

Video Transcript: Why Islam is a False Religion

1.

Islam is the second largest, and arguably the fastest growing, religion in the world. Some Muslims claim that Islam is a peaceful religion, while others use it to justify extreme acts of violence. So what is the truth about Islam?

In this series of four videos, I show that Islam is a false religion founded on violence, oppression and coercion.

2.

The word *Islam* did not originally mean “submission” as many people have supposed.

Instead, it described a warrior-like quality of heroism, defiance and bravery in battle. The Middle-East scholar, Dr. M. Bravmann, in *The Spiritual Background of Early Islam*, wrote:

[Islam was originally] a secular concept, denoting a sublime virtue in the eyes of the primitive Arab; defiance of death, heroism; to die in battle – Dr. M. Bravmann.

Islam was founded by Muhammad in the early part of the seventh century, and the teachings of Muhammad are compiled in the Muslims’ sacred book called the Quran.

3.

The word *Quran* means “sacred readings” and every devote Muslim believes that the Quran is the verbatim word of Allah, the Islamic equivalent of God.

Muslims believe that the Quran must not be subjected to any form of question or criticism.

Beside the Quran Muslims believe the Hadith (a book of traditions about Muhammad) and Sunna (a collection of Muhammad’s teachings).

These are accepted with respect but they are not equal to the Quran.

4.

The central teachings of Islam are the Five Pillars:

1. Confession that, “There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.”
2. Praying five times daily facing Mecca.
3. Giving alms to the poor.
4. Fasting during the month of Ramadan.
5. One pilgrimage to Mecca during a lifetime, if possible.

5.

Islam is essentially a Judeo-Christian heresy.

Muhammad taught an apostolic succession of prophets who came with parts of Allah’s revelation – Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Christ – but he was the final prophet, the Seal of Prophecy, to confirm and seal all previous revelation before the Day of Judgment.

Muhammad admitted that Christ was sinless, born of a virgin, and performed miracles, and was the greatest prophet before his own appearance.

But he rejected the crucifixion and the resurrection of Christ. As noted by Bishop Christopher Storrs:

Muhammad would not even grant that the crucifixion was historical; for if God had thus failed one faithful prophet, might he not fail his final prophet? – Christopher Storrs.

6.

Muhammad initially tried to encourage Christians and Jews to follow him, but was rejected by both.

He first commanded his followers to pray like Daniel, the Old Testament prophet, facing Jerusalem. But when the Jews and the Christians did not accept his message, he directed them to face Mecca.

Muhammad never claimed to be divine, nor performed any miracles to verify his claims. He admitted that he was a sinner and even expressed that he needed help by asking his followers to pray for him. Bishop Storrs noted:

Muhammad indeed confessed to be a human prophet, sinful, and on occasions fallible; but his revelations were infallible – Christopher Storrs.

7.

Western scholarship over the last century has shown that the teachings of Muhammad and the Quran are derived from pre-Islamic custom, culture and religion.

Pre-Islamic Arabia was greatly influenced by foreign religions because of the extensive trade routes (both land and sea) between the Arabian Peninsula and the continents of Africa, Asia and Europe.

It is no surprise, therefore, that the Quran contains remnants of religious influences that can ultimately be traced back to the ancient religions of Persia, India, China, Greece and Egypt.

Many Jews, also, had settled in Arabia by the time of Muhammad, bringing with them stories from the Old Testament and other Hebrew writings. Early Christian influence is also noticeable, including the heretical teachings of the Gnostics.

8.

Muhammad used considerable legendary and fanciful material as sources for the Quran. As noted by Professor Jomier, one of France's greatest Middle-East scholars:

Moslems receive these narratives as the word of God, without enquiring about their historical background. In fact we have there a popular, poetic form of legends, variants of religious themes known from other sources – Professor Jomier.

The Quran also contains many stories that come from the Jewish Talmud, the Midrash, and a number of other apocryphal works.

It also contains stories based on heretical Christian Gnostic teachings. For example, in Sura 3:49, the baby Jesus speaks from the cradle!

9.

In pre-Islamic culture, inter-tribal fighting and vengeance were common and accepted practice, as were slavery and the kidnapping of women for harems.

The harsh Arabian culture of Muhammad's day was one in which violence was the norm. Dr. William Montgomery Watt of Edinburgh University noted:

It should be emphasized that the Arabs did not regard killing a person as in itself wrong. It was wrong if the person was a member of your kin-group or an allied group; and in Islam this meant the killing of any believer. Out of fear of retaliation one did not kill a member of a strong tribe. In other cases, however, there was no reason for not killing – Dr. William Montgomery Watt.

10.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Islam not only condones violence, but actually commands it in certain instances. In the Quran, Muslims are told:

Fight and slay the [unbelievers] wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem of war (Sura 9:5).

They are also commanded as to how to treat those who resist Islam:

Their punishment is ... execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from the land (Sura 5:33).

These commands are the complete opposite of those taught by Christ. For example, Jesus commanded his disciples, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be the sons of your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:44-45).

11.

The Quran also supports the abuse of women. The Muslim scholar and statesman Ali Dashti noted:

In pre-Islamic Arab society, the women did not have the status of independent persons, but were considered to be possessions of the men. All sorts of inhumane treatment of the women were permissible and customary – Ali Dashti.

The Quran states that:

Men are the managers of the affairs of women. ... Those you fear may be rebellious – admonish; banish them to their couches and beat them (Sura 4:34).

In accordance with strict Islam, women can be kept prisoners in their own home, being denied the right to go outside the house by their husbands or fathers.

12.

While the Quran does not require women to cover their faces with a veil, or to cover their bodies with the burqua, nevertheless, it is required by law or custom in many Muslim countries.

What was once a practical dress worn by nomadic tribes women in the Arabian desert as protection from the sun and sand has now become a requirement of modern Islam.

Compare this treatment of women with the command of the apostle Paul that men and women are to "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21).

He also taught that, as Christians, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

13.

The religious ideas and rites found in Islam and the Quran can be traced back to the influences of pre-Islamic culture, custom and religion.

This shows that Muhammad was the true author of the Quran and Islam, and repudiates the Muslim's claim of continuity of divine revelation from the Judeo-Christian Scriptures to the Quran.

Islam is a religion of violence, oppression and coercion. It offers no solution to the problems of life, but instead makes life all the more difficult for everyone in the world.

There is nothing about Islam to recommend it, and no reasonable basis for accepting it as God's truth.