

Christianity or Islam?

The Bible or the Quran?

Christ or Muhammad?

The Cross or the Crescent?



OR



WHICH IS TRUE?

NOTE:

Islam: means “submissive,” a religion;

Muslim: means “one who surrenders” [to Allah]; also spelled Muslem or Moslem; a member of Islam;

Muhammad: means “praise worthy”; also spelled Mohammed, Mahomet: founder of Islam, author of the **Koran** or **Quran** (Arabic; *Qur’an*).

Quran: means “the recitation”; a collection of verses (surahs); in classical Arabic it is “Al Quran,” which means “continual recitation.”

Surahs: chapters in the Quran which are divided into verses

Hadith: the collections of the reports claiming to quote what the prophet Muhammad said verbatim on any matter. The term comes from the Arabic meaning "report", "account" or "narrative". Hadiths are second only to the Quran in developing Islamic jurisprudence.

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A PERSONAL NOTE:

Much is being discussed about the religion of Islam today because of events committed by terrorists who were or are confessed Muslims. Many Muslims are insisting that Islam is a religion of peace and the terrorists are only a radical faction that should be condemned and stopped. If that is true, then those Muslims will have to deny or condemn the unpeaceable acts of Muhammad, the founder of Islam, and the verses that advocate the killing of unbelievers in the Quran, the scriptures of Islam. At the end of this paper in the APPENDIX, there is a list of verses from the Quran that unequivocally advocate the literal eradication of unbelievers in the world. Islam is mostly where it is today because it conquered lands by the sword and forced populations to be converted to Islam. We must not ignore their history.

Into this mix we must consider the Muslim advocacy of al-Taqiyya, which means “deception.” It is the Islamic word for concealing or disguising one’s beliefs, convictions, ideas, feelings, opinions, and strategies. Deception or lying is permitted in order (1) to save

their lives, (2) to reconcile a husband and wife, (3) to persuade a woman into a bedroom, (4) to facilitate one on his journey, and (5) to promote Islam. Muslims are even permitted to disavow Islam and Mohammed if it is not a genuine heart-felt rejection. Muslims will tell you that concealment of a truth is not an abandonment of that truth if it benefits Islam. A list of verses can be found in the APPENDIX. This of course produces a lack of trust regarding anything they may say about Islam, acts of terrorism by Muslims, or their own core beliefs. Does “Islam” mean “peace?” See the end of the APPENDIX. We need to watch, learn, pray, and be cautious. It is only the truth that will make us and keep us free (John 8:32).

Introduction: We need to know how God has spoken.

1. **The evidence of God’s existence is overwhelming**---we need to seek and find the God that made them.

Rom 1:20---For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Acts 17:26-27---And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷ so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

- a. However, when men take what they see and turn toward idols to give them credit or conclude that all came from nothing without God and give nature credit, the results are tragic because they result in nature worship, atheism, and false religions.

Psalm 115:4-8---Their idols *are* silver and gold, The work of men’s hands.

⁵ They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see ⁶ They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; ⁷ They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. ⁸ Those who make them are like them; *So is* everyone who trusts in them.

- b. How many false prophets and religious cults **have arisen** and captured people’s minds to the extent that they would do anything? (Example: The Jim Jones cult)

2. **Jesus challenged** his followers to test their beliefs and their faith.

1 John 4:1-3---Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

John 7:17---If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or *whether* I speak on My own *authority*.

3. There are those who have publicly challenged Jesus claims and authority.
 - a. Ahmed Adinajad, President of Iran, did just that when he spoke at the United Nations recently.
 - b. He held up the Islam bible, the Quran, and said the answer is within that book.
 - c. That book and other writings held sacred by Islam deny what Jesus claimed: Jesus claimed He was God in the flesh, the Son of God, making Him both divine and a man.
4. What are the **basic claims of Christianity** and Islam?

Jesus said: **John 8:32**---And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

5. Christianity claims that Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected from the dead; however, the Quran denies that Jesus was crucified:

That they (Jews) say (in boast), “We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah: but they killed him not, or crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not---nay, Allah raised him up unto Himself. (4:157-158)

6. The following is a comparison chart of what the Quran says about Jesus and what it says about Muhammad:

Jesus in the Quran

Virgin born
 Sinless
 Called “Messiah”
 Called “Word of God”
 Performed miracles
 Ascended bodily into heaven

Muhammad in the Quran

Not virgin born
 Sinful
 Not called “Messiah”
 Not called “Word of God”
 Did not perform miracles
 Did not ascend bodily into heaven

Discussion:

I. The Claims and Teachings of Muhammad:

- A. Muhammad claimed to be a Prophet of God. “In the year 610 (believed to be the 26th of Ramadan), while in a cave on Mt. Hiram, Muhammad said that the angel Gabriel appeared to him and commanded him to recite (96:1-19).”

- B. Muhammad claimed to work no miracles. (1)
- C. Muhammad claimed that the prophets of the Old and New Testament were from God and that that message had been put in writing. (1)
- D. “He said that the Day of Judgment was coming and that a man's works will be weighed on that day. Those whose good deeds out weigh their bad may, by Allah's grace, be saved and enter Paradise which is full of sensual pleasures.” (4)
- E. **They say we must simply accept these claims although Muhammad gave no evidence to establish himself as a Prophet.**
1. Even though he claims to believe the Bible prophets, he does not believe in the Bible because, according to him, his sayings alone are to be considered.
 2. *The Origins of the Quran: Classic Essays on Islam's Holy Book*, Edited by Ibn Warraq; Prometheus Books, 1998 “One of the reasons I am so skeptical about Muhammad's "so-called" revelations is that they lack any credible evidentiary verification and review; there are no independent witnesses as to the content of his revelations; he dictated them from memory after the fact, and that source is from only one person; there is no verifiable prophecy, and no verification of facts are available from anyone other than Muhammad himself.”
 3. **Mohammad lived by the sword.**
 - a. He was persecuted by those who refused to accept his claims.
 - b. He and few of his disciples raided caravans to support themselves.
 - 1) They imprisoned, ransomed, or killed some 70 kidnapped individuals.
 - 2) They set free only a few.
 - c. The following is a brief description of the **beginning of armed conflict** known as The Battle of Badr.

Following the emigration, the Meccans seized the properties of the Muslim emigrants in Mecca. Economically uprooted and with no available profession, the Muslim migrants turned to raiding Meccan caravans as an act war deliberately initiating armed conflict between the Muslims and Mecca. Muhammad delivered ic verses permitting the Muslims to fight the Meccans (22:39–40). These attacks pressured Mecca by interfering with trade, and allowed the Muslims to acquire wealth, power and prestige while working towards their ultimate goal of inducing Mecca's submission to the new faith Muhammad led some three hundred warriors in a raid on a Meccan merchant caravan. The Muslims set an ambush for them at Badr. Aware of the plan, the

Meccan caravan eluded the Muslims. Meanwhile, a force from Mecca was sent to protect the caravan, continuing forward to confront the Muslims upon hearing that the caravan was safe. The Battle of Badr began in March of 624. Though outnumbered more than three to one, the Muslims won the battle, killing at least forty-five Meccans with only fourteen Muslims dead. They also succeeded in killing many Meccan leaders, including Abu Jahl. Seventy prisoners had been acquired, many of whom were soon ransomed in return for wealth or freed. Muhammad and his followers saw in the victory a confirmation of their faith. The verses of this period, unlike the Meccan ones, dealt with practical problems of government and issues like the distribution of spoils.

The victory strengthened Muhammad's position in Medina and dispelled earlier doubts among his followers. As a result the opposition to him became less vocal. Pagans who had not yet converted were very bitter about the advance of Islam. Two persons, Asma bint Marwan and Abu 'Afak, had composed verses taunting and insulting the Muslims. They were killed by persons belonging to their own or related clans, but nothing was said and no blood-feud followed.

Muhammad expelled from Medina the Banu Qaynuqa, one of three main Jewish tribes. Following the Battle of Badr, Muhammad also made mutual alliances with a number of Bedouin tribes to protect his community from attacks from the northern provinces.

II. The Claims and Teachings of Jesus:

- A. Jesus showed that His life, death and teachings were foretold by a large volume of prophecies found in the Old Testament.

John 5:39---You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

Luke 24:25-26---Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"

Luke 24:44-45---Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me." ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

1. This point is also made by New Testament writers.

Acts 3:18---But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

2. All of these writings were in existence before the birth of Christ. The Dead Sea Scrolls prove this.
3. Here is a detailed description of Christ's crucifixion.

Isaiah 53:9-11---And they made His grave with the wicked—But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, nor *was any* deceit in His mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put *Him* to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹ He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

4. Look at the account of the New Testament writers.

Matthew 27:35---Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: *They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.* (Psalm 22:18)

Matthew 27:41-46---Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, ⁴² “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. ⁴³ He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” ⁴⁴ Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.

5. There are many other examples like this!

- B. **Jesus claimed** to be the Son of God and, as a result, freely accepted worship without rebuking the worshippers.

Matthew 28:9-10---And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and **worshiped Him**. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go *and* tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

John 20:27-29---Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” ²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.”

- C. **Jesus claimed** that the sacrifice of Himself on the cross would provide the only path to God.

John 8:24---Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.”

D. **Jesus claimed** that His miracles proved that He was from God.

1. Jesus pointed to these without contradiction.

John 5:36---But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

John 10:25---Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.

2. The blind man Jesus healed could see the implications.

John 9:32-33---Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. ³³ If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

3. What other answer is possible?

"During His lifetime, Jesus performed many miracles. He healed the sick, the lame and the blind. He turned water into wine. He walked on water. Twice, He fed thousands just out of a small amount of bread and fish. He raised the dead. He cast out demons. He forgave sin. He clearly exercised power over Satan. His miracles are so numerous that we need not list all of them here. Even a brief examination of the Gospels proves the point. According to the Quran, there are dozens of Suras which state that Muhammad never performed a single miracle. He did not heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out demons, or rule over the elements of nature. Muhammad, when asked about miracles, either stayed silent or simply responded, 'I am just a man.'"

III. The Quran and the Bible:

A. Muslims believe the angel Gabriel revealed the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad a little at a time: The revelations began about A.D. 610 and continued until Muhammad's death in 632, and they believe that the earthly book, bound between covers, is a copy of an eternal book that is kept in heaven.

1. What will you find when you read the Quran?
2. It is a disjointed, incoherent collection of contradictory laws.
3. There is no fulfilled prophecy or claims of prophecy that predicted Muhammad or his work.

B. Muslims must attack the Bible so that it will not be seriously examined; Here are their lines of attack.

1. We do not have the original manuscripts (autographs) of the Bible.
 2. The original manuscripts were copied by fallible men and as a result every copy that we possess today contains errors.
 3. Because these errors exist, then whatever was originally in the Bible is “unknowable” today.
- C. Let us compare the assertions and charges of this fallible man to the promises of Jesus.

Matthew 24:35---Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

1. However, honest scholars can easily determine if the present Bible was transmitted accurately or if there was some conspiracy to later change the text.
 - a. We have at least 5,366 manuscripts of the Greek New Testament in existence today, in whole or in part, that testify to the accuracy of the New Testament.
 - b. There are nearly complete manuscripts that date from 280 to 350 AD and there is a fragment that is dated around 125 AD.
 - c. For the Old Testament we have the Dead Sea Scrolls that were written before and around 100 BC, which include a complete scroll of the book of Isaiah, along with other ancient manuscripts. (1)
 - d. When the text of Isaiah found in the Dead Sea Scrolls was compared to what had previously been the oldest known text of Isaiah (written 900 years later), the two texts matched word for word with only minor variations. (6)
 - e. Jesus read from one of these texts of Isaiah in His ministry and called it scripture.

Luke 4:16-21--- So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:
¹⁸*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;*¹⁹ *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.*²⁰ Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.²¹

And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

- f. By doing so He gave His approval for the accuracy and authority of these scrolls produced by copyists.
2. We have so many early manuscripts for comparison that less than a half page of the New Testament is in question, none of which is about any doctrine.
3. In addition, if we had none of the manuscripts, we could restore all of the New Testament except for 11 pages simply by reading the quotes written by those who live in those first centuries (86,000 quotes).

IV. The Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus:

A. Jesus pointed to His own resurrection as the ultimate proof to his enemies.

John 2:19-21---Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”²⁰ Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”²¹ But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

Matt 27:63-64---saying, “Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise.’⁶⁴ Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him *away*, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ So the last deception will be worse than the first.”

1. This made the enemies work harder to prevent it.
2. This was "the sign" to all unbelievers.

Matt 12:39-40---But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

B. The Motive and lives of the eyewitnesses testify to their credibility.

1. There was nothing to gain by these men making up lies.

1 Cor 15:30-32---And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour?³¹ I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.³² If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage *is it* to me? If *the* dead do not rise, “*Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!*”

2. These men all died a martyr's death, except John.

C. Test the evidence presented by the eyewitnesses.

Matthew 27:57-66---Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.⁵⁸ This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.⁵⁹ When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,⁶⁰ and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.⁶¹ And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.

1. Jesus was dead: John 19:32-36
2. The body was placed in a new tomb; Matthew 27:60
3. The tomb was cut out of rock; Matthew 27:60.
4. A large stone covered the entrance---Matthew 27:60
5. A Roman seal was placed on the stone---Matt 27:66
6. A Roman Guard was placed at the tomb---Matt 27:65-66
7. The tomb was inspected carefully---John 20:3-8, 11

D. Who moved the stone?

1. Did the Jews? (Matt 27:62-66)
 - a. The Jews were the very ones trying to prevent the resurrection.
 - b. If so they could present the body 50 days later! (Acts 2:32, 36)
2. Did the Romans?
 - a. The Romans would not want to risk their necks for "Jewish superstition."
 - b. The penalty for a Roman guard's failure was death. (Acts 16:27; 27:42)
3. Did the Disciples?
 - a. This was the best explanation the Jews could produce. (Matt 28:11-15)
 - b. If they were asleep, how did they know it was the disciples?
 - c. Why did the Roman authorities not prosecute the apostles?

- d. Did the apostles give their lives for a lie?
- 4. Who then moved the stone? (Acts 13:27-31)
- E. Jesus' tomb is empty while Muhammad's is occupied.

Conclusion: Will you find the forgiveness of God?

1. Jesus pointed to His sacrifice as the only way to God. (John 3:16; 8:24; 14:6)
2. Muhammad pointed to an impersonal God that has scales to weigh your works.
 - a. Salvation is wholly of man and is earned.
 - b. How good is good enough?
3. Forgiveness is assured through the promises of God (Acts 2:38; Romans 4:1-6)!

End Notes and Resources:

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- (3) Rieber, Ney. *The Compilation Of The As Recorded In The Hadith*. <http://www.bible.ca/islam/islam-quran-changed-editing-process.htm>
- (4) Muhammad, CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS & RESEARCH MINISTRY, <http://www.carm.org/islam/muhammad.htm>
- (5) Bruce, F.F. *The New Testament Documents—Are They Reliable?* Fourth Edition. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1953.
- (6) The Reality of Copyists' Errors URL: <http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/608>
- (7) McGarvey, J. W. *Evidences of Christianity*. Pages 13-15; Nashville, Tenn.: Gospel Advocate, 1886.

Albert, John. *Law, Ethics, and Civilizations*. New York: Oxford Press, 1995.

Darwich, Bassam. *Islam & Peace*. <http://www.answering-islam.org/Hoaxes/salamislam.html>

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APPENDIX

I. Quotes from the Quran Which Advocate Violence, Prejudice, and Rejection As Well As Rewards and Punishments:

Allah is an enemy to unbelievers. - Sura 2:98

On unbelievers is the curse of Allah. - Sura 2:161

Slay them wherever ye find them and drive them out of the places whence they drove you out, for persecution is worse than slaughter. - 2:191

Fight against them until idolatry is no more and Allah's religion reigns supreme. (different translation:) Fight them until there is no persecution and the religion is God's entirely. - Sura 2:193 and 8:39

**Fighting is obligatory for you, much as you dislike it. - 2:216
(different translation:) Prescribed for you is fighting, though it is hateful to you.**

..... martyrs.... Enter heaven - Surah 3:140-43

If you should die or be killed in the cause of Allah, His mercy and forgiveness would surely be better than all the riches they amass. If you should die or be killed, before Him you shall all be gathered. - 3:157-8

You must not think that those who were slain in the cause of Allah are dead. They are alive, and well-provided for by their Lord. - Surah 3:169-71

Let those fight in the cause of God who sell the life of this world for the hereafter. To him who fights in the cause of God, whether he is slain or victorious, soon we shall give him a great reward. - Surah 4:74

Those who believe fight in the cause of God, and those who reject faith fight in the cause of evil. - 4:76

But if they turn renegades, seize them and slay them wherever you find them. - 4:89

Therefore, we stirred among them enmity and hatred, which shall endure till the Day of Resurrection, when Allah will declare to them all that they have done. - 5:14

O believers, take not Jews and Christians as friends; they are friends of each other. Those of you who make them his friends is one of them. God does not guide an unjust people. - 5:54

Make war on them until idolatry is no more and Allah's religion reigns supreme - 8:39

O Prophet! Exhort the believers to fight. If there are 20 steadfast men among you, they shall vanquish 200; and if there are a hundred, they shall rout a thousand unbelievers, for they are devoid of understanding. - 8:65

It is not for any Prophet to have captives until he has made slaughter in the land. - 8:67

Allah will humble the unbelievers. Allah and His apostle are free from obligations to idol-worshippers. Proclaim a woeful punishment to the unbelievers. - 9:2-3

When the sacred months are over, slay the idolaters wherever you find them. Arrest them, besiege them, and lie in ambush everywhere for them. - 9:5

Believers! Know that idolators are unclean. - 9:28

Fight those who believe neither in God nor the Last Day, nor what has been forbidden by God and his messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, even if they are People of the Book, until they pay the tribute and have been humbled. - 9:29 (another source:) The unbelievers are impure and their abode is hell. (another source:) Humiliate the non-Muslims to such an extent that they surrender and pay tribute.

Whether unarmed or well-equipped, march on and fight for the cause of Allah, with your wealth and your persons. - 9:41

O Prophet! Make war on the unbelievers and the hypocrites. Be harsh with them. Their ultimate abode is hell, a hapless journey's end. - 9:73

Allah has purchased of their faithful lives and worldly goods, and in return has promised them the Garden. They will fight for His cause, kill and be killed. - 9:111

Fight unbelievers who are near to you. 9:123 (different translation: Believers! Make war on the infidels who dwell around you. Let them find harshness in you. (another source:) Ye who believe! Murder those of the disbelievers....

As for those who are slain in the cause of Allah, He will not allow their works to perish. He will vouchsafe them guidance and ennoble their state; He will admit them to the Paradise He has made known to them. - 10:4-15

Allah has cursed the unbelievers and proposed for them a blazing hell. - 33:60

Unbelievers are enemies of Allah and they will roast in hell. - 41:14

When you meet the unbelievers, smite their necks, then when you have made wide slaughter among them, tie fast the bonds, then set them free, either by grace or ransom, until the war lays down its burdens. - 47:4 (different translation:) When you meet the unbelievers in the battlefield, strike off their heads, and when you have laid them low, bind your captives firmly.

Those who are slain in the way of Allah - he will never let their deeds be lost. Soon will he guide them and improve their condition, and admit them to the Garden, which he has announced for them. - 47:5

Muslims are harsh against the unbelievers, merciful to one another. - 48:25

Muhammad is Allah's apostle. Those who follow him are ruthless to the unbelievers but merciful to one another. Through them, Allah seeks to enrage the unbelievers. - 48:29

Prophet! Make war on the unbelievers and the hypocrites and deal sternly with them. Hell shall be their home, evil their fate. - 66:9

The unbelievers among the People of the Book and the pagans shall burn forever in the fire of hell. They are the vilest of all creatures. - 98:51

Fight them so that Allah may punish them at your hands, and put them to shame. (verse cited in Newsweek 2/11/02)

II. Rewards and Punishments: QURAN promises of virgins as rewards in heaven:

Single-minded slaves of Allah... will be honored in the Gardens of delight, on couches facing one another; A cup from a gushing spring is brought round for them, white, delicious to the drinkers, wherein there is no headache nor are they made mad thereby. And with them are those of modest gaze, with lovely eyes, pure as they were hidden eggs. - Surah 37:40-49

Lo, for those who ward off evil is a happy journey's end, Gardens of Eden, whereof the gates are opened for the, wherein, reclining, they call for plenteous fruit and cool drink therein. And with them are those of modest gaze, companions. This it is that ye are promised for the Day of Reckoning. - 38:50-54

Lo! Those who kept their duty will be in a place secure, amid gardens and water-springs, attired in silk and silk embroidery, facing one another.... And we shall wed them unto fair ones with wide, lovely eyes. They call therein for every fruit in safety. They taste not death therein, save the first death. And He hath saved them from the doom of hell, a bounty from thy Lord. That is the supreme triumph. - 44:51-57

Lo! Those who kept their duty dwell in gardens and delight... reclining on ranged couches. And we wed them unto fair ones with wide, lovely eyes... and we provide them with fruit and meat such as they desire.... - 52:17-22

...Reclining upon couches lined with silk brocade, the fruit of both the gardens near to hand.... Therein are those of modest gaze, whom neither man nor jinni will have touched before them.... - 55:54-56

Those are they who will be brought nigh, in gardens of delight... reclining therein face to face. There wait on them immortal youths... and fair ones with wide, lovely eyes, like unto hidden pearls, reward for what they used to do.... Lo! We have created them a creation, and made them virgins, lovers, friends. - 56:11-37

(Different translation) Companions with beautiful, big and lustrous eyes... virgin-pure and undefiled.

Quran "sharia" punishments:

As for the man who steals and the woman who steals, cut off their hands as punishment for what they have earned, an exemplary punishment from Allah. - Surah 5:38

III. Permission to Lie: From the Quran and Hadith

From the Qur'an: The source of the information below is from the following web site; <http://www.thereligionofpeace.com/quran/011-taqiyya.htm>

Qur'an (16:106) - Establishes that there are circumstances that can "compel" a Muslim to tell a lie.

Qur'an (3:28) - This verse tells Muslims not to take those outside the faith as friends, unless it is to "guard themselves" against danger, meaning that there are times when a Muslim should appear friendly to non-Muslims, even though they should not feel that way..

Qur'an (9:3) - *"...Allah and His Messenger are free from liability to the idolaters..."* The dissolution of oaths with the pagans who remained at Mecca following its capture. They did nothing wrong, but were evicted anyway.

Qur'an (40:28) - A man is introduced as a believer, but one who had to *"hide his faith"* among those who are not believers.

Qur'an (2:225) - *"Allah will not call you to account for thoughtlessness in your oaths, but for the intention in your hearts"* The context of this remark is marriage, which explains why Sharia allows spouses to lie to each other for the greater good.

Qur'an (3:54) - *"And they (the disbelievers) schemed, and Allah schemed (against them): and Allah is the best of schemers."* The Arabic word used here for scheme (or plot) is *makara*, which literally means 'deceit'. If Allah is supremely deceitful toward unbelievers, then there is little basis for denying that Muslims are allowed to do the same. (See also 8:30 and 10:21)

Taken collectively these verses are interpreted to mean that there are circumstances when a Muslim may be "compelled" to deceive others for a greater purpose.

From the Hadith: A collection of writings about Muhammad which are only second to the Quran in making, pronouncing, and establishing Islamic law.

Bukhari (52:269) - *"The Prophet said, 'War is deceit.'" The context of this is thought to be the murder of Usayr ibn Zarim and his thirty unarmed men by Muhammad's men after he "guaranteed" them safe passage (see Additional Notes below).*

Bukhari (49:857) - *"He who makes peace between the people by inventing good information or saying good things, is not a liar."* Lying is permitted when the end justifies the means.

Bukhari (84:64-65) - Speaking from a position of power at the time, Ali confirms that lying is permitted in order to deceive an "enemy."

Muslim (32:6303) - *"...he did not hear that exemption was granted in anything what the people speak as lie but in three cases: in battle, for bringing reconciliation amongst persons and the narration of the words of the husband to his wife, and the narration of the words of a wife to her husband (in a twisted form in order to bring reconciliation between them)."*

Bukhari (50:369) - Recounts the murder of a poet, Ka'b bin al-Ashraf, at Muhammad's insistence. The men who volunteered for the assassination used dishonesty to gain Ka'b's trust, pretending that they had turned against Muhammad. This drew the victim out of his fortress, whereupon he was brutally slaughtered.

From Islamic Law:

Reliance of the Traveler (p. 746 - 8.2) - *"Speaking is a means to achieve objectives. If a praiseworthy aim is attainable through both telling the truth and lying, it is unlawful to accomplish through lying because there is no need for it. When it is possible to achieve such an aim by lying but not by telling the truth, it is permissible to lie if attaining the goal is permissible (N:i.e. when the purpose of lying is to circumvent someone who is preventing one from doing something permissible), and obligatory to lie if the goal is obligatory... it is religiously precautionary in all cases to employ words that give a misleading impression... "One should compare the bad consequences entailed by lying to those entailed by telling the truth, and if the consequences of telling the truth are more damaging, one is entitled to lie."*

NOTE: In order to see this picture more clearly and how the permission of lying has worked within the United States go to the following web site and read the details.

<http://www.thereligionofpeace.com/quran/011-taqiyya.htm>

IV. The Meaning of "Islam":

In Semitic languages many words are created by inserting different vowels between the three root consonants, e.g. "iSLaM" and "SaLaM" are two derivations from SLM. Does that mean they are related in meaning also?

In Romanic and Germanic languages it is not so much by vowel changes, but by adding prefix or suffix to the root word [i.e. before or after the root]. For example "love" can be seen as a 'root word', which then can be the base for several adjectives, like "loving" and

"loveless", both of which come from the same root "love" but clearly they mean basically the opposite. "Typical" and "atypical" also come from the same root "type" but mean again the very opposite. Now, English is not the standard to which one has to measure Arabic, but this example has the purpose to make clearer the below article to those who do not speak Arabic. I hope it is helpful.

The below is an English translation of [the Arabic original](#).

V. Islam & Peace

Bassam Darwich

Muslim propagandists are nowadays making extraordinary efforts to change the image of Islam by reintroducing it to the Western society as a religion that calls for peace and rejects violence. One of the new theories that they are trying to sell is that the name of their religion *Islam* implies the meaning of 'Peace', which in Arabic is *Salam*. The grounds for their theory is that both words are derived from the same root in the Arabic language!

While it may be possible to deceive those who do not speak Arabic or those who do not know much about Islam, propaganda like this does not fool someone who knows the Arabic language and the teaching of Islam, a religion that was established by violence and still believes in violence as a principal and as a way of life. The relationships between Muslims themselves and between them and all other nations have always been based on terror and still is. *Islam* and *Salam* are two incongruous words that share no common ground either in name or in substance.

In order to find the meaning of a certain word in the Arabic dictionary, it is essential to search for the three letter infinitive verb which is called the root. Many words can be derived from the same root, but they don't necessarily have to have any similarity in their meaning. The word *Islam*, which means 'submission', is derived from the infinitive *Salama*. So is the word *Salam* which means 'peace' and so is the verb *Salima* which means 'to be saved or to escape from danger'. One of the derivations of the infinitive *Salama* means 'the stinging of a snake' or 'The tanning of the leather'. Hence, if the word *Islam* has something to do with the word *Salam* i.e. 'Peace', does that also mean that it must be related to the 'stinging of the snake' or 'tanning the leather'?

Muhammad used to send letters to the kings and leaders of the surrounding countries and tribes, inviting them to surrender to his authority and to believe in him as the messenger of Allah. He always ended his letters with the following two words: "Aslim, Taslam!". Although these two words are derived from the same infinitive *Salama* which is the root of *Salam*, i.e. 'Peace', neither one of them implies the meaning of 'peace'. The sentence means 'surrender and you will be safe', or in other words, 'surrender or face death'. So where is the meaning of 'Peace' in such a religion that threatens to kill other people if they don't submit to it?

On the other hand, the *Qur'an* and other Islamic books like *Al-Hadith* and *Al-Sira*, i.e. the life of Muhammad, are full of evidence which proves that had it not been for violence, Islam wouldn't have existed or wouldn't have survived until today. A good example to mention would be *The Wars Of Al-Riddah*, i.e. 'the wars against the apostates', that began immediately after the death of Muhammad. Feeling relieved by the disappearance of the strong fearful leader Muhammad, the tribes which have been forced to embrace Islam, revolted and began, one after another, to renegade and to refuse paying the taxes imposed on them by the Prophet's government. In response to the revolution, the first Caliph, Abu-Bakr, ordered his army to fight the apostates. It took him almost two years of fighting to force the tribes back into the fold of Islam. These wars were not ordered only by the first Caliph, but they were also instructed by Allah and his messenger Muhammad. The Qur'an states clearly that those who go back from Islam are to be punished by death: "But if they turn renegades seize them and slay them wherever ye find them and (in any case) take no friends or helpers from their ranks. Al-Nisaa 4:89." Muhammad also said, as narrated by Al-Bukhari, "If somebody - a Muslim - discards his religion, kill him."

The Qur'an not only ordered the killing of those who embraced Islam and afterwards decided to renegade, but also commanded the followers to fight all nations until they either believe in it, pay the Jizya or face death:

"Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the last day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and his apostle nor acknowledge the religion of truth of the people of the Book (the Jews and the Christians) until they pay the Jizya with willing submission and feel themselves subdued. Surat At-Tauba 9:29"

And in the same Sura, verse 5, the Qur'an also states: "Fight and slay the pagans wherever ye find them and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem ..."
Now doesn't the image of Islam as a religion of peace sound, after all, a little bit hard to believe?

The above information on *Islam & Peace* is taken from the following web site:
<http://www.answering-islam.org/Hoaxes/salamislam.html>

The following definition of "Islam" is taken from an Islamic web site:

What is the meaning of the word Islam?

If you refer to Arabic language dictionaries you will find out that the meaning of the word Islam is: submission, humbling oneself, and obeying commands and heeding prohibitions without objection, sincerely worshipping Allaah alone, believing what He tells us and having faith in Him. The word Islam has become the name of the religion which was brought by Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him).

The web site is <https://islamqa.info/en/10446>