

MUHAMMAD OR JESUS? (1)

John 1:1-5, 14, 18

Introduction:

- 1. To become a Muslim, one must confess the Shahada: “Ilaha illa Allah. Muhammad rasul Allah” (“There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah”).**
- 2. To become a Christian, one must confess: “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:37; Matthew 16:16; Romans 10:8-10).**
- 3. Muslims believe Muhammad is the last and greatest of the prophets.**
- 4. Christians believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and the only way to eternal life (John 14:6: Acts 4:11,12).**
- 5. Both claims cannot be true for they contradict one another.**
 - a. Both may be false.**
 - b. One may be false and the other true.**
 - c. We must decide on the basis of the evidence available.**

Discussion:

- I. MUHAMMAD CLAIMED ONLY TO BE A PROPHET, BUT JESUS CLAIMED TO BE THE SON OF GOD.**
 - A. Muhammad said Gabriel appeared to him on Mt. Hira and told him he was the greatest man on earth and Allah’s prophet.**
 - 1. He also claimed he made a journey by night from Mecca to Jerusalem on a horse-like creature called Baraq.**
 - 2. From the temple mount, he said he ascended to the seventh heaven where Allah told him he was the greatest man on earth and the last and greatest of the prophets.**
 - B. Jesus claimed to be God incarnate (in the flesh).**
 - 1. He was with the Father in the beginning (John 1:1).**

2. All things were created by Him (Colossians 1:16).
3. He was born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23).
4. He said: "Before Abraham was, I am" for which the Jews tried to stone Him for blasphemy (John 8:58,59).
5. He forgave sins which only God can do (Mark 2:1-12).
6. His resurrection from the dead proved He was everything He claimed to be (Romans 1:4).
7. He ascended to Heaven to God's right hand (Acts 1:9; 2:32-35; Colossians 3:1).

C. Muhammad claimed to be Allah's last messenger to mankind, but the Bible says Jesus is God's last spokesman to man.

"God, Who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, Whom He has appointed heir of all things, through Whom also He made the worlds" (Heb. 1:1, 2).

II. MUHAMMAD HAD NO PROOF OF HIS CLAIM TO BE A PROPHET, BUT JESUS OFFERED ABUNDANT EVIDENCE THAT HE WAS GOD'S SON.

A. Jesus' miracles proved He was sent from God.

1. Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews, said: "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with Him" (Jn. 3:2).
2. John wrote: "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30, 31).
3. Jesus healed the sick, gave hearing to the deaf and sight to the blind, multiplied a few loaves and fishes to feed thousands, walked on water, restored withered limbs, made the lame to walk, and raised the dead to life.
4. His miracles were done publicly and in the presence of witnesses (Mark 5:22-24; 35-43).

B. Jesus' resurrection from the dead was His ultimate miracle.

- 1. It was prophesied He would be raised (Psalm 16:8-11; Acts 2:23-36).**
- 2. He was seen by many witnesses over a period of forty days (Acts 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8).**
- 3. A Muslim and a Christian were debating their respective religions; the Muslim pointed out Muhammad's burial place in the beautiful Mosque of the Prophet in Medina saying, "You Christians have nothing like this!" The Christian replied, "That is correct. Muslims have a dead prophet, but Christians have a living Savior!"**

III. MUHAMMAD WAS A MAN OF WAR WHO KILLED AND ROBBED TO ADVANCE HIS RELIGION, BUT JESUS WAS THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

A. Muhammad personally led his men in 28 battles and planned many others.

- 1. After fleeing to Medina, he robbed the rich caravans going to Mecca.**
 - a. He gained resources for his faith and his followers.**
 - b. Many joined him because of their desire for plunder.**
- 2. When the Jews of Medina turned against him, he accused them of joining his enemies and had them slaughtered.**
 - a. 800 Jews were beheaded while Muhammad watched with his child bride, Aisha, by his side.**
 - b. Their wives and children were sold into slavery.**
- 3. Through the centuries, Muslims, following Muhammad's example, have spread their faith by the sword.**

B. Conflicting teachings are found in the Quran on war.

"There shall be no compulsion in religion" (Sura 2:256).

“Fight against them until idolatry is no more and Allah’s religion is supreme. But if they desist, fight none except the evildoers” (Sura 2:193).

“When the sacred months are over, slay the idolaters wherever you find them” (Sura 9:5).

- 1. Those conquered by Islam are given one of three choices:
 - a. Convert to Islam.**
 - b. Maintain your own faith, but as second class citizens (dhimmis) and pay a heavy tax (jizya).**
 - c. Be killed by the sword.****
- 2. In recent times in the Sudan, Muslim Arabs carried on a genocidal war against black Africans who held either to native beliefs or to the Christian faith.**

C. In contrast to Muhammad, Jesus was a man of peace.

- 1. It was prophesied He would be “the Prince of peace” (Isaiah 9:6).**
- 2. He taught: “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9).**
- 3. The religion of Christ is spread by teaching, not by the sword (Matthew 28:19,20; John 6:44,45).**
- 4. Rather than seek wealth, Jesus lived a life of poverty (Matthew 8:19, 20).**

Conclusion:

- 1. Muhammad shed the blood of others to spread his faith to the world.**
- 2. Jesus shed His own blood to pay the price for our sins (Eph. 1:7).**
- 3. In Jesus, we have the forgiveness of sins, the hope of eternal life and every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3).**
- 4. We come to Christ through faith and baptism (Galatians 3:26,27).**

