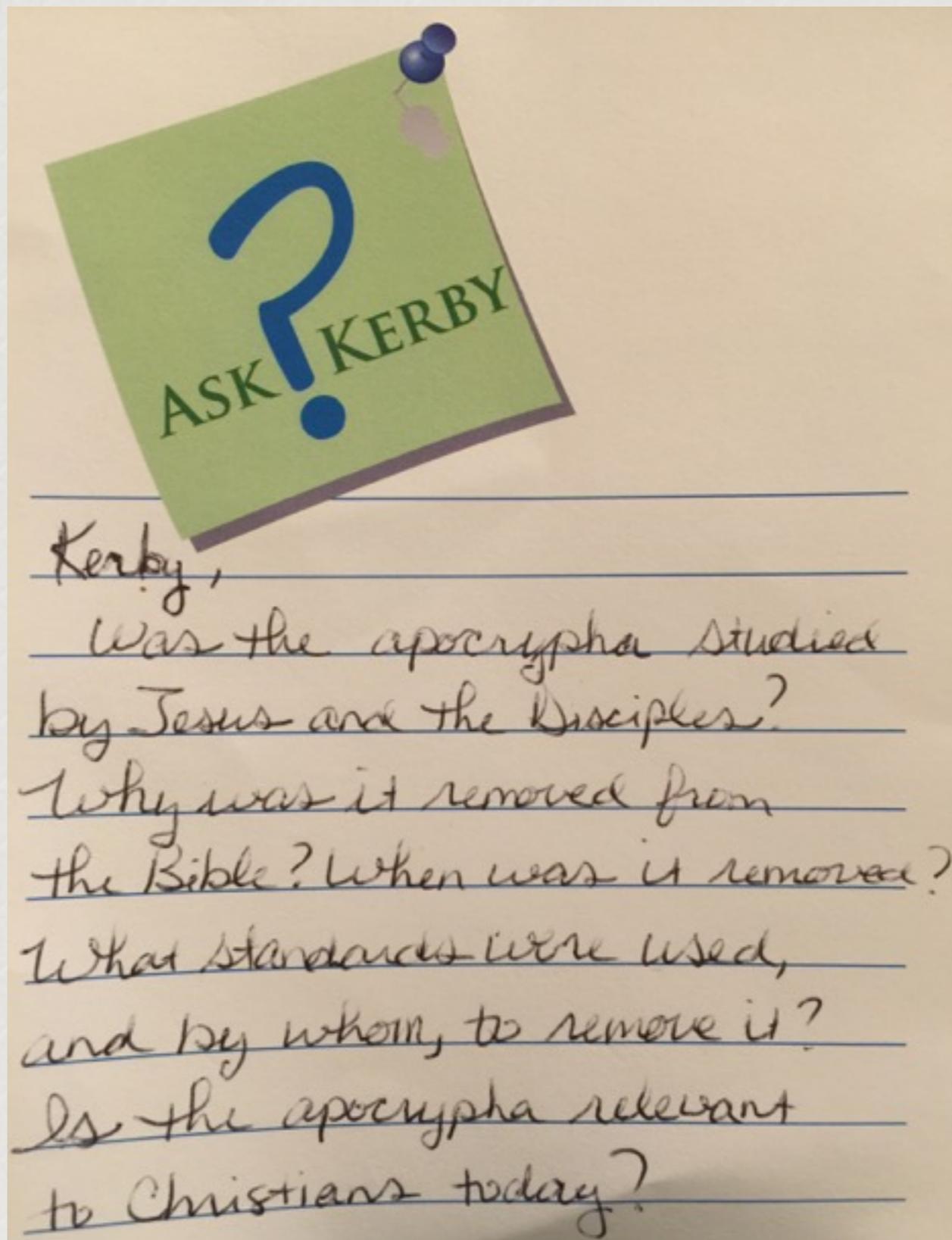


Questions About Religion



Kerby,

Was the apocrypha studied
by Jesus and the Disciples?

Why was it removed from
the Bible? When was it removed?

What standards were used,
and by whom, to remove it?

Is the apocrypha relevant
to Christians today?

Apocrypha

- *The apocryphal books were written between 250 B.C. and the time of Christ.*
- *They include such books as: Maccabees, Wisdom of Solomon, Esdras, Tobit, etc.*
- *These books were written not in Hebrew but in Greek, during the “period of silence.”*

Catholic Church

- *Roman Catholicism recognizes these fifteen books as authoritative in addition to the sixty-six books of Scripture.*
- *The Council of Trent in 1546 officially decreed the authority of tradition as well as Scripture.*

Jewish Canon

- *The Jewish OT canon consisted of twenty-four books that match the thirty-nine books of the Jewish and Protestant Bibles of today.*
- *The Jewish historian Josephus lists twenty-two books (Ruth appended to Judges and Lamentations to Jeremiah).*

Testimony of Jesus

- *Jesus never quotes from the Apocrypha.*
- *But Jesus does quote from nearly every one of the twenty-four Old Testament books.*
- *Jesus places the limits of inspired history from the martyrs Abel to Zechariah (Matthew 23:35).*

New Testament Writers

- *No New Testament writer ever quotes from the Apocrypha.*
- *The writers do allude to and even cite pagan poets whose books were not considered inspired Scripture (see Acts 17:28).*

Other History

- *Jerome (Latin Vulgate) rejected the Apocrypha.*
- *Council of Jamnia (AD 90) discussed Esther and Song of Solomon but not the Apocrypha.*
- *2 Macabess 12:45-46 - “prayer for the dead” so that “they may be loosed from sins.”*

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

OLD TESTAMENT										NEW TESTAMENT									
96 1533	40 1213	27 858	36 1268	34 958						28 1371	16 678	24 1181	21 879						
Gn	Ex	Lv	Nu	Dt						Mt	Mk	Lk	Jn						
Moses	Moses	Moses	Moses	Moses/Joshua						Matthew	Mark	Luke	John						
24 898	21 818	4 85	31 810	24 895	22 816	25 778										28 1007	21 879		
Js	Ju	Ru	Sa ¹	Sa ²	Ki ¹	Ki ²										Ac	21 879		
Joshua	Samuel	Samuel	Samuel	Nathan/Gad	Jeremiah	Jeremiah										Luke	21 879		
29 942	38 827	10 280	13 408	10 187						16 433	16 437	13 257	6 148	6 155	4 104				
Ch ¹	Ch ²	Ez	Ne	Es						Ro	Co ¹	Co ²	Ga	Ep	Pp				
Ezra	Ezra	Ezra	Ezra	Mordecai Ezra/Hehemiah						Paul	Paul	Paul	Paul	Paul	Paul				
42 1070	150 3481	31 915	12 220	8 117						4 95	5 99	3 47	6 113	4 83	3 46	1 25			
Jb	Ps	Pr	Ec	So						Cl	Th ¹	Th ²	Ti ¹	Ti ²	Tt	Pm			
Job/Elihu Moses/Solomon	David/Various	Solomon	Solomon	Solomon						Paul	Paul	Paul	Paul	Paul	Paul	Paul			
66 1282	52 1364	5 154	48 1273	12 357						13 303	5 138	5 106	3 81	5 106	1 13	1 14	1 25		
Is	Je	La	Ek	Da						Hb	Ja	Pe ¹	Pe ²	Jn ¹	Jn ²	Jn ³	Ju		
Isaiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Ezekiel	Daniel						Paul/Apollos Barnabas/Luke	James	Peter	Peter	John	John	John	Jude		
14 187	3 73	9 146	1 21	4 48	7 105	3 47	3 56	3 53	2 38	14 211	4 55				22 404	90-95			
Ho	Jl	Am	Ob	Jh	Mi	Na	Hk	Zp	Ha	Zc	MI				Re	90-95			
Hosea	Joel	Amos	Obadiah	Jonah	Micah	Nahum	Habakkuk	Zephaniah	Haggai	Zechariah	Malachi				John	90-95			

Chapter Date of

ALL BOOKS COMPLETED

Archaeology

“Archeological work has unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of the scriptural record. More than one archaeologist has found his respect for the Bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine.”

Millar Burrows



Archaeology

“It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible.”

Nelson Glueck



Dead Sea Scrolls

- *Dead Sea scrolls discovered in 1949 (200 BC - AD 100).*
- *The oldest Old Testament manuscripts we had before the Dead Sea scrolls was dated to be AD 900.*



Dead Sea Scrolls

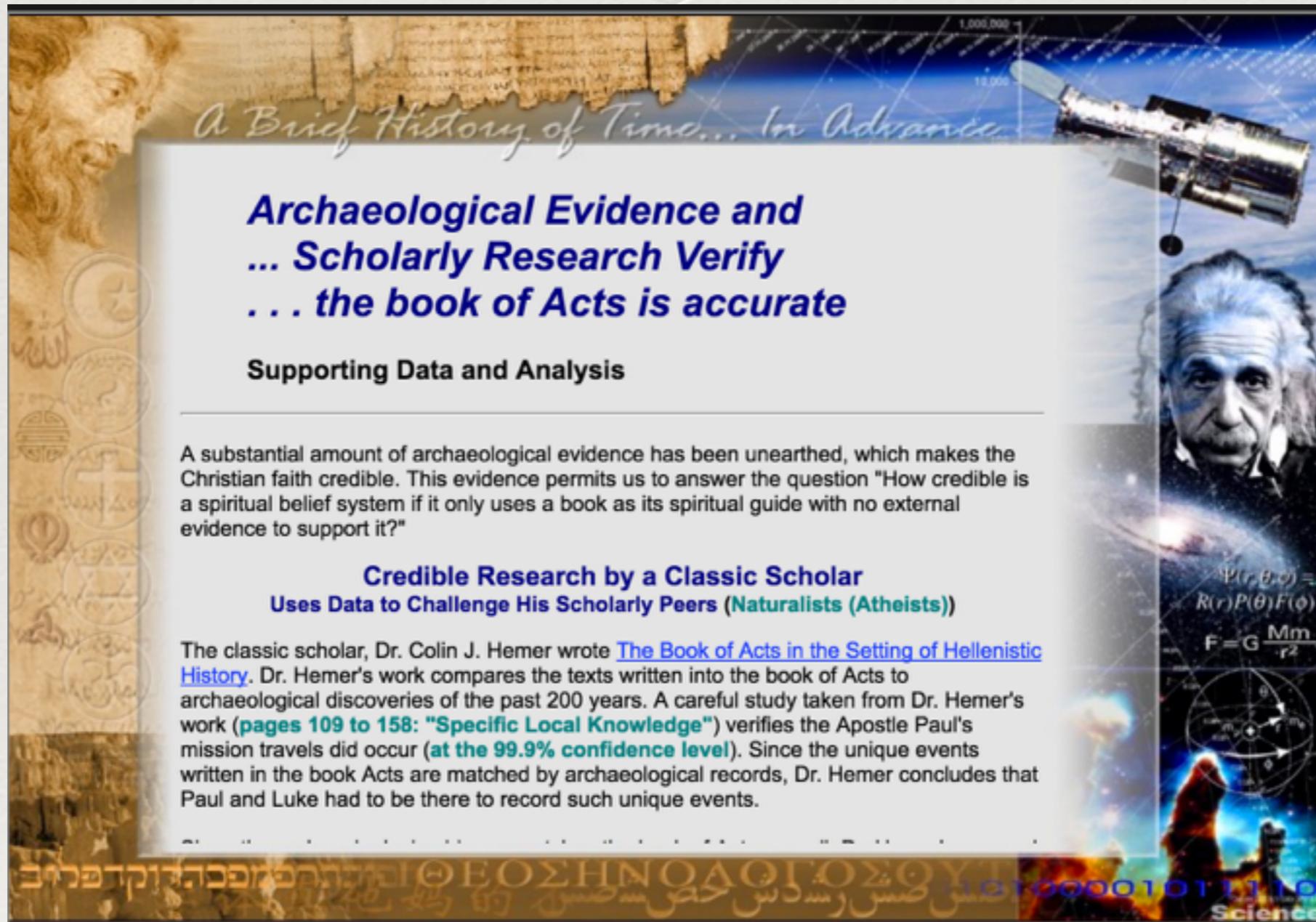
“There can be no reasonable doubt that the Qumran manuscripts came from the century before Christ and the first century A.D. Thus, they are one thousand years older than the Masoretic manuscripts of the tenth century.”



Dead Sea Scrolls



NT Archaeology



A Brief History of Time... In Advance

Archaeological Evidence and ... Scholarly Research Verify ... the book of Acts is accurate

Supporting Data and Analysis

A substantial amount of archaeological evidence has been unearthed, which makes the Christian faith credible. This evidence permits us to answer the question "How credible is a spiritual belief system if it only uses a book as its spiritual guide with no external evidence to support it?"

Credible Research by a Classic Scholar Uses Data to Challenge His Scholarly Peers (Naturalists (Atheists))

The classic scholar, Dr. Colin J. Hemer wrote [The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History](#). Dr. Hemer's work compares the texts written into the book of Acts to archaeological discoveries of the past 200 years. A careful study taken from Dr. Hemer's work (**pages 109 to 158: "Specific Local Knowledge"**) verifies the Apostle Paul's mission travels did occur (**at the 99.9% confidence level**). Since the unique events written in the book Acts are matched by archaeological records, Dr. Hemer concludes that Paul and Luke had to be there to record such unique events.

... ..

Science

Luke - New Testament

- *Classical scholar and historian Colin Hemer chronicles Luke's accuracy in the book of Acts verse by verse.*
- *With painstaking detail, Hemer identifies 84 facts in the last 16 chapters of the Book of Acts that have been confirmed by historical and archaeological research.*
- *This includes nautical details, names of gods, designation of magistrates, and proper names and titles.*

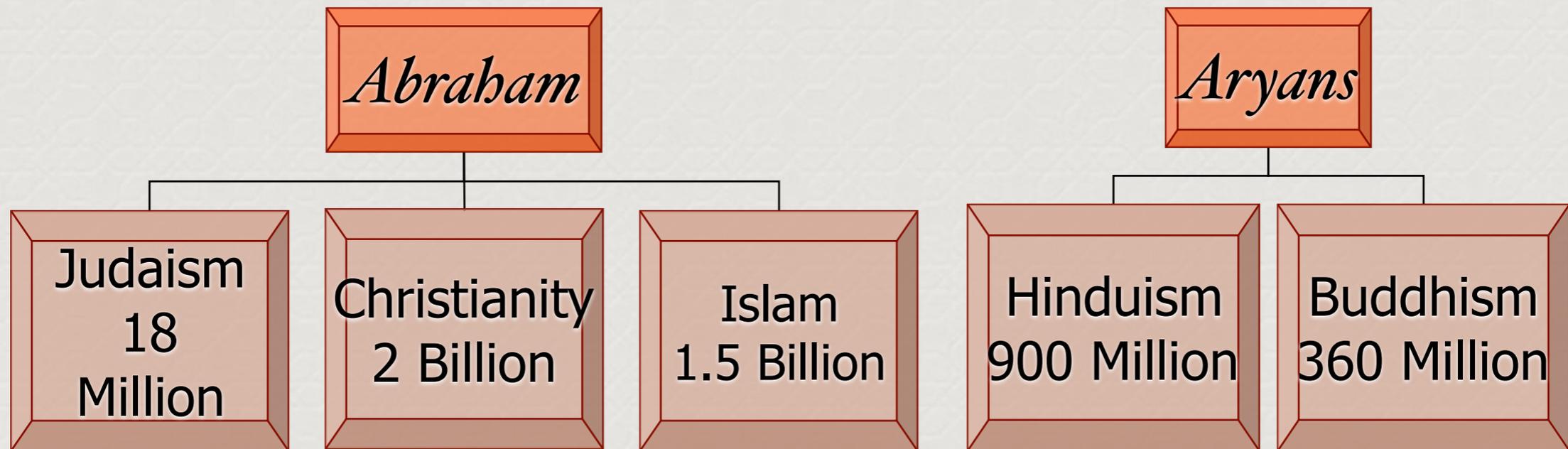
Islam



Demographics

- Worldwide - 1.5 billion Muslims (~ 25%)
 - *Middle East: 380 million*
 - *North Africa: 115 million*
 - *Indonesia, Pakistan & Bangladesh: 550 million*

World Religions

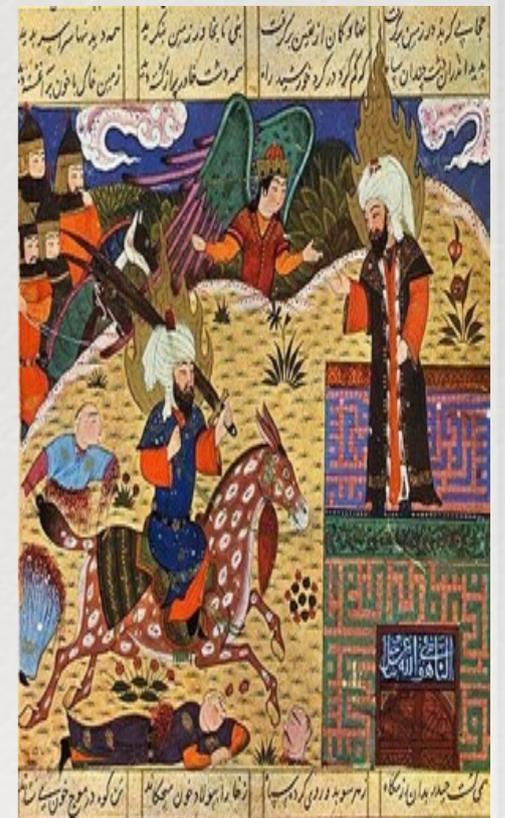




History of Islam

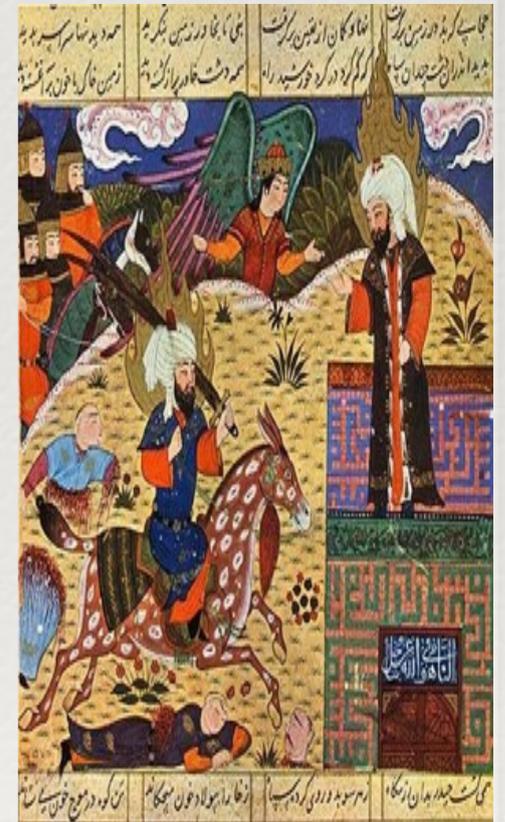
Muhammad

- *Born into a powerful Arab tribe in Mecca 570 A.D.*
- *Raised by his grandfather and later an uncle.*
- *At age 25, married a wealthy widow Khadija 15 years his senior.*
- *At age 40, Muhammad receives his calling from the angel Gabriel.*

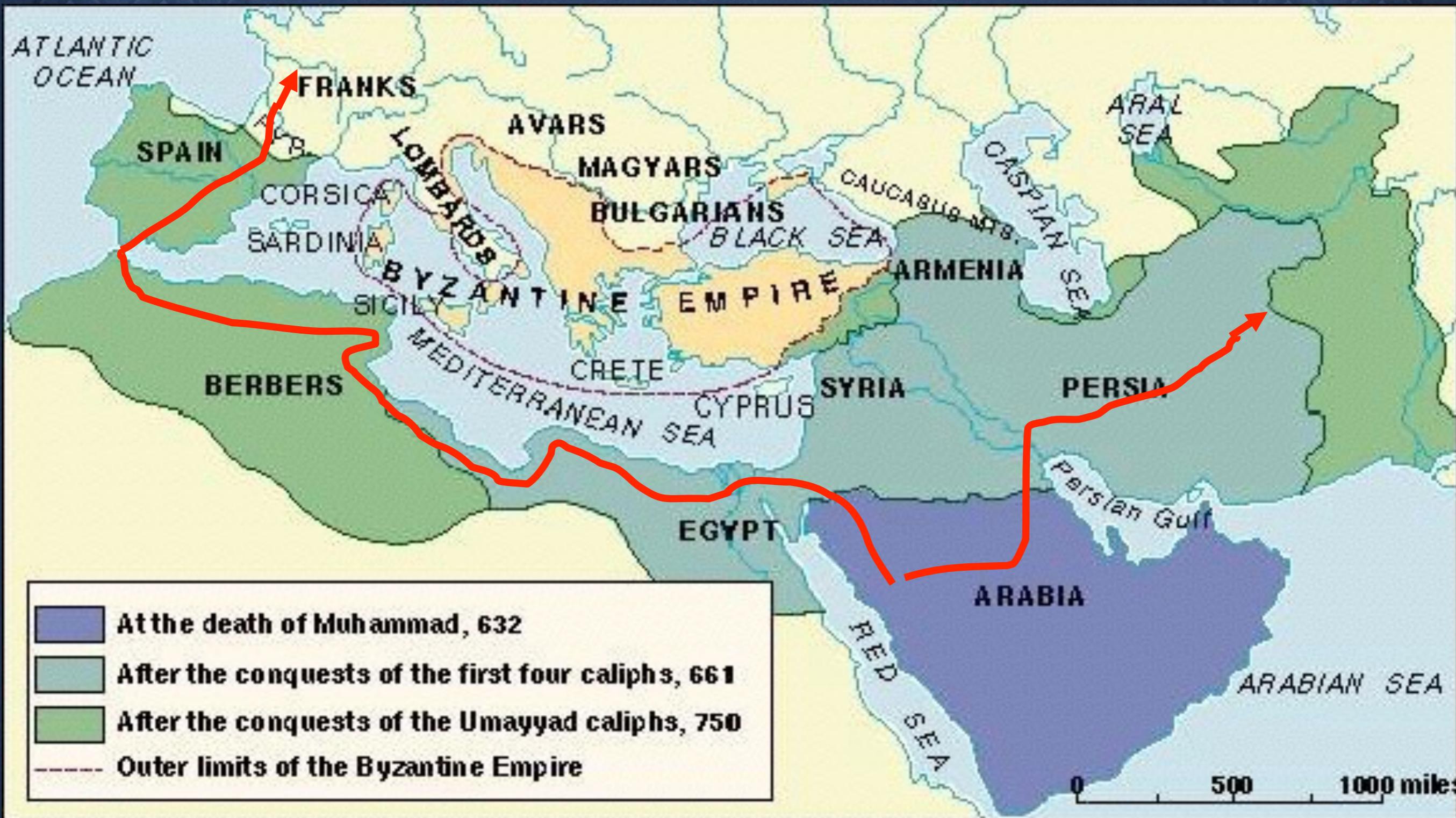


Muhammad

- *Revelations recorded & became the Qur'an ("recitation").*
- *After being rejected for his preaching in Mecca, fled to Medina in 622.*
- *Flight known as Hijra ("migration").*
- *Led 10,000 men in taking Mecca.*
- *Died in 632.*

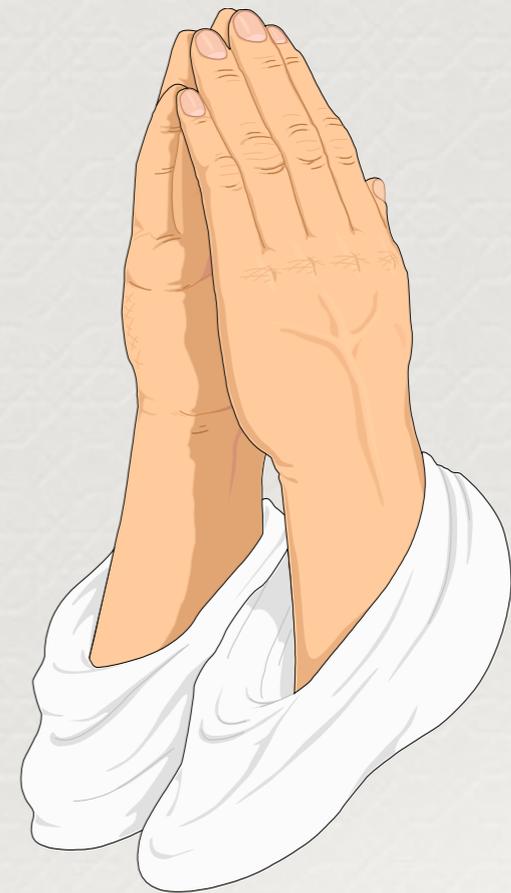


The Spread of Islam



Five Pillars of *Islam*

- *Shahada* - repetition of the creed: “There is no God but Allah, and Muhammed is His prophet.”
- *Salat* - prayers
- *Zakat* - almsgiving
- *Sawm* - fast of Ramadan
- *Hajj* - “pilgrimage” to Mecca



Pilgrimage to Mecca



The Scriptures of *Islam*

- Qur'an (*“recitation”*) - *recorded revelation given to Muhammed.*
- Hadith (*“report”*) - *traditional sayings of Muhammed.*



Sunni vs. Shiite

A decorative horizontal flourish consisting of a central diamond shape with two long, thin, curved lines extending outwards from its sides.

Major Divisions of *Islam*

- Sunnis - *The vast majority of Muslims. They are followers of the Sunna (example or practice of Muhammed).*
- Shiites - *These are “partisans” (shia) of Ali, (Muhammed’s son-in-law) - the successor must be among his descendants.*
- Sufis - *These are mystics who believe that God must be experienced directly.*

Division of Sunni and Shiite



Sunni	Shiite
<i>80% of population</i>	<i>Less than 15% of population</i>
<i>Elect successor</i>	<i>Successor was Ali, who was related to Muhammed</i>
<i>Emphasize written traditions (Sunnah, Hadith)</i>	<i>Emphasize authority of the Imam</i>
<i>Separation of civil and religious authorities</i>	<i>Religious authorities control political power</i>

History of the Split

- *There was a dispute among Muslims over the question of succession?*
- *Most of Muhammad's followers wanted the community of Muslims to determine who would succeed him.*
- *A smaller group thought Ali (married to Muhammad's daughter) should be the next leader.*

History of the Split

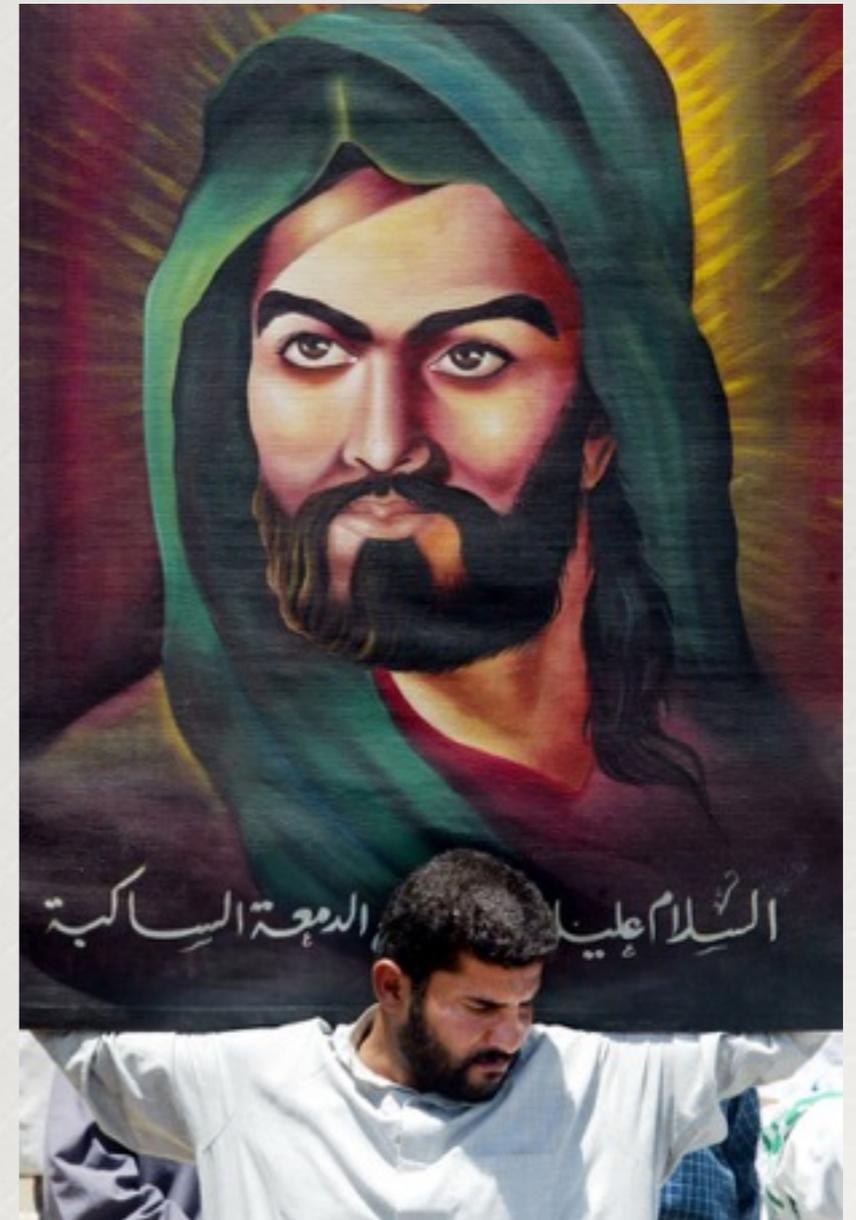
- *The Sunnis prevailed and chose a successor to be the first caliph. Eventually, Ali was chosen as the fourth caliph, but not before violent conflict broke out.*
- *Two of the earliest caliphs were murdered. War erupted when Ali became caliph, and he too was killed in fighting in A.D. 661 near the town of Kufa (present-day Iraq).*

History of the Split

- *War split the community of Muslims into two branches that would never reunite.*
- *The war continued with Hussein (Ali's son) leading the Shiites. His family and companions fought against a very large Arab army of the caliph and were all massacred.*
- *Hussein was decapitated and his head carried in tribute.*

History of the Split

- *The symbolism of Hussein's death holds much spiritual power for Shiites.*
- *This is a picture of Imam Hussein held by a Shiite Muslim during a political protest.*



12th Imam

- *In the 10th century, the 12th Shiite Imam went into hiding.*
- *They believe the Mahdi will come back at the end of time.*
- *Those who believe in the 12th Imam are known as Twelver Shiites.*
- *They are the majority of the Shiites in the world today.*

Witnessing to Muslims

A decorative flourish consisting of a horizontal line with a central diamond-shaped ornament and symmetrical scrollwork on either side.

Methods

- Show them Jesus in the Qur'an.
 - *Jesus was born of a virgin, is the Messiah, has power over death, and knows the way to heaven (Sura 3:42-55).*
 - *Jesus was sinless (Sura 19:19).*
 - *Mohammed did not know what would happen to his followers (Sura 46:9).*

Methods

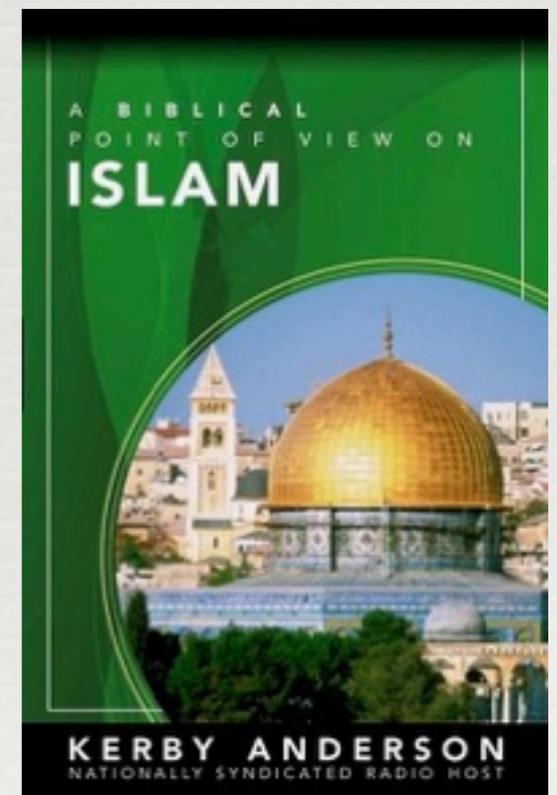
- Show them they can read the Bible.
 - Ask those who read the Scriptures that came before you (Sura 10:94).
 - One must read Old and New Testament - known as “Before Books” (Sura 4:136).
 - They are to observe the Torah and the Gospels (Sura 5:65-66).

Character of God

Allah	Yahweh
<i>Unitarian Monotheism</i>	<i>Trinitarian Monotheism</i>
<i>Master/Slave Relationship</i>	<i>Father/Son or Daughter Relationship</i>
<i>Allah determines all</i>	<i>Sovereign and Free will</i>
<i>Author of good and evil</i>	<i>Always good</i>

Christian Response

- *The fundamental issue is salvation.*
- *Bible teaches it is impossible to be accepted by God on the basis of works.*
- *Only by God's grace can we be saved, through faith.*
- *Key verse: Ephesians 2:8-9*



Sikhism



Sikhism

- *Sikhism is a religion founded in India in the 15th century.*
- *There are approximately 30 million Sikhs worldwide. Most live in Punjab, India.*
- *A key principle is that all people are equal and the rejection of discrimination based on gender, caste, family, or beliefs.*

Sikhism

- *Sikhism includes aspects of both Islam and Hinduism.*
- *Sikhism believes in one God, called the Sat Nam (True Name) or Eckankar.*
- *In addition, Sikhism adheres to the eastern religious views of karma and reincarnation.*

Sikhism

- *Social teachings of Sikhism include refraining from drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.*
- *Sikhs do not cut their hair.*



Sikh Theology

- *Sikhs worship a single God and do not believe that God could be born or die.*
- *They reject the idea of a triune God and do not believe that Jesus is God.*
- *Sikhs believe the writings of Guru Granth Sahib are inspired not the Christian Bible.*

Witnessing

- *Sikhs believe in reincarnation and follow the practices of their religious faith.*
- *We should share that Jesus is the only way to salvation (John 14:6).*
- *We should share that only by God's grace can we be saved (Ephesians 2:8-9).*

Resources

