

Basic Beliefs & Practice of Islam

A Biblical Perspective

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Intro

Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Hebrews: 1:1-2

- Muhammad: the prophet of Islam
- Islamic vocabulary

The main Sources

1. **The Qur'an (Koran)**
 - Its teaching: *Tawhid* _____ *Risala* _____, *Akhira* the hereafter
 - Muhammad - the final prophet & Islam - the only acceptable faith.
2. **The Traditions of Islam – (Sunna, Ahadith)**

Islam as a belief system

A. **FAITH: Iman: Articles of faith are to believe in:**

God, His angels, His books, His messengers, the Last Day, and the divine decree of good and evil.

1. **God:**

His Names: Allah is the name of His being.

His nature: God is One. *Tawhid* is the greatest word in Islam.

He has revealed himself 'through Scriptures' only

It is not the revelation of a Father by a Son, but of a Lord to and through a servant.

2. **Angels:**

4 prominent angels:

1. Gibrail's brought revelation to the prophets (Sura 2:97-98).
 2. Mika'il in-charge of sustenance to all living beings (rain, sun, crops etc).
 3. Israfil will blow the trumpet on the Day of Judgement.
 4. Izrael angel of death, *Malakul Mawt*
- Angelic activities according to the Qur'an: (Sura 50:17-18; 8:50; 40:7; 74:31; 35:1; 39:75; 69:17).

Belief in Satan and Jinn

1. Satan is one of the Jinn (Sura 18:50), but elsewhere he seems to be one of the angels (Sura 2:31-34).
2. Like humans Jinn eat and drink and have families.
3. Muhammad preached to them (Sura 72:1-2, 11-15) and some became Muslims.

3. **Books**

1. 104 books were given. 100 are lost. The other four are *Torah, Zabur, Injil* and the *Qur'an*.
2. Around 120 passages in the Qur'an referring to the Torah and Injil.

4. Prophets:

From Adam to Muhammad – 124 thousand prophets
Some special with books and others without

5. The last day:

Many names: *Al-Yum, Qayama, Sa'a, Hisab, . . .*,

6. Belief in Predestination

Generally, a Muslim believes in an absolute decree of good and evil.

B. **PRACTICE: *Din***, Known as the five pillars of Islam.

1. Shahada: Declaration of faith by recital of the Creed

There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His Apostle:

2. Salah (Salat): Five compulsory prayers

Daily duty; performed individually or in congregation at a mosque during five specific times.

3. Zaka (Zakat): welfare contribution or almsgiving

Annual 2.5% of accumulated wealth and assets.
Khums: 5th of assets.

4. Sawm (Fasting)

30 days of fasting during the month of *Ramadan* (Qur'an 2:183).

Abstention from food, drink and sexual activities from *dawn to dusk*. Celebration of a feast '*Eid al-fitr*'

5. Hajj (Pilgrimage)

Every adult Muslim to perform *subject to certain conditions*, once in a lifetime.

Celebration of a feast '*Eid al-Adha*'

An MBB's perspective of the Islamic Belief and Practice:

To observe these pillars in private or public there is the demand of strenuous effort of the heart, tongue, and the sword – thus Jihad.

A Christian Jihad – Ephesians 6

Question to ponder: *In what ways are the pillars of Islam different or similar to Christian teachings?* (Some starting points: John 4:21-24; 17:3; 1Tim. 2:5-6; Matt. 6:1-17, 34).