



The Crescent & The Cross:

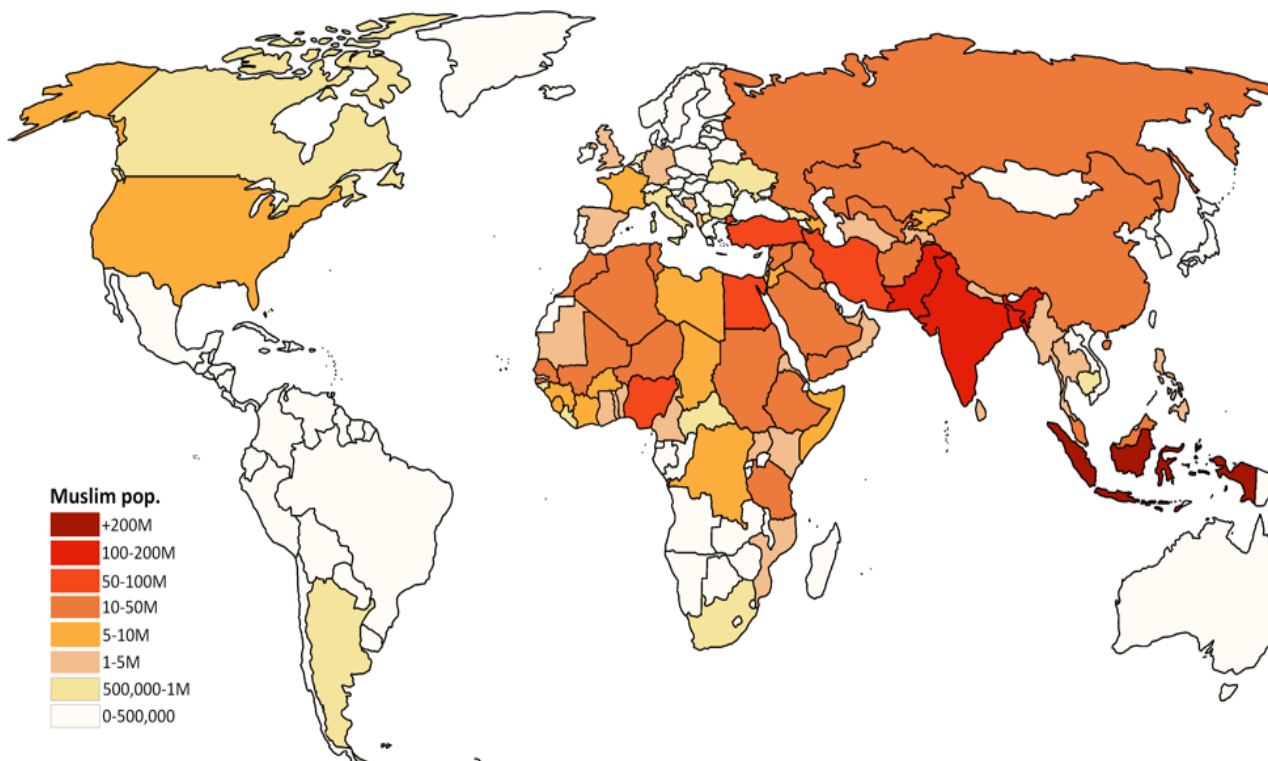
1) Seeking God

The Crescent & The Cross

- Week 1: Seeking God
 - *The life of Mohammed and the basics of Islam*
- Week 2: Violence in the Name of God
 - *Jihad in Islam, difficult passages in the Bible, and the Crusades*
- Week 3: It is Finished
 - *Jesus in Islam and Christianity*
- Week 4: The Great Commission
 - *A Christian response to Islam and witnessing to Muslims*

Islam Today

- About 1/5th of the world's population is Muslim
- Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world today
- By 2050 the number of Muslims will equal the number of Christians worldwide



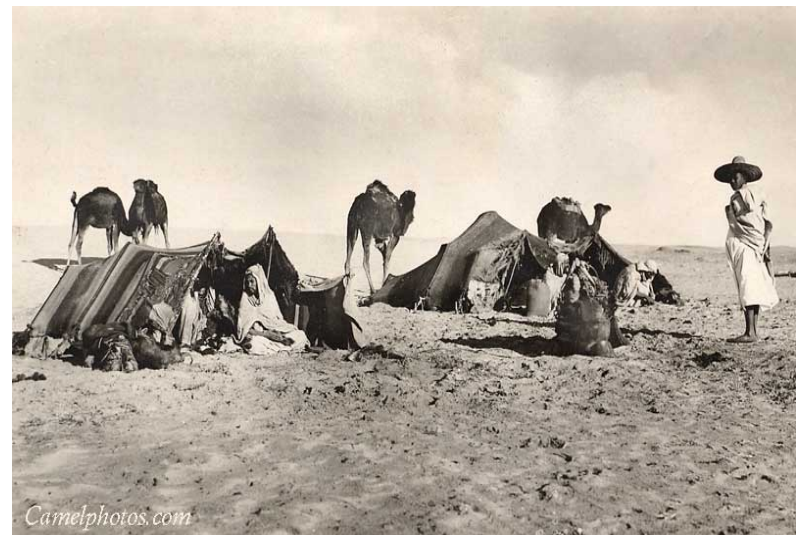
Below: Muslim prayers in Paris



Arabia Before Islam



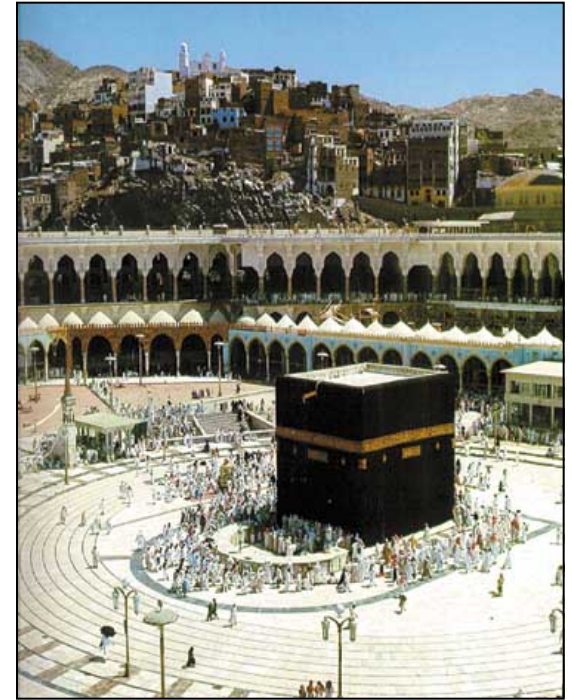
- Tribal - Nomadic
- Beduin Culture



Top: Arabia at the time of Muhammed

Bottom: Traditional Beduin family

- Pagan - Polytheist
- **Mecca**
 - Ka'bah houses the black meteorite
- Al'lah
 - Supreme moon god
- 3 Daughters of Al'lah
 - Al-Uzza, Manat, Al-Lat Hanifs



Top: The Ka'bah today.

Bottom: The Babylonian moon god Sin. The crescent is still the universal symbol of Islam.

- Other Religious Groups:

- 1) Jews

- ✠• *Yemen - Jewish Kingdom*

- 2) Zoroastrians

- 3) Christians

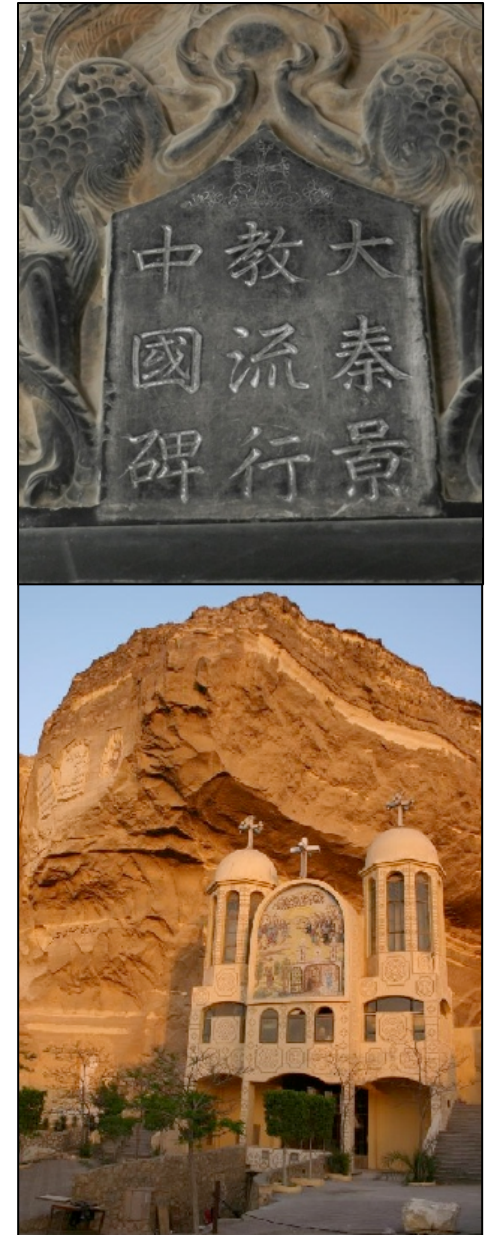
- ✠• *Coptic (Monophysites)*

- ✠• *Nestorian (Mariology)*

- ✠• *Orthodox (Constantinople)*

Top: A Nestorian tablet from Xian in China. Nestorian evangelism reached as far east as Japan.

Bottom: An ancient Coptic Church in Egypt. The Copts are descendants of the original Egyptians.



Mohammed



- Orphaned member of a merchant family.



An image of Mohammed teaching the elders of Mecca and another (face obscured) seated before the Ka'bah.

- Born in Mecca (570 ad)
- Camel Driver/Caravan Trader
- Married Khadija when he was 25 and she was 40

The Koran (Qu'ran)

- Mohammed is said to have received Gabriel's first message from Allah (610 ad)
- Preaching in Mecca
- Written down after Mohammed's death.
 - *Koran = Recitation*
- Forced to flee to Medina (622)
 - *The Hejira*
 - *Year 1 on Islamic Calendar*



*Mt. Hira and
a highly
decorated
passage
from the
Koran.*



- Caravan raids
- Mohammed's "night journey"
- Muslims conquer Mecca (630)
- Mohammed marries 12(?) wives
– *including Aysha*
- Death by poisoning (632)



Top: Mohammed riding Baraq to the Seventh Heaven surrounded by prophets and angels.

Bottom: The Dome of the Rock built on Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Islam

- The word "islam" means "submission".
- Everyone will face judgment - either eternity in hellfire or eternal paradise.
- The way to paradise is through submission to Allah



Followers of Islam would, in paradise, be “decked with pearls and bracelets of gold, and arrayed in garments of silk.” They would suffer “neither scorching heat nor the biting cold”. They would enjoy “gardens watered by running streams”, “soft couches”, “rivers of wine”, “fruits of every kind”, and “young maidens as fair as corals and rubies”.

5 Pillars of Islam

1. Repeating the *Shahada*: “Allah is the **one God** and Mohammed is his prophet”

- The last in a long line of prophets including Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus.
- *Shirk* - the sin of associating anyone with God.

2. Observance of *Ramadan*

- Fasting for one month yearly

3. *Hajj* (Pilgrimage to Mecca)

- At least once, if possible

4. *Salah* (Daily Prayers)

- 5 daily acts of worship facing Mecca*

5. Giving *Zakat* (Alms) to the Poor

- The Koran warns against immorality and injustice within the community, especially to the weak



Other Tenants of Islamic Theology

Much Islamic theology comes from the Hadith, collections of the deeds and sayings of Mohammed.

- Allegiance to the *umma* (Muslim community)
- Abstinence from alcohol and pork
- Avoidance of pictures, icons and religious symbols

Islamic art has tended to emphasize calligraphy and geometry rather than the human form



Shariah

- Legal and Moral Code for Private and Personal Life
- Includes Laws Related to the Treatment of Women
- *Dhimmitude* Laws for "People of the Book"
 - *Harsh restrictions & heavy taxes (Jizyah) placed on Christians and Jews.*



Muslim women wearing the Hijab or traditional covering.

- **Jihad:** “Striving in the way of Allah” (*Method of conquest beginning with Mohammed.*)



One of the great rifts in modern Islam is the debate over the “highest” or “true” Jihad. Is Jihad an inner struggle against evil and sin or a militant war against those who do not follow Islam?

Seeking God



- When we seek God He can be found in letting go of our self-centeredness and serving others.
– (*Hosea 10:12, Matthew 6:33*)
- For those who do not know the gospel, someone must share it!
– (*Romans 10:13-14*)
- Whenever we seek him, he is there. In fact he seeks us! He empowers the seeker.
– (*Matthew 7:7, Luke 19:10*)

Christian Unity

- We can disagree on the details but not on the message
- Unity based on LOVE
 - *Colossians 3:14, Ephesians 4:3-4*
- Unity is important because
 - *Jesus expects it*
 - *It is part of our witness to the world*
 - *John 17:21, Philippians 1:27*



False Prophets

- Scripture sets two criteria of prophets following Jesus Christ
 - 1) *Bearing witness to the truth of Jesus as the Son of God (1 John 4)*
 - 2) *Bearing good fruit (Matthew 7:15-17, Galatians 5:22-23)*
- Evil can be disguised as light
 - *(2 Corinthians 11:14-15)*

