

# The Spiritual Reality of Islam for the Christian

By Frank Selch

Since the destruction of the World Trade Centre, more and more Western leaders have been heard expounding the merits of Islam. Despite the fact that most leaders of terrorist organizations appear to be linked to one or more Islamic organizations based in an Islam dominated country. The word '*Islam*' is derived from '*Salaam*'; meaning peace. Although the Qur'an teaches a peaceful co-existence with all, not even Muslim countries, or tribes, have succeeded to co-exist in peace. The concept of peace in Islam is certainly good rhetoric, but no more than wishful thinking. Although there is only one Qur'an, Muslims are split by very bitter, and often deadly divisions, eg. Shi'a vs. Sunni.

It is true that Moslems have tolerated Christians and Jew among them, albeit it as second-class citizens only. A typical example are the Coptic Christians in Egypt. In the Sudan Christians are persecuted and killed, but where they are tolerated they are frequently unable to find paid work or receive any form of government assistance.

**Reality 1:** Muhammad had a heart toward a pure worship of the Creator God. The poor example of Biblical faith shown by Christians and Jews would have contributed heavily in his search for a greater reality. The Qur'an itself reveals that Muhammad's understanding of Biblical (ie. Semitic history) is very incomplete and faulty. Ishmael is regarded as the real heir of the Abrahamic promise, but Hebrew leaders and Prophets are revered as Messengers of Allah in the Qur'an. References to Jesus contain excerpts from spurious Gospels, such as the Gospel of Thomas, which portray Jesus as a spiteful miracle worker.

**Reality 2:** Muhammad may have succeeded in establishing 'true' Monotheism in theory, the pre-existing folk religions of converted nations and people groups nevertheless remain dominant in these cultures. There may not be idols as of old, but some Muslims sects worship graves, others follow occult, or animistic practices. Belief in Jinns, or spirits and the need to be on their good sides, is rife throughout the Muslim world

**Reality 3:** Muhammad may be preaching about the Oneness of God, but he denies that the god he proclaims has revealed Himself to Abraham, Isaac & Jacob, as well as to Moses as YHWH. He speaks of a Great Judgment Day where all will have to give an account of themselves. He forgets an extremely significant point. Since the Qur'an is usually read in Arabic, which most Muslims cannot understand, how will they know what God expects of them and therefore prepare themselves accordingly? How will Allah pass a righteous judgment if his subjects don't know what they are being judged for?

For instance, in the Balkans, the Qur'an was until fairly recently read only in Turkish. Yet, only very few and mostly old people have a working knowledge of Turkic. Consequently, hardly anyone knows what is being read; especially since many readers do not even know how to pronounce some of the words. Since the war in 1998/99 Saudi Arabia has made its presence known through the introduction of Wahabi Islam. During a recent visit, it became very obvious that Arabic is being introduced as the language of the Mosque.

**Reality 4:** The most significant division between Islam and the Christian faith is the denial by the Qur'an that Jesus is the Redeemer of humankind. The Qur'an denies/and/or claims in the following, that

- ❑ Miriam's (Mary) conception by the Holy Spirit, but substitutes Him with the angel Gabriel, which reminds us of the pre-flood disaster with the Nephilim (Gen.6:4).
- ❑ The Qur'an denies that Jesus is the Son of God – because Allah does not have a son.
- ❑ The Qur'an denies that Jesus died on the cross (*Surah 4:157*). It claims that He was substituted with someone else and Allah took Him to heaven.
- ❑ The Qur'an denies the resurrection of Jesus. This flies directly in the face of Paul's teaching in 1 Cor.15:17 (*'...and if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.'*)
- ❑ The Bible, both Old and New Testaments, has been deliberately distorted by Jews and Christians to the point where it is no longer the word of God (*Surah 2:113,120, 159; 4:46; 5:41; 57:27,29*)
- ❑ Muhammad is the final revelation of Allah. The Bible teaches that *'...in the past He(God) spoke by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken through His Son.'* Heb.1:1ff.
- ❑ Through all the above, Islam fulfils the Biblical concept of an Anti-Christ system perfectly. The Greek meaning of Anti is given by Lexicons as follows (in order to indicate that one person or thing is, or is to be, replaced by another— *instead of, or in place of, viz.* ἀντὶ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ Ἑρῴδου, *in place of his father Herod*; Mt 2:22 .
- ❑ The reality is that Islam **not only opposes Yeshua**, but actually seeks to replace the God of the Bible with Allah.
- ❑ On the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, inside the Dome of the Rock, an engraved Arabic inscription runs along the inside rim of that Golden Dome, proclaiming in beautiful gold leaf calligraphy: *“O People of the Book, do not overstep proper limitations ... and speak only the truth about Allah. The Messiah Yeshua, son of Mary, is only a messenger of Allah... Believe therefore in Allah and his messengers, and do not say, ‘Three’ . . . Allah is only one Allah. Far be it from his glory that he should have a son.”* This quote from the Quran (*Surah 4:171*; see also 5:75) clearly denies the deity of Messiah Yeshua and His incarnation. In this sacred shrine of Islam, the central place afforded to this anti-Messiah declaration is no accident.

The Bible teaches that Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6) who made peace **through His Blood**, yet Muhammad demands war. From my perspective, people who insist that Islam has anything to do with the peace the Bible speaks of, understand neither Bible nor the Qur'an.

The following are glimpses of the violence demanded by the Qur'an to please Allah:

1. The Qur'an **DISCOURAGES** friendships between Christians, Jews and Muslims (*'O ye who believe! Take not the Jews and Christians for friends. They are friends one to another. He among you who takes them for friends is one of them. Lo! Allah guides not wrongdoing folk!'* Sura 5:51,57; 3:28; 60:1)

2. The people of the Scripture (Christians & Jews) are likened to apes and swine (Sura 5:59-60)
3. It is a 'divine' commandment to persecute Jews and Christians (as well as all infidels), to defeat them in battle and then to consign them either to slavery or to death (*Surah 8:39; 9:5,29; 47:4*). Consider if the following are statements of peace?
  - a. *'And fight them until persecution is no more and religion is all for Allah...'* (*Surah 8:39*)
  - b. *'...slay the idolaters wherever you find them and take them captive and besiege them and prepare for them each ambush. But, if they repent and establish worship and pay the poor due, then leave their way free. Allah is forgiving, merciful!* (*Sura 9:5*)
  - c. *'...fight against such of those who have been given the Scripture as believe not in Allah ...'* (*Sura 9:29*)
4. The *Hadiths*, a compilation of Muhammad's teachings written down after the completion of the Qur'an, and considered authoritative by Islam, teaches: "...the prophet said: 'The Hour (the Day of Judgment) will not begin until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them. A Jew will hide behind a rock or a tree, and the rock or tree will say, "O Muslim, O slave of Allah! There is a Jew behind me, come and kill him!" – except for the gharqad (box thorn), for it is one of the trees of the Jews"' (*al-Bukhari 2926; Muslim, 2921-2*).

**The most powerful contrasts between Allah and the Elohim of the Bible are these:**

The Bible reveals a deity that seeks to unite all of creation with him under a mantle of love and harmony, whereas the Allah of Islam inspires a culture of death if the Qur'an is accepted at face value!

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