

Islam 101

Presented by

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INTRODUCTION

- Islam-means peace
- Peace and submission to the will of Allah (God)
- Is complete way of life
- Basic creed - There is no god worthy of worship except Allah; Mohammad (Peace be upon him) is the messenger of Allah.

GROWTH

- Fastest growing religion in the world
- 2 Billion (1 in 3); *In 1900 it was 1 in 6*
- Largest Muslim country - Indonesia
- Arabs - 18% of Muslim population

Belief system in Islam (Imaan)

- One God (Allah)
- His Prophets
- His books e.g. Quran, Torah, Bible, Psalm
- His Angels e.g. Gabriel
- Day of Judgement
- Destiny (life after death)

Prophet Mohammad

- Last and final Prophet of Allah
- Born in 570 A.D. in Mecca, Saudi Arabia
- Became Prophet at the age of 40
- In 623 A.D. due to persecution he migrated to Medina, Saudi Arabia.
- Died in 632 A.D. at age of 63
- His life (Seerah) and saying (Hadith) are second most important source of Islamic law in Islam.

Facts about Quran

- Revealed to Prophet Mohammed (PBOH) through Angel Gabriel over 23 year period.
- The final word of God - completely unchanged.
- 6000 verses and 114 chapters
- Addresses 3 main concepts
 - 1. Unity of God (Tawhid)
 - 2. Prophethood (Risalah)
 - 3. Day of Judgement (Akhirah)
- Over 1000 verses contain scientific facts
- Source of Islamic law in some Muslim countries

Pillars of Islam

- Testimony of Faith (Shahadah) - witnessing that there is no god but one God.
- Prayer - Five obligatory prayers per day
- Charity - obligatory - 2.5% of saving
- Fasting - during month of Ramadan
- Hajj - Pilgrimage to Mecca once in a lifetime

Jihad

- Means struggle
- The 3 objectives
 1. Struggling within oneself for a life of virtue
 2. Fighting against injustice
 3. Defending Islam where it comes under attack
- Islam abhors extremism, terrorism, fanaticism, oppression or subjugation.

Status of Women in Islam

- Right of inheritance, education, own property, engage in business & trade.
- Voting rights since advent of Islam vs. 1960's in USA
- Scarf – a sign of modesty, dignity & pride not subjugation.
- Most respected women – forecasted to be dweller of Paradise by Prophet Mohammad.
- Mary – Mother of Jesus
- Aasya – wife of Pharaoh
- Khadijah – 1st wife of the Prophet Mohammad
- Fatima – Youngest daughter of the prophet.
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Status of Jesus in Islam

- A Prophet of Allah
- Miraculous birth - description
- Miracles performed
 - Breathe life into dead bird
 - Healing of leper
 - Dead to come alive
- He was not crucified; Ascension; his return

. Quotation from Quran about Prophet Jesus.

- Jesus spoke when he was a few days old
- “I am indeed a servant of Allah. He has given me the Book and made me a Prophet. He has made me blessed wherever I may be. He has commanded me to establish Prayer and give obligatory charity as long as I live. He has exhorted me to honor my mother and has not made me domineering, hard to deal with. Peace be upon me the day I was born, the day I shall die and the day I shall be raised to life again.”
Chapter Maryam 19, verses 29-34.

. Building bridges between Islam, Judaism and Christianity

- All 3 religions are Monotheistic
- Prophet Abraham Patriarch of all 3 religions
- Belief in books revealed by Allah
- Belief in Day of Judgment and life after death
- Prayer, charity, peace with justice, cooperation, compassion, family relations and tolerance to other faith
- We are all cousins

Islam in America – History

- Muslims visited North America in 1178 AD
- Mali Muslims explored US via Mississippi route in 1312 AD
- Columbus – several Muslim crew members 1492 AD
- 18% of all slaves brought from West Africa were Muslim e.g. Kunta Kinte
- Major influx 1960's
- Ref: Silent no more by Paul Findley.

Islam in America – population

- 1997 – 7 million
- At Present - 10 million
 - 25% African-American
 - 31% South Asian
 - 26% Arab's Middle East
 - 19% Others – East Asia, non-Arabs, new Muslims
- Ref:CIA fact book on Muslims

Islam in America – location

- Muslims are mostly professionals e.g. Doctors, Engineers, etc.
 - Concentrated in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Texas, California, Florida
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|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| East 32% | Midwest 24% (Central Great Lakes) |
| South 24% | West 18% |

Islamic American - Growth

- First Mosque built by immigrant Muslims was in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1934.
- One Mosque or Islamic center built every week in USA according to Islamic horizon.
- Mosque/Islamic center 4000+
Islamic Schools 165
Registered Associations 426

Islam – Conclusion

- Islam is not only a religion but a complete way of life
- Fastest growing religion in USA
- Need more effort towards awareness about it in media
- Misunderstandings about Islam continue to exist.