and has proof of that, will possess his spoils*" – The Hadith, Vol. 4 no. 370). Where the booty was not large enough, Muhammad held captives as hostages until their families paid a high ransom for their release. Hostage taking has been a common practice in Islam to this day. Those who participate in *Jihad* are granted a blanket absolution (Surah 8:17) and guaranteed to go straight to Paradise (Heaven) if killed.
4. There is **the Jihad of Taxation and Financial Reward**. Those who refuse to submit to Islam are forced to pay a special extortionary tax for non-Muslims (*Jizya*). Those who convert to Islam are offered financial rewards or scholarships. *Jizya* helps finance *Jihad*.
5. There is **the Jihad of Slavery**. Those Muslims who engage in *Jihad* not only can seize property, extort ransoms and demand taxes, but also capture slaves. The only places in the world today where slavery is still practised are in some Muslim countries. In Sudan, the Islamic government uses slavery as an incentive to encourage Arab Northerners to attack the Christian Blacks in the South and as a weapon of terror to destabilise non Muslims. According to the **Sharia**, Muslims are allowed to enslave, own and sell human beings.
6. There is **the Jihad of Sharia law**. Non-Muslims are degraded to a lower class status and are denied equal access to the law because their testimony is not valid against a Muslim. This even applies to murder ("*No Muslim should be killed for killing an infidel*"). The death penalty is applied to anyone who renounces Islam and converts to another religion.

When the wealthy Bedouins of Arabia professed faith in Allah to escape attack, Muhammad did not accept their confession. ("*The desert Arabs say 'We believe'. Say, 'Ye have no faith; but ye (only) say 'We have submitted.'*" Surah 49:14) Islam does not place much value on personal faith, but demands surrender to the political rule of the *Sharia*.

It is significant that the calendar of Islam does not begin with the birth of Muhammad, nor the onset of his supposed "revelation", nor the assembling of the first Muslim community, nor the flight of Muslim refugees to Abyssinia. The 12 years of persecution in Mecca were not

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considered the start of their new religion. The Muslim calendar only begins when Islam became a political state in Medina.

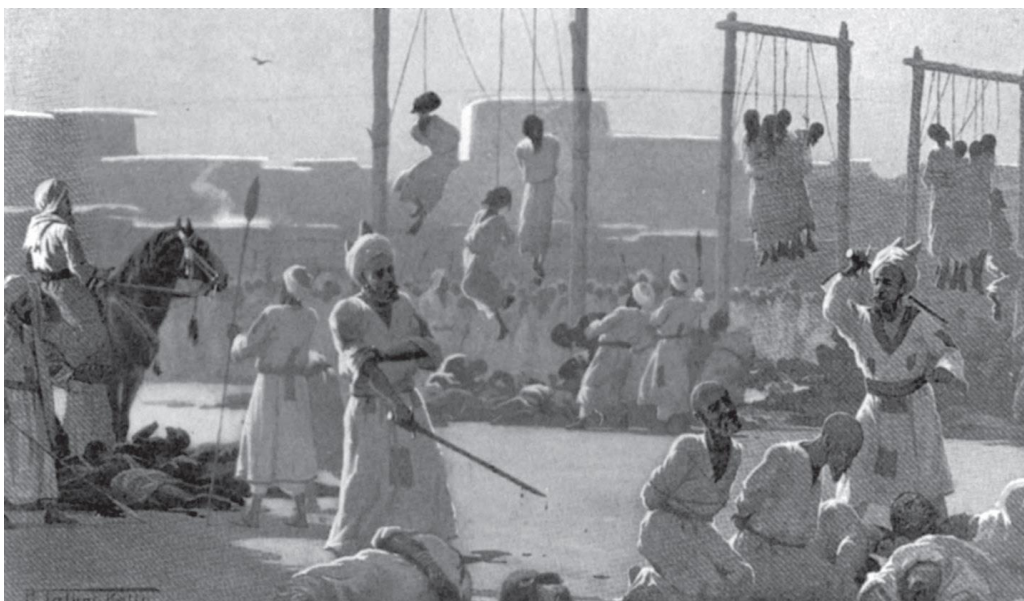
7. There is **the Jihad of Polygamy**. The devastating defeat of the Muslim forces by the Meccans in the battle of Uhud (AD625) led to what could be considered one of Islam's greatest victories. So many of his men were killed that Muhammad permitted his men to take up to 4 wives (Surah 4:3, 4). With the advent of Western medicine, infant mortality has plummeted. And the Muslim birthrate has skyrocketed. Muslims are increasing in number twice as fast as other religions. This is due to birth control and abortion in Western lands and polygamy in Muslim lands. Muslims are not increasing much by missionary outreaches, but by having many children. Polygamy has become one of Islam's most effective weapons for Holy War, providing Islam with a disproportionate numerical advantage.
8. There is **the Jihad of the spirits**. According to the Quran, Muslims are not only men and women but also spirits who fight for the spread of Islam (Surah 46:29-33 and 72:1-15). A Muslim is to fight on Muhammad's behalf both in his life and after his death (Hadith Vol. 1 chapter 43).

Clearly Islam is a religion of force which denies basic freedom. No Muslim even has the freedom to change or leave his religion. The huge block of over one billion Muslims presents the greatest political and military threat to the free world and the greatest missionary challenge to the Christian Church. Muslim states are the most severe persecutors of Christians, and Muslim terrorist groups are the most vicious hijackers, kidnappers, bombers and assassins. Islam is a challenge that we cannot ignore.

How we choose to respond, in prayer, publications, projects and persistent vigilance will determine much of the course of history in the 21st Century.

"The desert tribes will bow before Him and His enemies will lick the dust ... All kings will bow down to Him and all nations will serve Him."

Psalm 72:11



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The Sources of Islam

Introduction

One out of every six people in the world is a Muslim. 1,200 million people from the Philippines to the Atlantic coast of the Sahara Desert live under the control of Islam.

Islam is a missionary religion, full of religious zeal and aggressive energy. Every year thousands of Muslim missionaries graduate from the Universities of Cairo, Tripoli and Tehran and are sent out to propagate Islam. Yet even as the Muslim government of Afganistan bulldozed the only Protestant church building in the country, a splendid R7.5 million mosque was opened in London. Despite Algeria expelling a one-hundred-year-old Christian missionary society, a Muslim missionary society began work in Canada. Even though missionary work, or conversion to Christianity, is illegal in Saudi Arabia, Muslim missionaries from that country are working in Britain to convert committed Christians to Islam.²

Even while Islam is being propagated in Europe and America, the heads of 37 Muslim countries resolved to expel all Christian missionaries from their lands.³ Islam has been the largest and most vicious opponent and persecutor of the Church throughout the centuries.

By the 10th Century, Muslims had annihilated 50% of all the Christians in the world of that time. Today, repression of Christians in Muslim lands continues.

Islam is the greatest challenge to the whole Christian Church today. They claim to worship God in a better way than Jews or Christians. They believe they adhere to a more strict monotheistic faith. They say that Christians are not living true to the revealed Will of God. They seek to convert Christians to Islam.

Muslims make up the largest group of unreached people in the world today. Islam is the great final frontier for Christian missions. They appear an impenetrable fortress that Christian missionaries must storm and breach in order to fulfil Christ's command to:

“Go throughout the whole world and preach the Gospel to all mankind.”

Mark 16:15

“Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them My disciples.”

Matthew 28:19

The question that Christians must face is this: Where did Islam come from – from God, from man or from the devil? To understand and answer the challenge of Islam, we must investigate its sources. We can only determine its true nature by uncovering its roots.

The Authority of Islam

The foundation of Islam is a book, about the same length as the New Testament, written (or recited) in the 7th Century A.D. by Muhammad. This is what Muslims claim:

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“The Quran was revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be on Him) who was born in Mecca, Arabia, in the year 571 after Jesus. The revelations were sent by Allah (God), brought by the Archangel Gabriel and were given, taught and explained to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBOH) . . . The Holy Prophet Muhammad continued to receive these revelations for 23 years.”⁴

“In the world today the Holy Quran is the ONLY REVEALED BOOK of Allah which has remained spotlessly pure and UNCHANGED from the date of its revelation fourteen hundred years ago. Each WORD as found in the Quran today is EXACTLY the same today as when it was first revealed by Allah to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBOH). For fourteen centuries no man or group of men has succeeded in changing or altering a single word or even a dot of the Holy Quran.”⁵

The Quran claims that it could not possibly have been produced by anyone but God Himself.

“Say: Verily, though mankind and Jinn (evil spirits) should assemble to produce the like of this Quran, they could not produce the like thereof though they were helpers one of another.” Surah 17:88

“And this Quran is not such as could ever be invented in despite of Allah.” Surah 10:37

Islam holds the Quran as its authority and foundation. It maintains that the Quran is of divine origin and furthermore that it is impossible that it could have been invented or produced by mankind.

Now, it follows that if we can show that significant parts of the Quran were derived from human systems or existing sources available in Muhammad’s time, then the great claims of Islam collapse.

It has been alleged that Islam:

“. . . is simply Talmudic Judaism adapted to Arabia, plus the Apostleship of Jesus and Muhammad . . . The sources (according to Mr Rodwell, a Quran translator) whence Muhammad derived the materials of his Quran are, over and above the more poetical parts, which are his own creation, the legends of his time and country, Jewish traditions based upon the Talmud, and the Christian traditions of Arabia and of Syria.”⁶

Arabian Sources of the Quran

Allah

The Arabian people worshipped at a small temple called the Ka’aba and had a deity with poorly defined characteristics, who was called simply “*the god*”, which in Arabic is “*Allah*”. At that time there was a general idea among Arabs that there was only one supreme being. Some Arabs were even beginning to identify the God of the Jews and Christians with Allah, the god of the Ka’aba.⁷

The Ka’aba and Hajj

The Ka’aba, which is also called the Holy Masjid, was described as a shrine of worship in Mecca as early as 60 B.C. by Deodorus Sicobus.⁹ Men from all over Arabia came to the Ka’aba to worship¹⁰; pilgrimages were well known and practised before Muhammad instituted the Hajj as the fifth pillar of faith. Muslims claim that the Ka’aba was built by Abraham, although the Bible does not teach this and Abraham never even visited Mecca.

Salat

The practice of ritual prayer (salat) can be traced to the now extinct tribe of the Sabaeans who lived in the Arabian Peninsula and observed seven daily prayers at set times. The Sabaeans also prayed for the dead, a custom that is still practised by Muslims today.¹¹

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Ramadan

The Muslim practice of fasting from sunrise to sundown every day during the holy month of Ramadan can also be traced back to the Sabaeans. They fasted 30 days every year and celebrated the Eid sacrifice. The fast was prolonged by one day, should the new moon not be clearly visible on Eid. Again this practice was incorporated into the new religion of Islam.¹² In the Jewish Mishna Berkhoth (Talmud), it was said that fasting should begin and end at the time when one could distinguish between a white and black

Jewish Sources of the Quran

In the Arabian Peninsula there were many Jewish communities living in the *diaspora*, which had resulted from the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. There was a synagogue in Medina and Muhammad had much contact with the Jews. These Arabian Jews seem to have been more guided by legends and Talmudic writings rather than by the Torah.

Cain and Abel

The way the story of Cain and Abel is related in Surah 5:30-35 shows that it was copied from the Targum of Jonathan-ben-Uzziah, the Targum of Jerusalem and Pirkê Rabbi Eleazar.¹⁴

Abraham

Muhammad clearly did not learn of Abraham from Genesis but rather from Jewish legends. The stories of Abraham being saved from Nimrod's fire, and of Abraham's father getting him to sell idols he had made, are copied from the Midrash Rabbâh. At any rate, Nimrod lived many generations before Abraham, so the story is not historical.¹⁵

The Visit of the Queen of Sheba

In Surah 27 the story of the visit of the Queen of Sheba is related. Although the Quran reports this to be from the Bible, it differs radically from 1 Kings 10:1-13 and 2 Chronicles 9:1-12. In fact, the Quranic account is from 11 Targum of the Talmudic book of Esther.¹⁶ Perhaps Muhammad, hearing the story from his Jewish contacts, assumed that it was derived from the Torah.

Hârût and Mârût

The two angels named in Surah 2:102, Hârût and Mârût, were idols worshipped in Armenia. Their story was related in the Talmud (Midrash Yalzut, chapter 44).¹⁷

Satan's Refusal to Worship Adam

The legend of Satan refusing to worship Adam, as reported in Surah 2:34, can also be traced back to the Jewish Talmud.¹⁸

Seven Heavens and Seven Hells

This story, as reported in Surah 15:44 and 17:44, is derived from the tradition called Hagigah and Zuhâl.¹⁹

Qibla

This practice of facing in a set direction when praying was a Jewish practice. The Quran first commanded Muslims to pray towards Jerusalem, but when the Jews fell into disfavour with Muhammad, he changed the direction to Mecca (Surah 2:142).²⁰

Christian Sources of Islam

Muhammad also had much contact with Christians of some type or another.

“Monophysite Christianity was at that time widely spread in the Arab kingdom of Ghassan; the Byzantine Church was represented by hermits dotted about the Hijaz with whom he may well have come into contact; the Nestorians were established at Al Hira and in Persia; and the Jews were strongly represented in Al Medina, the Yemen and elsewhere. There can be no manner of doubt, moreover, that at some period of his life he absorbed much teaching from Talmudic sources and had contact with some of Christianity. It seems overwhelmingly probable that his early adoption of monotheism can be traced to one or both of these influences.”²¹

In Muhammad’s capacity as a merchant, he had travelled as far from Mecca as Syria, Persia and Egypt and had certainly been influenced by Christianity in these areas.²² Also one of Muhammad’s concubines, Mary the Copt, was a Christian from Egypt and could well have related these stories to him.

Jesus

The Quran gives an exalted position to Jesus.

“We Muslims believe that Jesus was one of the mightiest messengers of God, that He was the Christ, that He was born miraculously – without any male intervention, that He gave life to the dead by God’s permission, and that He healed those born blind and the lepers by God’s permission. In fact, no Muslim is a Muslim if he does not believe in Jesus.”²³

Jesus (Isa) is referred to in the Quran as the Messiah (Al-Mashih) eleven times; He is called the Word of God (Kalimatullah) in Surah 3:45; and a Spirit from God (Ruhullah) in Surah 4:171 and Surah 58:22. Jesus is also acknowledged as a righteous prophet (Surah 6:85), and an Apostle to Israel (Surah 3:49-51).

Yet the Quranic account of Jesus’ birth under the palm trees (in Surah 19:16-31) is clearly related to the Apocryphal (and uncanonical, non-apostolic) *“History of the Nativity of Mary.”*²⁴ The Quranic account of Jesus speaking out of Mary’s womb to defend her against accusations of adultery comes from the Apocryphal *“Gospel of the Infancy”*, chapters 36 and 46 (in Surah 19:29-31).²⁵

In Surah 3:49 and 5:113 it is related that Jesus, as a child, made clay pigeons and by breathing on them made them come alive so that they could fly away. This was taken from the apocryphal *“Gospel of Thomas the Israelite”*, a Greek storybook.²⁶

Surah 4:156 claims that Jesus was neither killed nor crucified, but that God made it seem that it was so by providing a substitute that looked similar. Evidently this theory comes from the Docetic or Gnostic sect as promoted by Basilides, a second century heretic, who wrote almost word for word the message of Surah 4:156 in his own writings.²⁷

The Trinity

Muhammad was under the misconception that Christians worshipped the Trinity as three gods – consisting of God the Father, Mary the Mother and Jesus the Son (Surah 4:171; 5:75-76; 5:119)!²⁸ Muslims find this concept blasphemous (as do Christians!) and so attack the Sonship of Jesus. Yet this thought is foreign to every Christian and is completely unBiblical. Christians worship the One True God, the Almighty. Nowhere does the Bible speak of worshipping Mary. Apparently Muhammad misunderstood the Roman Catholic veneration of Mary and their title for her as the *“Mother of God”*. Here again the Quran is found to be based on misunderstandings and inaccurate sources.

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The Virgin Mary

Surah 19:29-29 claims that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was a sister of Aaron. Because Surah 66:12 describes Mary as the daughter of Imram (the Amram of Exodus 6:20), it would seem that Muhammad was again confused about the facts. He had evidently mistaken Mary (the mother of Jesus) for Miriam (Moses' sister) and, in so doing, has tried to persuade us that Mary was the sister and daughter of two men who lived 1500 years earlier.²⁹

“*The Gospel of James*”, another apocryphal book, was the source of the account in Surah 3:35-47, where Mary is reported to have lived in the Temple, receiving food from angels and that Joseph was chosen to be her husband by miraculous rods.³⁰

The Miraj

The Miraj is the reported ascent of Muhammad to the seventh heaven after a miraculous night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem on a horse called Buraq. The details as related in Surah 17 and in the Mishkat, can be traced back to a fictitious book called the “*Testament of Abraham*”, written in the 3rd Century B.C. in Egypt and translated into Greek and Arabic.³¹

The Cave of Seven Sleepers

The Cave of Seven Sleepers is a story related in Surah 18:9;26, which bears a striking resemblance to the “*Story of Martyrs*”, a Latin book by Gregory of Tours. It is a legendary tale of Christians under the Roman persecution of Emperor Decius (249-251 A.D.) who fell asleep in their cave of refuge and awoke in A.D. 447, in the reign of Theodorus II. This story was told as an illustration of how Christianity, in disgrace and under persecution, overcame all obstacles to become the religion of the whole Empire within 200 years. In the Quran, however, the period was lengthened to 309 years and the story was related in all seriousness as an actual event.³²

Bible Events Misunderstood

Surah 28:7-13 claims that Moses was adopted by Pharaoh's wife, whereas Exodus 2:10 (which was written 2000 years earlier than the Quran and is therefore obviously more accurate) records that it was Pharaoh's daughter who adopted him.

Surah 28:38 relates that Pharaoh ordered Haman to build “*a high tower that I may ascend unto the God of Moses.*” This seems a hopeless confusion of Biblical history. Haman lived 1 100 years after Pharaoh (Book of Esther). It was not in Egypt that a tower was built up to reach the heavens, but in Babel (Genesis 11) – as well as over 750 years before the time of Moses. Furthermore, Pharaoh had nothing to do with the tower of Babel.³³

Surah 2:249 claims that King Saul selected his small army from among a great many by noting how they drank at a river. The Bible (in Judges 7) records that it was Gideon and not Saul who did this.³⁴

There are many such cases of Biblical stories being confused by Muhammad in his writing of the Quran, but these instances will suffice to show that his source was not God, nor the Authoritative Word of God, but hearsay, apocryphal legends and myths, and heretical writings. It is a great pity that Muhammad did not make more use of the *Torah* (Pentateuch) and *Injil* (Gospels). It is even more regrettable that he claimed divine revelation for second-hand stories from suspect sources.

Zoroastrian Sources of the Quran

Paradise

The description of Paradise in Surah 55:56 and 56:22-36, which speaks of “*wide-eyed houris with eyes like unto pearls, a recompense for what they laboured*”, has interesting parallels in the Zoroastrian religion of Persia.³⁵

Sirât

The bridge that leads over the great gulf of hell to Paradise is called Chînarad (the connecting link) in the Zoroastrian book “*Dinkart*”.³⁶

Azâzîl

The Quranic concept of the devil and several stories concerning him are very similar to Zoroastrian teachings in their book, “*Bûndahishrîh*”.³⁷

Egyptian Sources of the Quran

The concept of a huge set of balances that God will operate at the Day of Judgement, as found in Surah 101:5,6 and 42:17, finds its original source in the Egyptian “*Book of the Dead*” (referring to the Judgement of Osiris) and the “*Testament of Abraham*”.

How the Quran was Revealed

The Quran was revealed to Muhammad by an angel while meditating in a cave. These revelations, given over a period of 23 years, were committed to memory and recited by Muhammad and his followers and later written down and compiled.

“Muhammad himself was at first doubtful of the source of these revelations, fearing that he was possessed by one of the Jinn or spirits.”³⁸

Before the revelation came to Muhammad “*he saw prophetic dreams and heard unseen voices and calls.*”³⁹ It is also recorded that Muhammad’s mother used a spell to heal him from the influence of “*the evil eye*” and his nurse felt that, as a boy, Muhammad was demon-possessed.⁴⁰ The Hadith (Mizanu’l Haqq, pg.345) records that Muhammad feared that he was demon-possessed or mad, as he would shiver, foam and roar, falling into a swoon during revelations.⁴¹

What is of great concern to us as Christians is that we have been warned not to accept any new Gospel, even from an angel (Galatians 1:6-9). We are warned against false prophets (Matt. 24:11) and against false apostles (2 Corinthians 11:12-15).

To Christians, the testimony of one witness (in this case Muhammad) to a revelation (the Quran) is unacceptable without objective Divine proof, such as miracles and prophecy (as seen throughout Exodus before the giving of the Law, and in the Gospels before the giving of the New Covenant). Deuteronomy 18:21-22 demands fulfilled prophecy as a proof of Divine Authority for a prophet (see also Isaiah 41:21-23). Muhammad failed to fulfil any of these requirements (Surah 3:183; 6:37, 109, 124; 7:203; 17:59, 88, 93; etc.).

Conclusion

Although Islam claims that the Quran is of divine origin, I can find no internal or external evidence to support this. On the contrary, after exhaustive investigation, and after reading the Quran and other sources, I can only conclude that Muhammad based his teachings on inaccurate and untrue interpretations of the Bible, derived from suspect sources. He was influenced by Eastern and Egyptian thought, Arabian customs, Jewish Talmudic writings, and legends and myths from heretical Christian sects. In addition, his teachings in the Quran are also based on revelations (which seem spiritist in nature), which he initially believed were demonic in origin.

The Quran claims to confirm the Law of Moses and the Gospel of Jesus, yet investigation shows this to be false. The Law was written about 2000 years before, and the Gospels 500 years earlier than Muhammad’s time. We have enormous quantities of manuscripts of the Bible, dating long

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before the time of the Quran. We have enough historical and archeological evidence to support the Biblical accounts and enough manuscript evidence to show that the Bible we have today is authentically and accurately the same Word of God which was available in the time of Muhammad. Considering that the Quran accepts the Bible as the Revealed Word of God (Surah 2:136; 3:2-3; 4:136; 5:47-52, 71; 10:37, 94; 29:46; etc.), we can only assume that it is the younger Quranic accounts which are inaccurate and unreliable.

Not only does the Quran fail to bear out investigation as to whether it is of Divine origin or not, but it clearly comes from recognisable human sources at that. The misunderstandings and confusion of Quranic stories are embarrassingly obvious. Moreover, it fails to correspond with God's eternal Word revealed with many signs and wonders, detailed prophecies and confirmations in the 66 Books of the Bible.

The foundations of Islam are false and second-hand. Its sources are suspect and its roots are unreliable.

The challenge to us as Christians is that there are 1,200 million Muslims who are basing their religion on a false revelation. We are under obligation to give them the Eternal Living Word of God, as revealed in the Authoritative Written Word of God.

“Go ye therefore. . .”

Dr. Peter Hammond

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Comparing The Quran With The Bible

The **Bible** is **66 books** written by 40 different prophets and apostles, in **3 languages** (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek), on **3 continents** (Africa, Asia and Europe), **over 1500 years**.

The **Quran** is one book, written by one author, in one language, in one geographic area, over 23 years.

Even the Quran acknowledges that Jesus Christ **was miraculously** born of a virgin, **was** holy **and** faultless, performed miracles, healed the sick **and** raised the dead.

Muhammad, however, was a trader who transported and sold slaves. He was also a slave owner. This we learn from the Muslim's own holy writings — the *Hadith*. One of Muhammad's 14 wives, Aisha, was only 6 years old when he married her and 9 when he consummated the marriage. (According to the laws of most countries in the world that constitutes child abuse.) Muhammad attacked caravans for loot and had over 600 Jewish men in Medina dig their own mass grave before having them all slaughtered for refusing to accept him as the prophet. Their wives and children were then sold as slaves. All these facts are recorded in the *Hadith*.

The authenticity of the Bible as God's revealed Word is attested to by **many witnesses**, by **miracles** such as the parting of the Red Sea, the fire that came down on Mount Carmel, our Lord feeding thousands with a handful of food, walking on the water, calming the storm, raising Lazarus from the grave and countless other events. The Bible contains hundreds of detailed **prophecies**. Our Lord Jesus fulfilled 300 Old Testament prophecies in his life on earth. The Messiah was to be: born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), a descendant of David (Isaiah 9:7), 483 years after the decree to build Jerusalem (Daniel 9:24-26). He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12-13), by a friend (Psalm 41:9), His hands and feet pierced - crucified - (Psalm 22:16), His robe gambled for (Psalm 22:18). He would be buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9). Yet He would rise from the dead (Psalm 16:10) and ascend to Heaven (Psalm 68:18).

There is no provision for **forgiveness** in the Quran, **no atonement** for sins (Leviticus 17:11).

Jesus Christ is the **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world. In **the blood of Christ** we have full atonement for sin.

Unlike the Quran, the Bible is convincingly attested to by countless miracles and detailed, prophecies. If you visit Medina you can see the tomb where Muhammad is buried. But if you visit Jerusalem you will find an **empty tomb**. The Lord Jesus Christ has risen. He is the way, the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except by Him.

Islam is a religion of **hatred** and slavery based upon a lie. Christianity is a relationship of **love** with God based upon the truth.

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QURAN

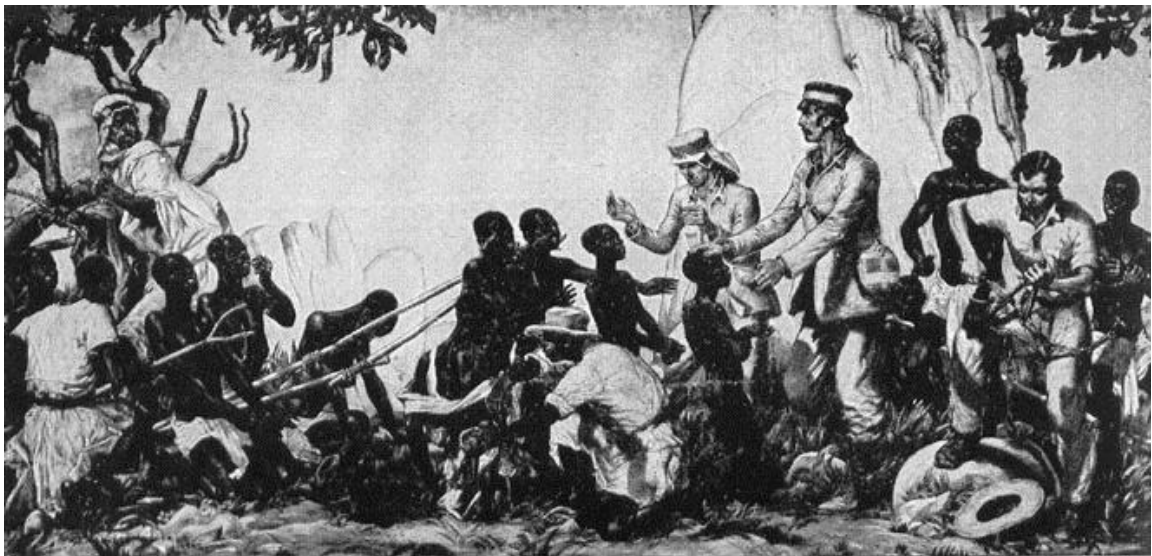
Vs

BIBLE

1 book
1 author
1 language
1 country
Over 23 years
No prophecies
No miracles
A grave in Medina
No atonement
Hatred for enemies
Slavery

66 books
40 writers
3 languages
3 continents
Over 1,500 years
Prophecies
Miracles
An empty tomb
Full atonement
Love for enemies
Liberty

“Therefore by their fruits you will know them.” Matthew 7:20



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CHALLENGING MUSLIMS

1. **The Lord Jesus warned us to beware of false prophets** — what can you say to convince me that Mohammad is a true prophet of God?
2. The Bible warns us not to add to or take away from His revealed Word. **What can you tell me to convince me that the Quran is true?**
3. It is good to clean your body before prayer, but **how do you clean your heart and mind?**
4. **Our Lord Jesus warned us not to use vain repetition when we pray.** How do you maintain your sincerity and devotion repeating the same words 50 times a day, every day of the year?
5. Why are Muslims required to dress, eat and speak like 7th Century Arabians? Isn't it cultural imperialism to require everyone to speak Arabic? Why do all Muslims pray in the same direction? Why do Muslims all bow down to the Ka'ba in Mecca? In which direction do Muslims pray when they are in Mecca? What is in the Ka'ba? Why are Muslims bowing down to a rock in a box in Mecca? Isn't that idolatry to bow down to a graven image?
6. What does the Quran teach about marriage? Is polygamy allowed? What about divorce? Can a woman divorce her husband? Who has custody of the children in the event of divorce?
7. There are many consistent reports, which are disturbing and shocking, of human rights abuses and persecution of Christians in Muslim countries like Pakistan and Sudan. **What does the Quran teach about how Muslims should behave towards Christians?**
8. According to the UN Commission on Human Rights, and numerous anti-slavery societies, slavery still exists in some Muslim countries like Mauritania and Sudan. **What does the Quran teach about slavery?**
9. The National Islamic Front government in Sudan declared Holy War against the Black Christians in the Nuba Mountains and in the South killing many hundreds of thousands of Christians. **What does the Quran teach about Jihad?**
10. In Islam how is atonement made for one's sins? How can one be forgiven?
11. How can you as a Muslim know for sure if you will go to Heaven or not? If God was to ask you: Why should I let you into My Heaven? What would you answer?
12. Does Islam recognise the rights of other religions to exist and freely operate in Muslim countries?
13. If Muslims became the majority in our country would Sharia law replace our present laws and constitution?
14. If Islam is a religion of tolerance why do no Muslim countries allow freedom of religion? In Saudi Arabia no churches or synagogues are allowed and no citizens can be a Christian - why is that?
15. How can Muhammad be called a prophet of peace when he engaged in 47 battles and raids on caravans in his lifetime? No Old Testament Biblical prophet – from
16. Isaiah and Jeremiah to Malachi engaged in military campaigns - why did Muhammad?
17. The Saudi Arabian government has funded the building of thousands of mosques in Christian lands, yet no church or synagogue is tolerated in Saudi Arabia. Why is that?
18. Surely if the Saudi Arabians have the right to distribute millions of Qurans and finance thousands of mosques and Muslim missionaries in Western countries, Christians should be allowed to do the same in Saudi Arabia?

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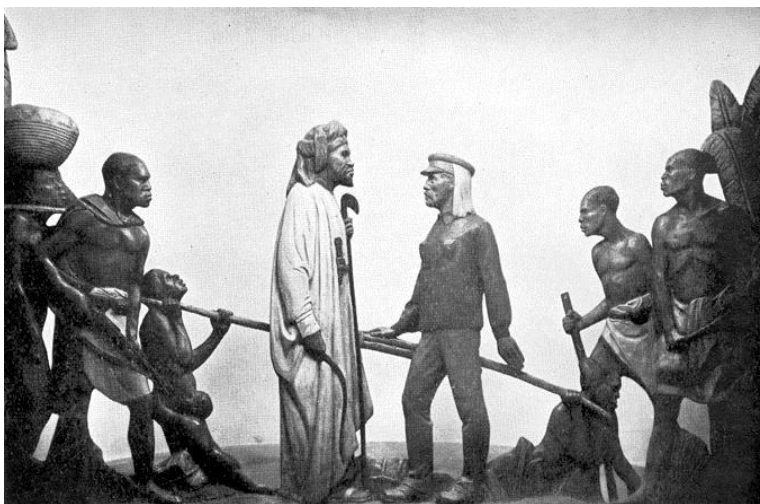
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About the Author

Dr. Peter Hammond is a missionary who has pioneered Evangelistic outreaches in the war zones of Mozambique, Angola and Sudan. Since 1982, often travelling by off road motorbike, Peter has travelled hundreds of thousands of miles to deliver Bibles to persecuted Christians in Africa and Eastern Europe. In the course of his Missionary activities Peter has been ambushed, come under aerial and artillery bombardments, been stabbed, shot at, beaten by mobs, arrested and imprisoned. On some mission trips he has flown far behind enemy lines to the beleaguered Nuba Mountains in Central Sudan with tonnes of Bibles, books and relief aid. He has then walked throughout the war devastated Nuba Mountains showing the Jesus film in Arabic, proclaiming the Gospel, training pastors and evading enemy patrols.

Rev. Peter Hammond is the Founder and Director of Frontline Fellowship, the Director of the Christian Action Network and the Chairman of The Reformation Society. He is the author of *Faith Under Fire in Sudan*, *Holocaust in Rwanda*, *the Great Commission Manual*, *Putting Feet to Your Faith*, *In the Killing Fields of Mozambique*, *The Greatest Century of Missions*, *Biblical Principles for Africa*, *The Discipleship Handbook*, *Slavery, Terrorism and Islam*, *The Greatest Century of Reformation*, *The Power of Prayer Handbook*, *Practical Discipleship*, *Answering Skeptics and Victorious Christians - Who Changed the World*. He has co-authored or contributed to: *Reforming our Families*, *Fight for Life*, *Make a Difference*, *The Pink Agenda*, *Character Assassins and South Africa - Renaissance or Reformation?* He is the Editor of both Frontline Fellowship News and the Christian Action magazine.

Peter was born in Cape Town (in 1960) and brought up in Bulawayo (in what was then war torn Rhodesia - now Zimbabwe). He was converted to Christ in 1977, worked for Scripture Union and Hospital Christian Fellowship, served in the South African Defence Force and studied at Baptist Theological College, Cape Town. Peter is married to Lenora (whose missionary parents Rev. Bill and Harriett Bathman, have pioneered missionary work, mostly into Eastern Europe, for over 60 years). Peter and Lenora have been blessed with four children: Andrea, Daniela, Christopher and Calvin.

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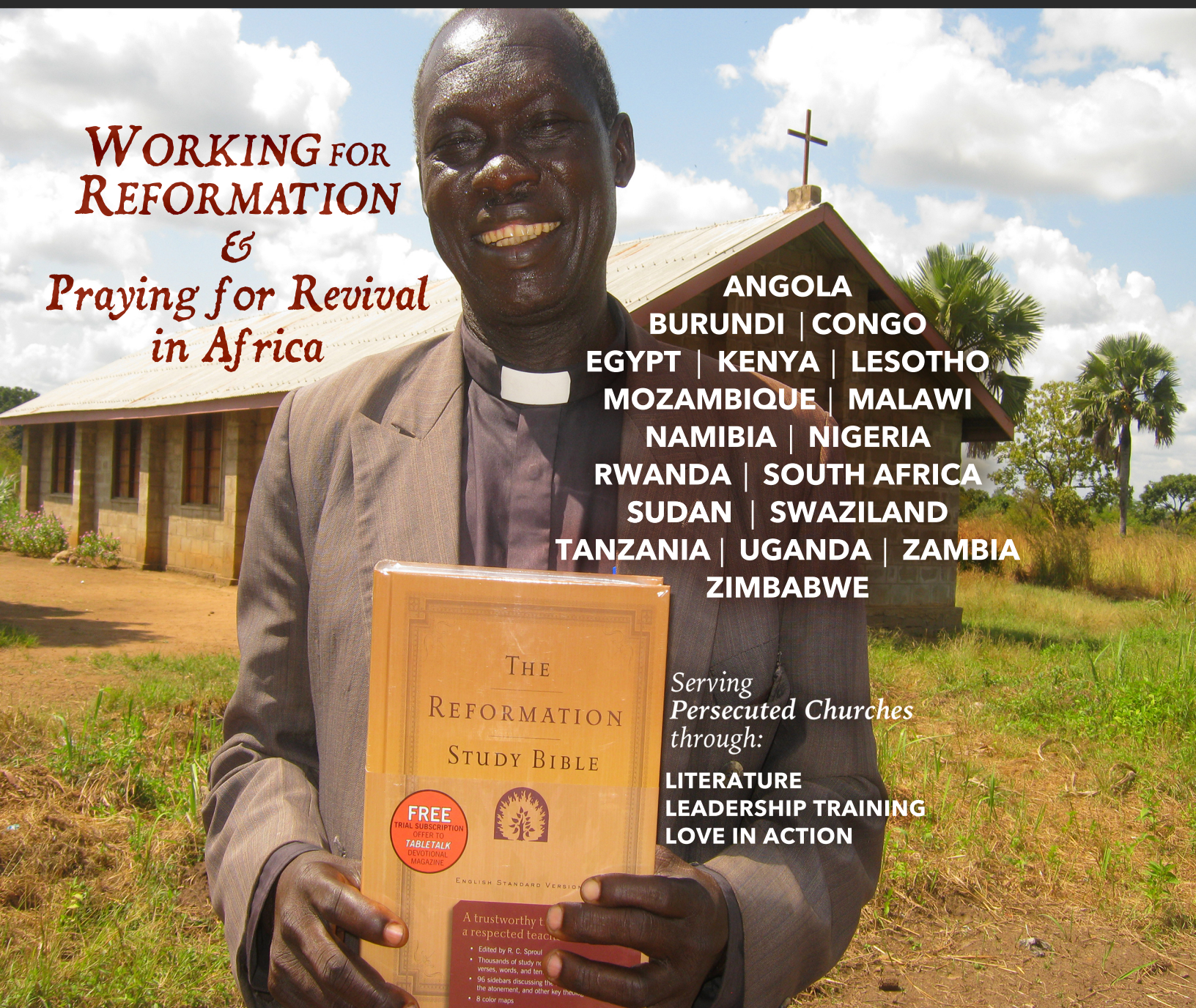
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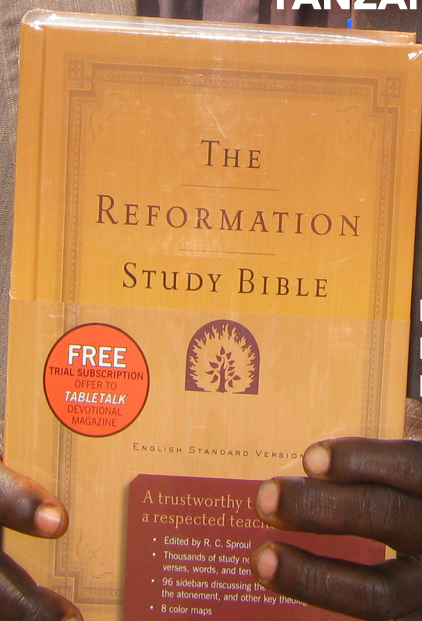


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MUSLIM

EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

by Peter Hammond

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