

The Challenge of Islam compiled by Pastor Bill Hekman

Islam is on the March. Millions of Muslims have invaded Western Europe and North America. They come in ships, airplanes and even illegally in containers and box cars, as we see happening in Great Britain.

In this message I want to clear some misconceptions about Islam

1. **That Islam is a beautiful religion.** I even heard President Bush and General Powell refer to Islam as a beautiful religion! I have lived in the midst of Islam for over 44 years in Indonesia and I have yet to discover the beauty of Islam! It is a religion of war called 'Holy War', killing, robbing, kidnapping, discrimination, apartheid, horrible treatment of women (a woman is worth half of a man's value), slavery, polygamy, Arab racism in which seventh century Arabian culture in its political expression, family affairs, dietary laws, clothing religious rites, language etc. is imposed on all other cultures. The Christians in Ambon have lost at least 20% of their villages, land and property to Muslim thugs and thieves. Thousands have been killed and maimed for life. An example is Bronson, a close friend of mine. His head was beaten, torn open, face torn open from top to bottom, eye jerked out and left for dead on the road by the Muslims in Ambon. He is maimed for life but thankful to be alive! He has undergone 14 operations to restore his face. Wherever Islamic fundamentalism regains dominance, the nation or area is plunged back into the "dark ages of seventh century Arabia". There is no freedom of speech, freedom of assembly or freedom of the press in Muslim nations such as Saudi Arabia, most of North African nations, and Iran etc.

The oppressive nature of Islam is seen most clearly in its denial of basic civil rights to women. The Quran states in Sura 4:34: "Men are the managers of the affairs of women. Those you fear may be rebellious – admonish; banish them to their couches and beat them, (it actually says, scourge them)". Muslim women can be kept prisoners in their own home. In some countries such as Kuwait woman are still denied the right to vote. In Iran women must carry written permission from their husband to be out of the house! Women are denied the right to drive a car in such places as Saudi Arabia. What is beautiful about all this? There is no right to change a person's religion. Renouncing Islam is an offense punishable by death in Saudi Arabia! In Islam there is incarceration without due process; the use of torture; political assassination; the cutting off of hands, feet, ears, tongues, and heads; and the gouging out of eyes. To a sane person such things are barbaric and should have no place in the modern world.

2. **That Allah and God are one and the same.** Islam claims that Allah is the same God who was revealed in the Bible. Up until the 7th century when Muhammad made Allah into the "only" God, Allah was the name of a pagan deity! Allah was simply one pagan god among many. His name, a particular name for the moon god as worshipped in Arabia. The word Allah is not found in the Hebrew Old Testament or in the Greek New Testament.

The God of the Bible has revealed Himself in such a way that His nature and His names cannot be confused with the nature and names of the surrounding pagan deities. Muhammad started with a pagan god so it comes as no surprise that he ended up with a pagan god.

3. **That the Arabs are the descendants of Abraham through his son Ishmael.** This claim was made in response to the Jews who had boasted that Abraham was the father of their race. There is a prevalent notion that the Arabs, both of south and north, are descendants from Ishmael; and the passage in Genesis 16:12 is often cited as proof. The fact is that the sons of Ishmael were located in Palestine and not in Mecca. The idea of the southern Arabs being descendants of Ishmael is entirely without foundation and seems to have originated in the tradition invented by Arab vanity that they, as well as the Jews, are the seed of Abraham – a vanity which, besides disfiguring and falsifying the history of the patriarch and his son Ishmael has transferred the scene of it from Palestine to Mecca.
4. **That there are no human authors of the Quran.** According to the claims in the Quran itself the book actually came down from Allah through the angel Gabriel. But the Quran also claims that Muhammad received the Quran from the Holy Spirit (Sura 26:192-194 and Sura 16:102) but in another passage the Quran claims that it wasn't actually Allah or Gabriel or Holy Spirit but actually 'angels'. (Sura 15:8). Muhammad did not write the Quran himself because historians claim that he was illiterate. Some historians say that the Quran is a product of some zealots of Islam under the supervision of a caliph, who, after the death of Muhammad felt they must have a sacred book, like the Christians and Jews and so they tried to recollect what their leader was preaching before his death. Part of it is said to be from the parchments written and kept before the death of Muhammad. According to the Hadith, some of the fragments were collected from "tablets of stone, ribs of palm branches, camels' shoulder blades and ribs, pieces of board and from memory. The first attempt of compilation is said to have been made by Muhammad's daughter, Fatima. Muhammad's wife, Hafsa, also helped in the compilation. The final work, however, is credited to Zaid Ibn Thabit, who is the traditional editor of the Standardized Quran.

The word Quran means recitation. This is the reason why the messages in the Quran are regarded as the words of Allah as dictated to Muhammad piece by piece in his visions. It is these visions that the faith of over a billion Muslims hangs upon as visions of God. If he had no such experiences he would not be considered a prophet! In the Hadith there is documentation of his deeds and experiences as testified by those who were close to him. Muslims themselves wrote down these visions. These are the testimonies of Ibn Ishaq, Husain ibn Muhammad, Ibn Athir, Muslim, Abu Huraira, Al Bukhari and even Zaid ibn Thabit, the scribe of Muhammad. According to these witnesses, whenever the 'inspiration' came upon Muhammad, he would normally fall to the ground, with the body shaking violently, perspiring intensively, eyes shut, mouth foaming and the face like that of a young camel.

Sometimes he would hear a bell ringing in his ears. The experience was normally followed by severe headaches. Abu Huraira is quoted in the Hadith as saying: “when inspiration descended on the Apostle, they used to bathe his sacred head with henna, because of the headache.”

Islamic Scholar and author, G.J.O. Moshay states in his book, “Who is this Allah?” on page 13, “So, we take a stand: that there was an Allah talking to Muhammad or inspiring him. The issue we are faced with here, basically, is whether or not the Allah from whose angels Muhammad was receiving his messages is the same Jehovah of the Bible.” It is interesting to note that the idolaters living in Mecca suspected something must be wrong somewhere and they rejected his message. They called him a majnun, that is, “a poet possessed” (Sura 37:35-36; 68:2; 52:28).

He was also called mashur, that is, someone acting or speaking as medium of evil spirits (Sura 44:13; 25:8; 17:47; 81:22 etc). In at least 11 places, the Quran tries to defend Muhammad as not being possessed by demons. The nature of the visions and inspiration of Muhammad is the most disturbing in the history of Islam. Moshay states on page 111, “what is wrong is not the teachings, as such, but the very sources of the inspiration of the teachings. What is wrong with Islam is more than the doctrine; it is the inspirer of the basic doctrine; it is the very god whose spirit possessed Muhammad that has the big question mark.” Moshay further states on page 112, “the devil has always been busy roaming about seeking for whom he may use to oppose the Gospel of Christ in a particular time of history. It seems he saw in Muhammad all he needed in order to exterminate Christianity, which at that time had become weak.

- 5. That Muhammad was a holy prophet.** Jesus Christ has given us a high moral example to follow. But when you turn to the example of Muhammad, you do not find a high moral example; you find him involved in many acts which must be deemed as immoral and unjust. Muhammad killed and robbed people in the name of Allah according to the Quran. He frequently used violence and the sword to force people to give up their idols and accept Islam. Even recently in Ambon there were hundreds of Christians forcefully circumcised and forced to become Muslims or face death. Muhammad taught his disciples by example, command and precept that they could and should kill and rob in Allah’s name and force people to submit to Islam.

Jesus taught not to take any man’s wife to be his wife. But Muhammad did. This is one of the most distressing aspects of Muhammad’s life. Muhammad’s adoptive son, Zaid had married a beautiful young woman with whom he was deeply in love. Then one day, according to early Muslim traditions, Muhammad saw Zaid’s wife without her veil. Her beauty was such that he lusted after her. He asked Zaid to divorce his wife and to give her to him. Zaid and his wife refused such an outrageous request. So Muhammad had a convenient revelation from Allah, which not only commanded Zaid to give up his wife to Muhammad but also decreed that there was no evil in a father-in-law taking his daughter-in-law away from his adopted son! (Sura 33:36-38)

Jesus was never a child molester or someone who was sexually involved with young children. But this is the only description that one can give of Muhammad's marriage to a six-year girl who was still playing with her dolls according to the Hadith. The Quran makes taking more than four wives a sin. (Sura 4:3)

Moslem scholar and statesman Ali Dashti gives the following list of women:

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| 1. Khadija | 12. Hend |
| 2. Sawda | 13. Asma (of Saba) |
| 3. Aisha | 14. Zaynab (of Khozayma) |
| 4. Omn Salama | 15. Habla |
| 5. Hafsa | 16. Asma (of Noman) |
| 6. Zaynab (of Jash) | 17. Mary (the Christian) |
| 7. Jowayriya | 18. Rayhana |
| 8. Omn Habiba | 19. Omn Sharik |
| 9. Saiya | 20. Maymuma |
| 10. Myamuna (of Hareth) | 21. Zaynab (a third one) |
| 11. Fatema | 22. Khawla |

The first 16 were wives. Numbers 17 and 18 were slaves or concubines. The last four were neither wives of slaves but devout Muslim women who gave themselves to satisfy Muhammad's sexual desires. The footnotes in the Hadith point out that Aisha was only six years old when Muhammad married her! He consummated the marriage when she only nine years old. Mary, the Coptic Christian, refused to marry Muhammad because she would not renounce Christianity and embrace Islam. She bravely chose to remain a slave rather than convert. (information about Muhammad's wives is taken from pages 84-87, "The Islamic Invasion" by Robert Morey).

- 6. That Islam and Christianity are both ways of God to heaven.** This is a very popular belief in Indonesia and is proclaimed by most government officials at all levels in political speeches and statements. This is actually the main reason that most Christians are not actively and aggressively evangelizing their Muslim friends and neighbors. It matters little what people think or believe. **The important question is, What does God say about this belief?**

God loves the Muslim and Christian equally for He is no respecter of persons. God has provided the same Way of Salvation for the Muslim and He has for the Christian. The Bible clearly teaches that "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12). Jesus Himself said, "I am the Way, the truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6).

The Bible further states "there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men." This includes the Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Shintoists, all men and women, boys and girls. No one is excluded from God's Way of Salvation. In fact God wants none to perish but every to come to repentance.

It pleases God to save all people everywhere. "This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth."
(1 Timothy 2:5)

We allow God to speak and explain His Plan of Salvation. This is sufficient!

"Praise be to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with
every spiritual blessing in Christ.
For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world
to be holy and blameless in His sight.
In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons
through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will –
To the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given
to us in the one He loves. In Him we have redemption through
His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches
of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and
understanding. And He made known unto us the mystery of His will
according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put
into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment - to bring
all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ."
Ephesians 1:3-10

The Challenge of Islam to a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is a daily prayer life for their salvation. This is followed by an active and aggressive plan to reach the Muslims in the neighborhood with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The most effective way is offering friendship, love and concern to Muslim friends and neighbors. They can be reached and won to Christ. May God help us in this responsibility.