

# OVERVIEW OF ISLAM



## KEY PERSON, DATE, LOCATION

FOUNDED IN MECCA, ARABIA BY MUHAMMAD (AD 570-632), CONSIDERED THE GREATEST MAN WHO EVER LIVED AND THE LAST OF MORE THAN 124,000 MESSENGERS SENT BY ALLAH (GOD)

MAIN TYPES: SUNNI (PEOPLE OF THE TRADITION), SHI'A (PARTY OF ALI), AND SUFI (MYSTICS)

## KEY WRITINGS

THE HOLY QUR'AN (KORAN), REVEALED TO MUHAMMAD BY THE ANGEL GABRIEL  
ESSENTIAL COMMENTARIES ARE FOUND IN THE SUNNAH (TRADITION), COMPOSED OF HADITH (NARRATIVE) AND SIRAH (JOURNEY)

THE QUR'AN AFFIRMS THE BIBLICAL TORAH, PSALMS, AND GOSPELS, BUT JEWS AND CHRISTIANS HAD CORRUPTED THE ORIGINAL TEXTS

## WHO IS GOD?

ALLAH IS ONE AND ABSOLUTELY UNIQUE | HE CANNOT BE KNOWN

THE GREATEST SIN IN ISLAM IS SHIRK, OR ASSOCIATING ANYTHING WITH ALLAH

HUMAN QUALITIES LIKE FATHERHOOD CANNOT BE ATTRIBUTED TO ALLAH

MANY MUSLIMS THINK THAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IN THREE GODS AND ARE THEREFORE GUILTY OF SHIRK

## WHO IS JESUS?

JESUS (ISA IN ARABIC) WAS NOT GOD OR THE SON OF GOD

HIS VIRGIN BIRTH IS LIKENED TO ADAM'S CREATION

HE WAS SINLESS, A WORKER OF MIRACLES, AND ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED PROPHETS SENT BY ALLAH

HE WAS NOT CRUCIFIED OR RESURRECTED

HE, NOT MUHAMMAD, WILL RETURN TO PLAY A SPECIAL ROLE BEFORE THE FUTURE JUDGEMENT DAY | PERHAPS TURNING CHRISTIANS TO ISLAM

## **WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

“HOLY SPIRIT” CAN REFER TO ALLAH, TO THE ANGEL GABRIEL, OR TO A SPIRIT USED BY ALLAH TO GIVE LIFE TO MAN AND INSPIRE THE PROPHETS

## **HOW TO BE SAVED**

HUMANS ARE BASICALLY GOOD, BUT FALLIBLE AND NEED GUIDANCE

THE BALANCE BETWEEN GOOD AND BAD DEEDS DETERMINES ONE’S DESTINY IN PARADISE OR HELL

ALLAH MAY TIP THE BALANCES TOWARD HEAVEN

ONE SHOULD ALWAYS LIVE WITH THE FEAR OF ALLAH AND JUDGMENT DAY

## **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?**

BELIEF IN BODILY RESURRECTION

ONE MAY PRAY FOR AND SEEK FAVOR FOR THE DEAD BEFORE JUDGMENT DAY

PARADISE INCLUDES A GARDEN POPULATED WITH HOURIS, MAIDENS DESIGNED BY ALLAH TO PROVIDE SEXUAL PLEASURE TO RIGHTEOUS MEN

## **OTHER FACTS, BELIEFS, OR PRACTICES**

MUSLIMS MEET IN MOSQUES FOR PRAYERS, SERMONS, AND COUNSEL

EMPHASIS ON HOSPITALITY, DEVELOPING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY, AND MAINTAINING HONOR (OR AVOIDING SHAME)

SHARI’A (ISLAMIC LAW) GOVERNS ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE IN PLACES WHERE IT IS ENFORCED

JIHAD (FIGHT) MAY BE USED TO REFER EITHER TO ONE’S INNER STRUGGLE TO OBEY GOD OR TO LITERAL WARFARE

MUSLIMS WHO CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY OR OTHER RELIGIONS FACE PERSECUTION AND POSSIBLE DEATH