

**THE RISE OF A RELIGION:
(The Teachings and Practices of Islam)
2 Timothy 4:1-5**

Introduction:

- 1. September 11, 2001 is a date which is embedded in the memory of every American who was of age when it occurred.**
 - a. On that day two airliners, hijacked by Muslims, flew into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City.**
 - b. Another plane, hijacked by Muslims, flew into the Pentagon in Washington D.C.**
 - c. A fourth plane, also hijacked by Muslims, intended for the White House or US capital, was brought down by the passengers over Pennsylvania, killing all on board.**
 - d. The death toll that day was 3,000 killed and hundreds injured.**
 - e. This devastation was done in the name of Allah, god of Islam!**

- 2. Brenda and I were in Manila, the Philippines, teaching the Gospel.**
 - a. We had spent the day teaching in the Quezon City School of Preaching and returned to our hotel in time for the 6 p.m. news.**
 - b. We were shocked to learn of the first plane hitting the Tower.**
 - c. We watched in horror as we saw the second plane hit.**
 - d. The week that followed was filled with concern that our return home might be delayed.**
 - e. We flew out of the Manila Airport amid the tightest security we had ever seen.**
 - f. We were shocked when we flew into Detroit amid the loosest security we had ever seen!**

- 3. A temporary wave of patriotism, political unity, and expression of faith in God swept over America, but it did not last.**

- 4. Since 2001, we have fought against Islam in Afghanistan and Iraq.**
 - a. We have sacrificed convenience and freedom for security.**
 - b. We have become hardened to almost daily reports of atrocities committed by Islamic terrorists in the name of Allah.**

5. **Islam poses a major threat to our faith as Christians.**
 - a. **It is the fastest growing religion in the United States.**
 - b. **It seeks to impose Sharia law in place of our constitution.**
 - c. **Its aim is to convert the world to Islam.**
 - d. **Wherever Islam prevails, Christians, if allowed at all, are second class citizens and suffer discrimination.**
 - e. **We must understand Islam to be warned, and to be able to teach Muslims the way of salvation through Christ (Mark 16:15).**

Discussion:

I. ISLAM BEGAN IN ARABIA EARLY IN THE SEVENTH CENTURY.

- A. **Its teachings and practices reflect the seventh century Arabian culture.**
 1. **Allah, god of Islam, is much like a tribal chieftain.**
 2. **Muhammad, founder of Islam, became an Arab warlord.**
 3. **The Quran, holy book of Islam, combines elements of Judaism, heretical Christian beliefs, and pagan religions with Muhammad's alleged revelations from Allah.**
- B. **Muhammad was born in 570 in Mecca, a major center on the caravan trade route from Arabia to Syria.**
 1. **Muhammad was a member of the powerful Quraysh tribe, one of five tribes which controlled the Arabian peninsula.**
 2. **His father died before he was born and his mother died when he was five or six years old.**
 3. **He was raised by his grandfather until his death.**
 4. **Then an uncle raised him to adulthood.**
 5. **Like most in his day, he could neither read nor write.**
- C. **As a young man, Muhammad accompanied caravans from Mecca to Syria.**
 1. **He became acquainted with Jews and Christians from whom he learned the concept of one supreme Being.**

2. A wealthy widow, Khadija, employed him to lead a caravan for her.
3. She was so impressed with Muhammad that she proposed marriage and he accepted.
4. Kadija was 40 and Muhammad 25 when they married.
5. They had two sons who died in infancy and four daughters, but only one, Fatima, survived to adulthood.

II. MUHAMMAD BEGAN TO SPEND TIME IN MEDITATION IN A CAVE.

A. He claimed that one night during the holy month of Ramadan, he was awakened by the angel Gabriel.

1. Gabriel gave him a book and told him to read; when he protested he could not read, he was told again and again to read until he took the book and read it.
2. Gabriel told Muhammad he had been chosen by Allah to be his last and greatest prophet.
3. Muhammad thought he was insane and tried to kill himself, but Gabriel prevented it.
4. He told of his dreams to Khadija who persuaded him to take them seriously.
5. His best friend, Abu Bakr, likewise encouraged him.
7. Kahdija and Abu Bakr were Muhammad's first converts.

B. One night, Muhammad claimed he journeyed to heaven to meet Allah.

1. He was sleeping by the Kaaba in Mecca.
2. A winged horse-like creature named Baraq took him to Jerusalem to the temple mount.
3. He was taken up through six heavens where he met Adam Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and John the baptist.
4. He met Jesus in the seventh heaven and was taken within two bowshots of the throne of Allah.
5. Allah told Muhammad he was the greatest man on earth.
6. Allah also told him he must teach men on earth to pray fifty times a day facing Jerusalem.
7. When he descended, Moses told him fifty times were too

many so Muhammad went back and bargained with Allah until he got him down to five times of prayer a day.

III. MUHAMMAD BEGAN PREACHING HIS NEW FAITH IN MECCA.

- A. Besides family and friends, he made a few converts among the poorer classes of society.**
- B. Mecca was the center of idolatry in Arabia.**
 - 1. A cube-like temple called “the Kaaba” was located there.**
 - 2. It contained a black stone which locals believed fell down from heaven during the time of Adam.**
 - 3. There was a sacred well called Zimzam which was said to have been the well given to Hagar and Ishmael when Sarah cast them out (Genesis 21).**
 - 4. Many gods were worshipped in Mecca; among them a remote god (some say, the moon god) called “Allah.”**
 - 5. Muhammad spoke out against idolatry and polytheism and maintained that Allah was the only god.**
 - 6. Religious pilgrimages provided great income for Mecca.**
 - 7. The Quraysh tribe were the keepers of the Kaaba.**
 - 8. They began to persecute Muhammad and his followers.**

IV. MUHAMMAD FLED TO YATHRIB (MEDINA) TO ESCAPE.

- A. He finally arrived in Medina on September 20, 622.**
 - 1. This journey is known as the “Hejira.”**
 - 2. July 16, 622 was the beginning of the lunar new year so the Islamic calendar begins at this date.**
- B. Muhammad and his followers were at first welcomed by the large Jewish population of Medina.**

Conclusion:

- 1. There have been many false prophets through the centuries.**
- 2. Jesus Christ is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:6).**
- 3. Will you obey Him so that you can have eternal life (Hebrews 5:9)?**