

GLEANINGS — January 31, A.D. 2016
Star and Crescent, Part Two

The 21st century American citizen who is also a citizen of the eternal kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ does well to be equipped, as a sent ambassador of the heavenly kingdom, with a basic knowledge of Islam. As we saw in the first part of the treatment of this matter, Islam traces its origins to an Arabian man named Mahomet or Mohammed or Muhammed who lived in the seventh Christian century.

We should anticipate interaction with Muslims and therefore should be at least acquainted with the essential doctrines of Muhammed's religion, which are:

- Allah, the absolute, all-powerful creator (*the Trinity is denied by Islam*)
- Angels, the sinless servants of Allah
- Books, the chief of which is the Koran
- Prophets, of whom Muhammed was the last and most important*
- The resurrection and last day.

The five practical duties of Islam are:

- Recital of the creed**
- Prayers five times daily
- The annual, month-long fast of Ramadan (*start date changes from year to year*)
- Almsgiving
- Pilgrimage to Mecca

Notorious groups like the Taliban and Isis make clear that consistent Islam is more than a religion as the western mind understands that word. It is a movement that envisions global domination and sanctions the use of violent force to realize that goal. The word Islam is Arabic for "submission." Islam does not define peace as tranquil co-existence with Biblical Christianity and the world's man made religions and philosophies. Islam's "peace" means bringing all of humanity into submission to itself.

Dr. Greg Bahnsen (died A.D. 1995), a brilliant Christian scholar, author, and apologist, believed that Islam would be the greatest foe of the spread of the Gospel worldwide in coming years. It has been said that there are more mosques – Islamic places of worship – than churches in London (yes, England) today. Islam is growing rapidly in the U.S. and elsewhere in the West. Millions already follow Islam not only in the Middle East, but in Pakistan, the Philippines, much of Southeast Asia, and Africa.

Credit: the article on Muhammed in the book "Who's Who in Church History", edited by Elgin S. Moyer. (Keats Publishing, New Canaan CT, 1974. Library of Congress number 74-19918)

This website offers more information on Islam from its own perspective:

<http://www.islam-guide.com/>

* Islam regards the Lord Jesus as one of history's true prophets of God, but denies that He is the Son of God and regards Biblical Christianity as a perversion of His teaching

** This is the creed: "There is no true god but Allah, and Muhammed is his prophet."