

Allah: The Distinct One

In the Qur'an, Allah, the almighty creator, lord and judge, appears as a lawmaker and merchant to whom 1.3 billion Muslims are to pray five times daily. If you ask a Muslim, "Who is your Allah?", you may get the answer, "Allah is greater!", *Allahu akbar*, which is the abbreviation of the Islamic statement of faith. Allah is not only greater than the greatest—he is a very distinct, faraway, unreachable god. He is stronger, more beautiful, richer and more clever than anything we know. In the end every thought about Allah remains insufficient and is wrong. He cannot be understood, reached or defined. But he knows us and even determines our being in advance. He leads those he wants to lead and misleads those he wants to mislead (Sura 6:39, 13:27, 14:4, 16:93, 35:8, 74:31). He is not a personal god; he stands beyond any emotion or definition.

The common Muslim was not satisfied with an abstract understanding of their god, so of the 500 traits and names of Allah mentioned in the Qur'an, 99 of the most beautiful ones have been singled out. Muslims recite these 99 names as they count through pearl beads strung on a prayer lace. This is a good work that will be accredited to their account. Al-Ghazali, one of the most famous Islamic theologians, has exegised these names and compared them with each other. He found out that several of these key words overlap or nullify each other. Thus, he concluded, "Allah is everything and nothing! We cannot understand with our minds, we can only pray to him in adoration!"

Allah: Not Triune

Those who seek to learn about Islam will soon realize that the Qur'an vehemently fights against the holy trinity. One reason for this attitude is a Christian sect that existed in the Middle East in Muhammad's days proclaimed a trinity consisting of father, mother, and

son—Allah, Mary and Christ (Sura 5:116)! All Christian churches reject this error. However, many Muslims think Christians believe Allah laid with Mary and she conceived Jesus. Due to this blasphemy, Islam denies the triune God (Sura 4:171, 5:73).

Allah: Not a Father

In light of the blasphemous image described above, many Muslims consider calling God *Father* blasphemy. In the four gospels, Jesus used the word *God* 99 times. In contrast He spoke of the *Father* 178 times! He revealed to us a close and personal God who binds Himself to His *children* as their *Father*.

This new name of God, *Father*, as it appears in the New Testament, is Jesus' theological answer to Islam's picture of the Almighty. Muslims do not have what Christians have—personal contact with God their Father, who knows them, cares for them and loves them. Muslims do not have this direct connection to Allah. They remain slaves of their ruler. They can never consider themselves his children.

Allah: Has no Son

The Qur'an strictly denies Jesus Christ as God's son 17 times. Nevertheless, all Muslims believe in 'Isa (Christ's name in Islam)—Maryam's (Mary's) son, a prophet and messenger of Allah. They accept his birth by the Virgin Mary, created through God's word alone. This is the heritage of the christological arguments of Arius against Athanasius (4th century AD). Thus, Islam considers Christ to be created by Allah but never conceived by Him.

Through this attitude, Muslims oppose the Nicene statement of faith of the church. Muhammad's followers deny every aspect that Jesus is God, but they believe that:

- ◆ Christ performed miracles of healing,

- ◆ Christ raised three people from the dead by His words,
- ◆ Christ miraculously fed His followers,
- ◆ Christ further developed Moses' law,
- ◆ Christ can renew His followers in humility and mercy, and
- ◆ Christ ascended to heaven and is currently dwelling close to Allah.

Yet, they strictly deny that Jesus is God's Son and that He was crucified.

Muslims separate themselves from the salvation which has been completed for them. They dismiss the forgiveness of all their sins on Judgement Day, hoping to achieve it through their own righteousness without the One who died on the cross. The words "salvation" and "Savior" never appear in the Qur'an; the concept does not fit into the Muslim's way of thinking.

Allah: No Holy Spirit

Furthermore, Islam denies the divinity of the Holy Spirit, often referencing Allah's spirit as the angel Jibril (Gabriel) in the Qur'an. The Holy Spirit, in the sense of the New Testament, does not exist in Islam. Allah's spirit appears in the Qur'an 29 times as a created spirit, similar to angels or demons. As a slave, he is under Allah's rule.

For this reason, there is no revelation of the Father and the Son in Islam, because it is the Holy Spirit who gives us understanding. Additionally, there is no fruit of the Holy Spirit in Islam, but only fruit of the flesh. Natural piety and righteousness has little or nothing to do with the works of Christ's Spirit. Also no Muslim has assurance of eternal life. A typical answer to questions concerning eternal life is "maybe" or "if Allah wills."

A study of Islam reveals that Allah can be neither the Father, the Son, nor the Holy Spirit. Allah is not the

Holy Triune God. He is a completely different spirit than the God of the Bible.

Allah: An Anti-Biblical Spirit

An area where Allah differs from Biblical mandate is that Allah has no spirit of truth. In Islam, lying and cheating are absolutely legal when dealing with non-Muslims. Surprisingly, the Qur'an states Allah is the best deceiver: **"And they (the Jews) deceived, and Allah deceived, and Allah is the best deceiver"** (Sura 3:54). Therefore it makes sense that to be a godly Muslim, or *Allah-like*, is to be a good liar (see also Sura 8:30). English translations of the Qur'an usually gloss over such verses. Christians who are willing to talk to Muslims should be well prepared, otherwise, they may be cheated. Muhammad said several times, "The holy war is nothing but cheating and tricking!" Jesus spoke of Satan similarly: **"There is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies"** (John 8:44).

Allah: An Anti-Christian Spirit

God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary, and the angel said to her, **"Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High"** (Luke 1:30-32). Yet, Islam would have us to believe that Jesus Christ's Father sent the same angel, Gabriel, to Muhammad to dictate to him that God has no son: **"Allah is only one God. Glory to him (He is far too great) that he should have a son!"** (Sura 4:171) Such revelations can not come from the same God!

Who is Allah in Islam?

"The Jews say, Ezra is the son of Allah, and the Christians say, Messiah is the son of Allah. They say this (only) with their mouths: They imitate the saying

of those who were unbelievers in former times. Allah's curse be upon them (may Allah fight to kill them)! How they are deluded away!" (Sura 9:30) From the standpoint of Christ, Allah of Islam rejects that Muslims and Christians are believers of the same God.

Then who is Allah? 1 John 2:22 provides the spiritual guideline for distinguishing such spirits: **"Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son."**

Concluding Remarks

Islam is a religion that stands against God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Muhammad suppressed, persecuted, and expelled Jesus' church from the very beginning. As Westerners, we can hardly imagine the extension of hatred, degradation, and persecution, that for 1,300 years Christians have suffered and are still suffering as minorities in countries with Islamic majorities.

Whoever says that Allah in Islam is the God of Abraham or the Father of Jesus Christ, has not realized the apocalyptic attack of Islam. Christians must respond to the call to take the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ to Muslims, praying for true repentance and true faith so that they may experience true peace, true love and the true God.

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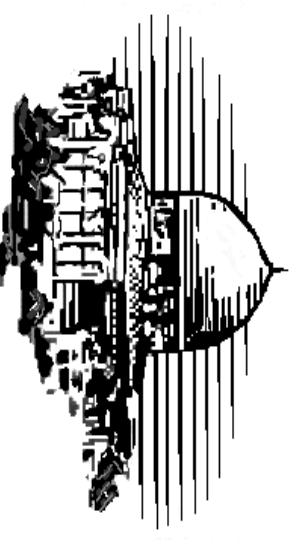
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Same God?

Do Muslims and Christians
Pray to the Same God?



*Who is the liar but the one who denies
that Jesus is the Christ?
This is the antichrist, the one who
denies the Father and the Son.
(Bible - 1 John 2:22)*

*Allah is only one Ilah (God).
Glory to him (He is far too great)
that he should have a son!
(Qur'an - Sura Al-Nisa' 4:171)*

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