

# Islam and Christianity



# What is Islam?

*Islam (“submission”) is the religion of all who believe that Muhammad was God’s prophet.*



# Demographics

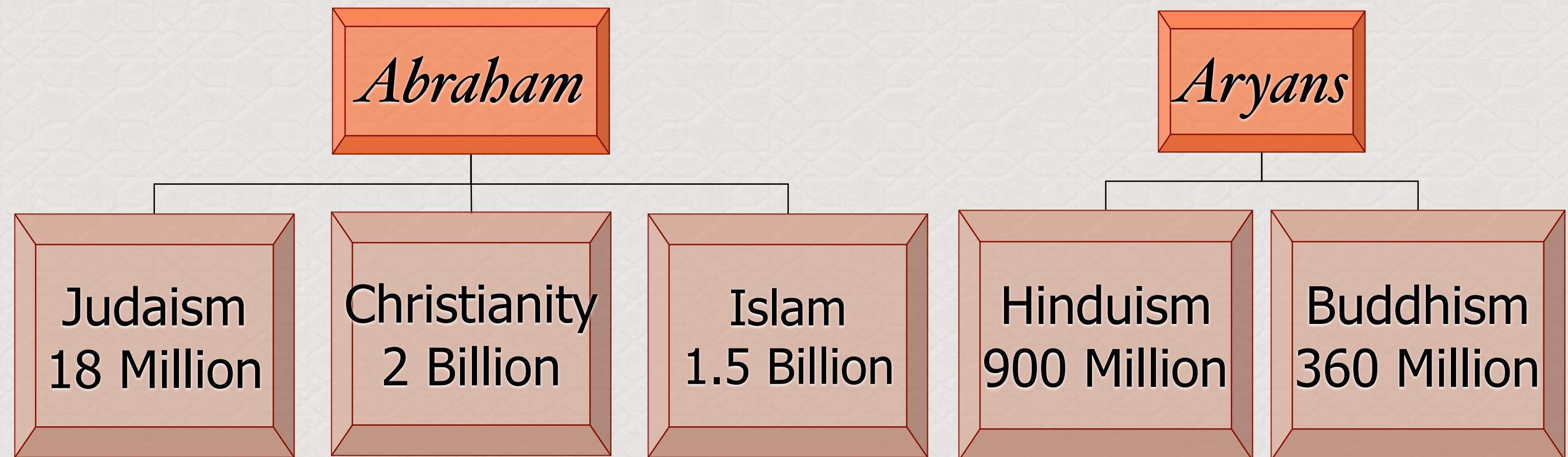
- Worldwide - 1.5 billion Muslims (- 25%)

*Middle East: 380 million*

*North Africa: 115 million*

*Indonesia, Pakistan & Bangladesh: 550 million*

# World Religions

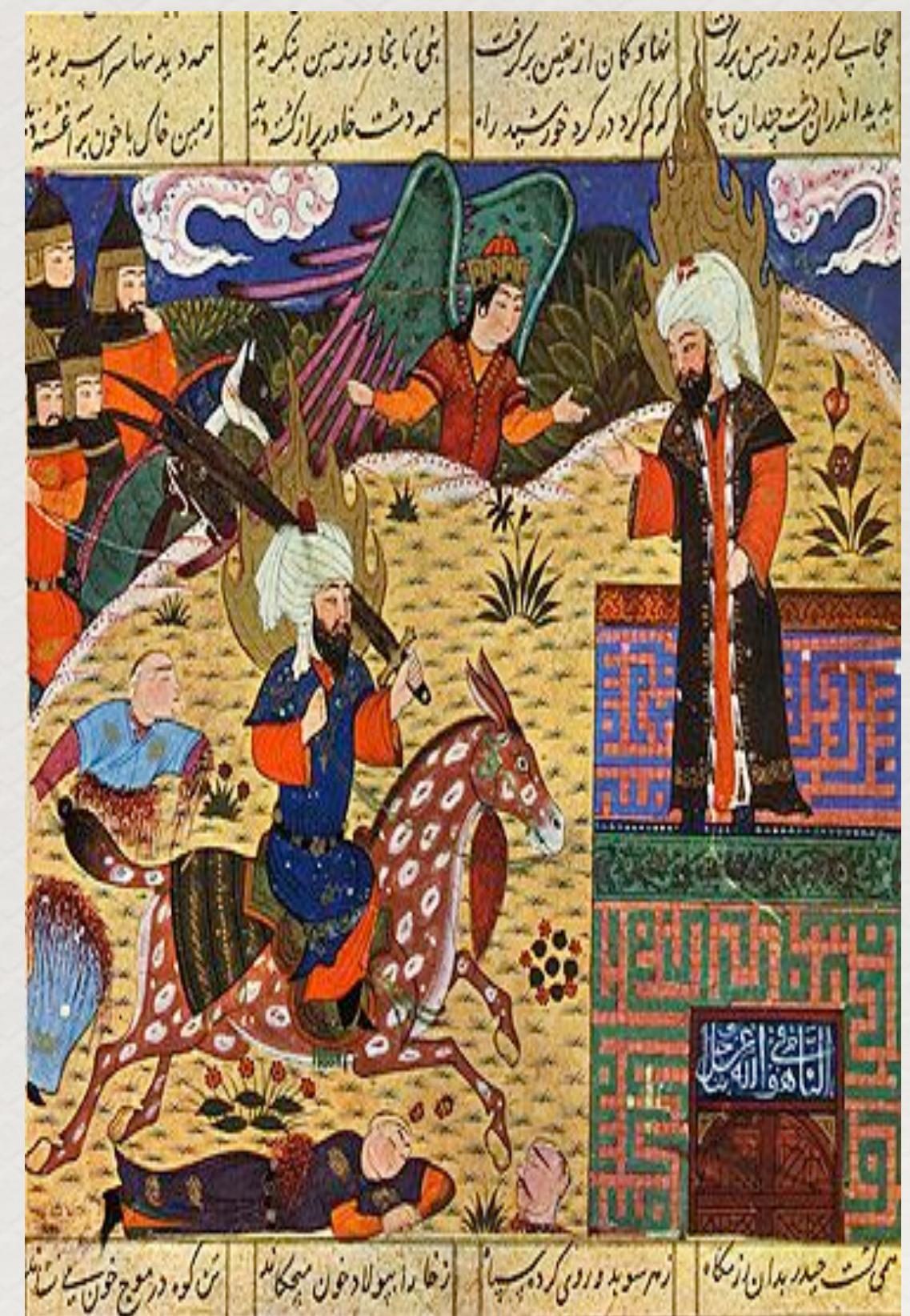




# History of Islam

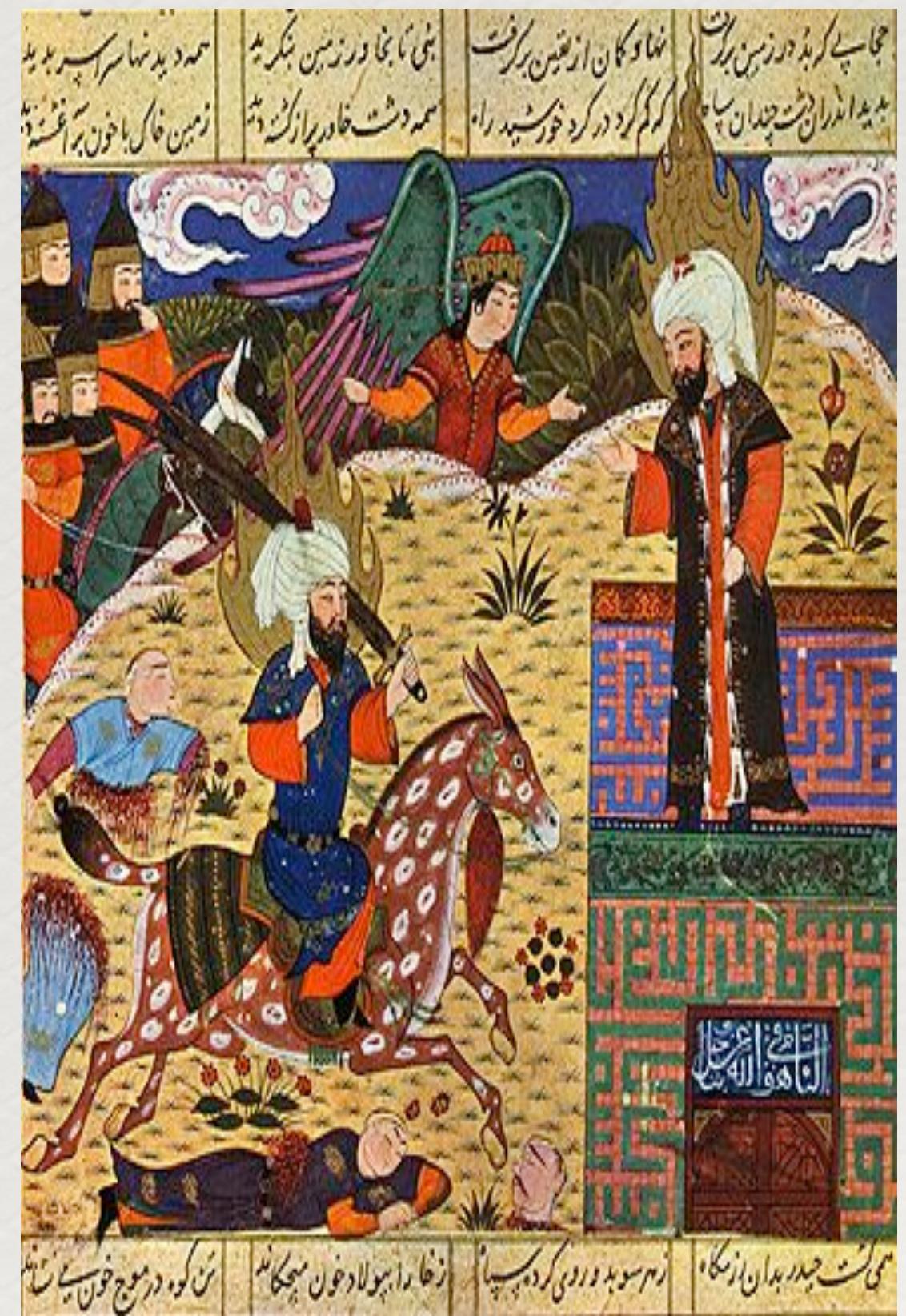
# Muhammad

- Born into a powerful Arab tribe in Mecca in 570
- 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.

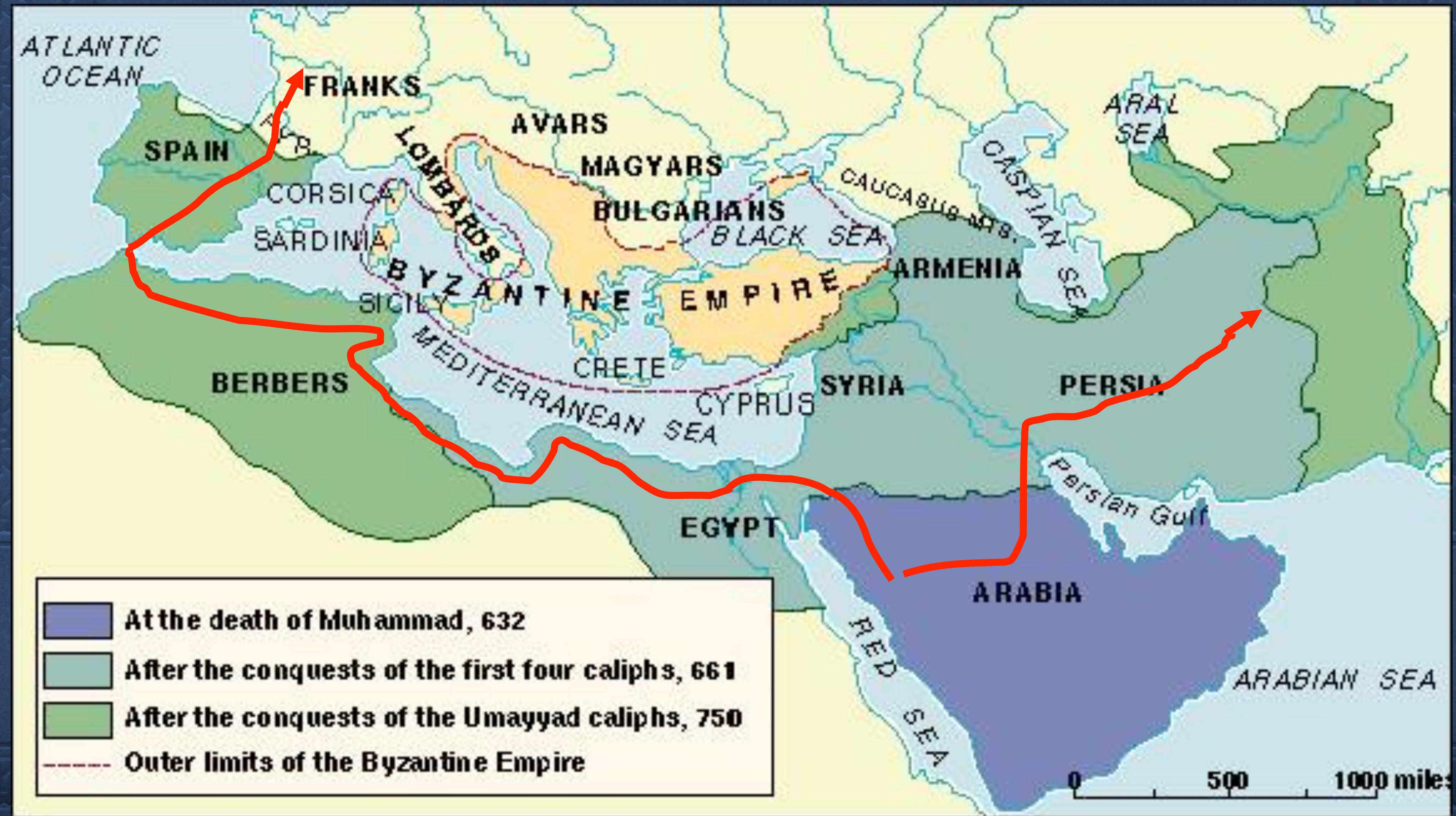


# Muhammad

- *Revelations recorded & became the Qur'an.*
- *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

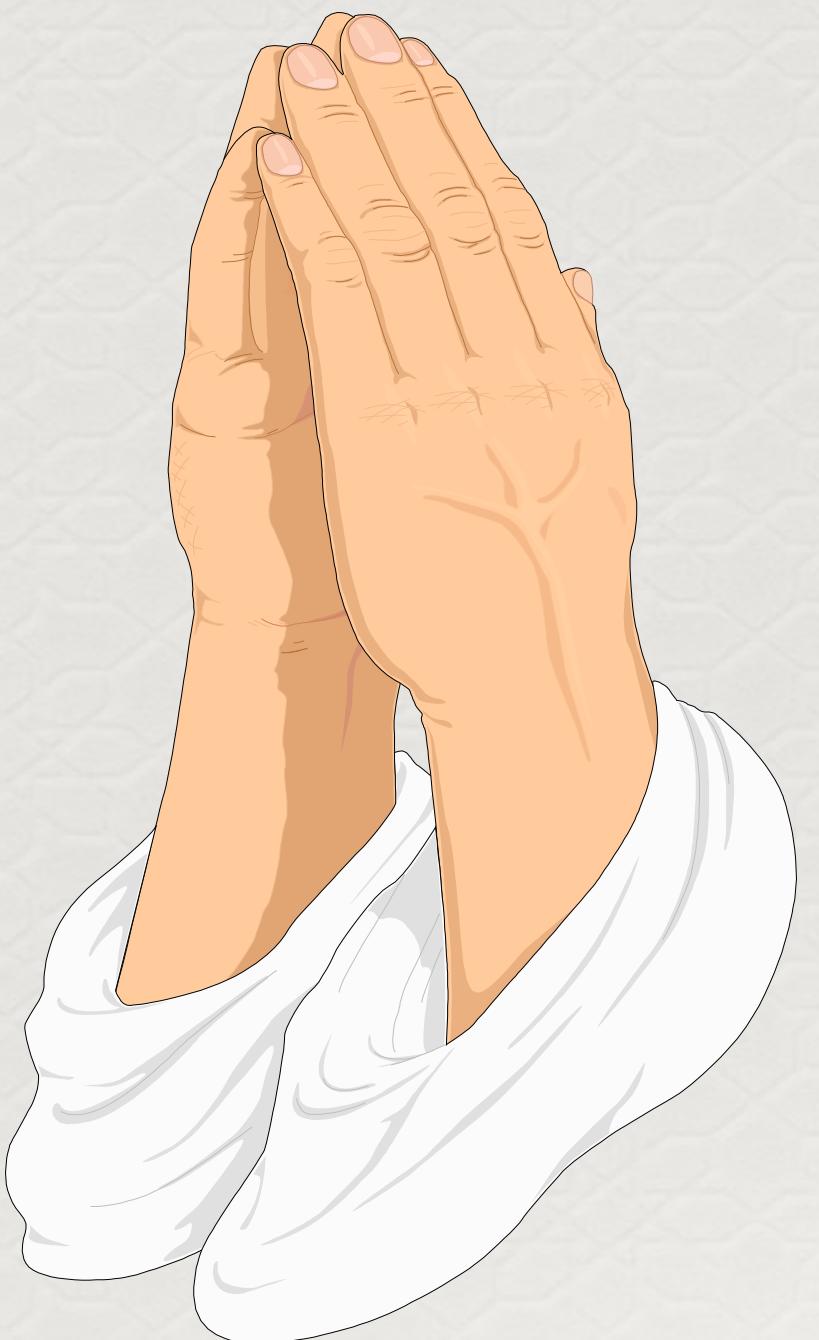


# Distribution of Islam



# 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



# A Sixth Pillar of Islam?

- *Jihad – the word means “struggle.”*
- *Often used in the sense of personal striving in the path of God.*



# A Sixth Pillar of Islam?

*“The more common interpretation, and that of the overwhelming majority of the classical jurists and commentators, presents jihad as armed struggle for Islam against infidels and apostates.”*

Bernard Lewis, professor of  
Near Eastern Studies, Princeton

# The Scriptures of Islam

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



# Major Divisions of Islam

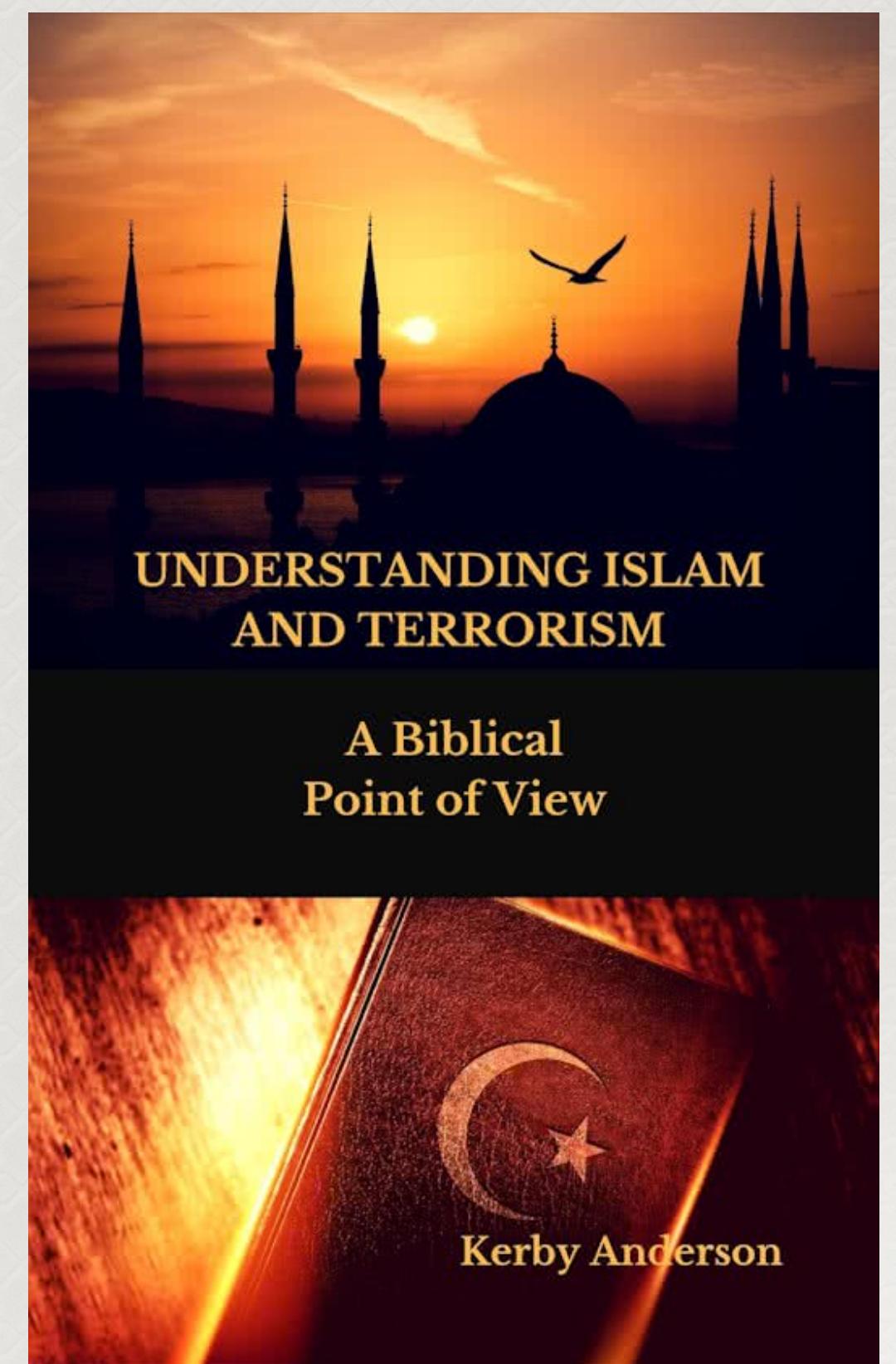
- Sunnis - *The vast majority of Muslims. They are followers of the Sunna (example or practice of Muhammed).*
- Shi'ites - *These are “partisans” (shia) of Ali, (Muhammed’s son-in-law) - the successor must be among his descendants.*
- Sufis - *These are mystics who believe that God must be experienced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



# Sharia Law

# Sharia Law

- *A foundational practice of Islam is the implementation of sharia into the legal structure.*
- *The Qur'an teaches that an apostate Muslim faces the wrath of Allah (Sura 47:25-28). Sharia law in many countries treats apostasy as the unforgivable sin and therefore punishable by death.*

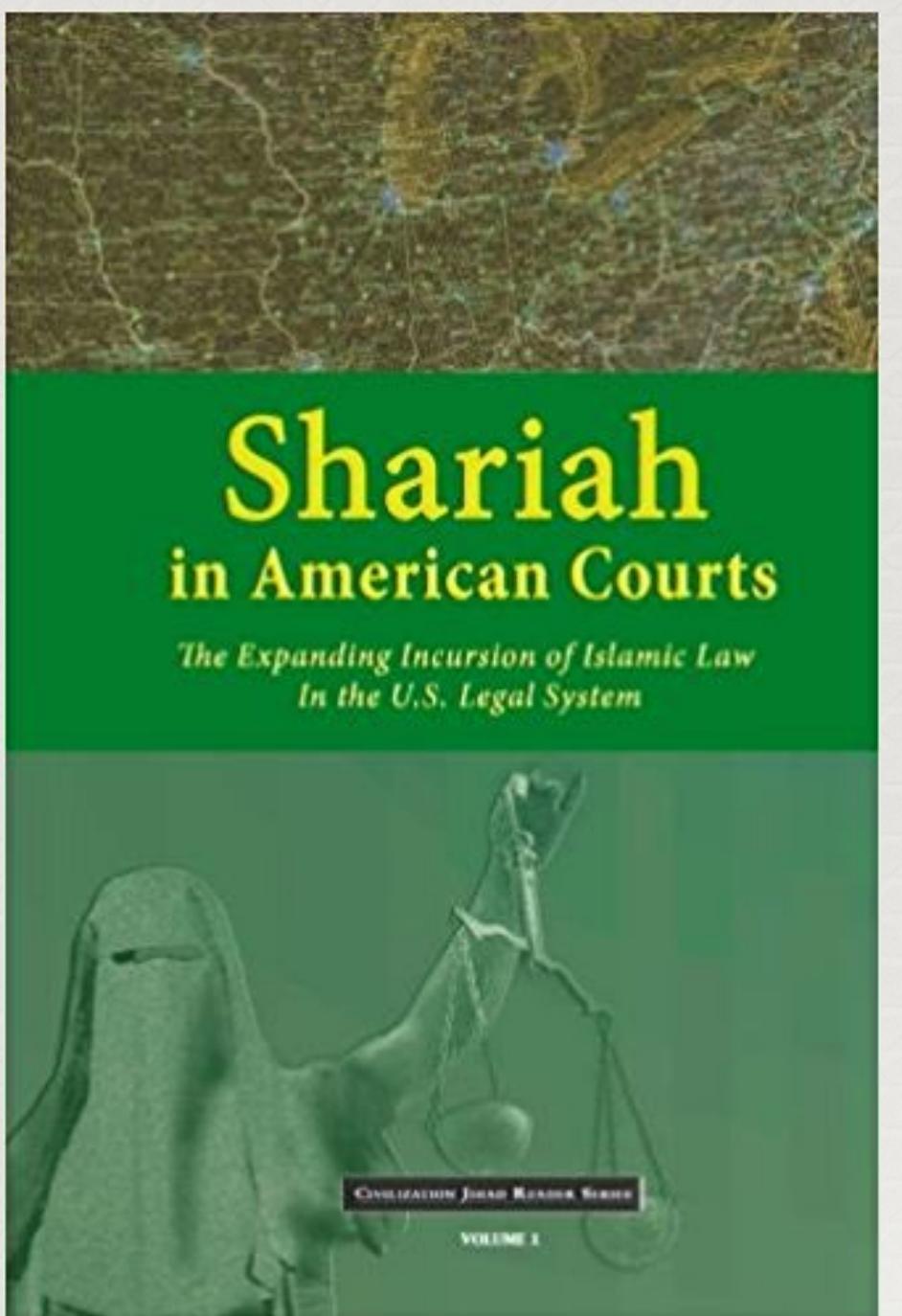


# Sharia Law

- “Men have authority over women because God has made the one superior to the other” (Sura 4:34).
- The Qur'an restricts a woman's testimony in court. Her testimony is worth half as much as that of a man (Sura 2:282).
- The Qur'an teaches that a son's inheritance should be twice that of a daughter's (Sura 4:11).

# Sharia Law and The Constitution

- *Sharia law is very different from the laws established by the U.S. Constitution and English Common law.*
- *In an attempt to prevent sharia law from being implemented in America, state legislatures have passed bans on sharia law because they have shown up in our courts.*



- *The First Amendment says that there should be no establishment of religion. Sharia law is based on the establishment of Islamic law.*
- *The Eighth Amendment prohibits “cruel and unusual punishment.”*
- *The Fourteenth Amendment guarantees each citizen equal protection under the Constitution, but Sharia law treats Muslims and non-Muslims differently.*



Witnessing  
to Muslims

# Barriers - Cultural

- Islam is much more than a religion (10% theological, 90% cultural).
- Religious culture - family will disown them, and society will scorn them and perhaps even kill them.
- Religious freedom in Muslim countries does not apply to religious conversion.

# Barriers - Doctrine

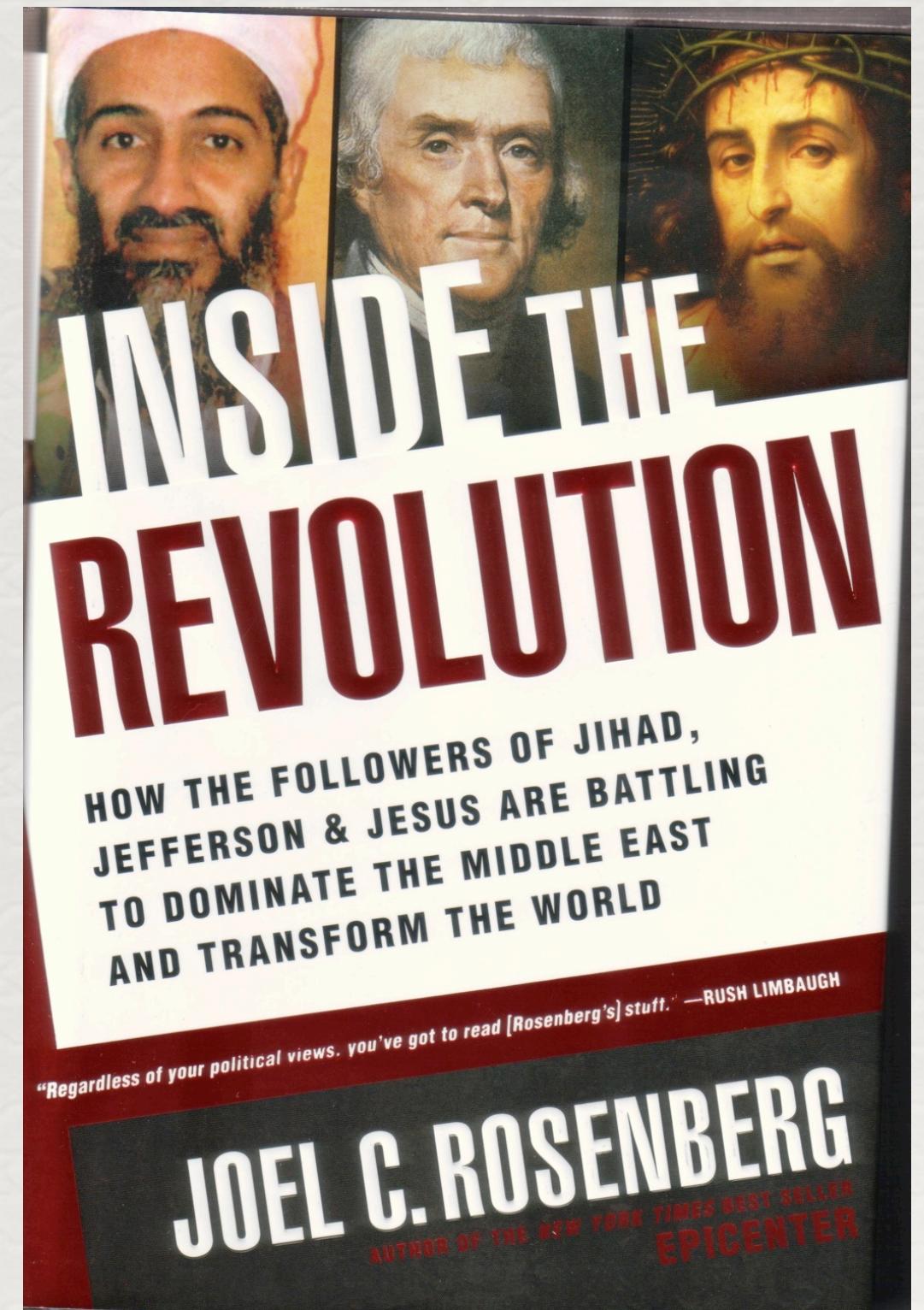
- Islam denies the Trinity (sin of *shirk*)
  - God cannot have a partner.
  - God is one not three (Sura 5:73).
- Islam denies the Incarnation
  - God cannot have sex with Mary.
  - Jesus is a Messiah (Sura 4:157).

# Barriers - Doctrine

- Islam denies the Crucifixion.
  - God would not allow a holy prophet to be killed in that manner.
  - An imposter was killed on the cross.
  - Jesus is going to return again to promote the religion of Islam.

# Methods

- Some Muslims seem to be coming to faith through dreams.
- These Muslims still need God's Word and need to be discipled.
- Provides an open door for evangelism and discipleship.



# 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).

# Camel Method

- “I have read some amazing things in the Qur'an. Would you read Sura 3:42-55 so I could ask you some questions about it?”
  - Jesus is holy (3:42-47).
  - Jesus has power over death (3:48-54).
  - Jesus knows the way to heaven (3:55).

# Camel Method

- “I want to go to paradise when I die. You want to go to paradise when you die.”
- “Jesus is in paradise and knows the way to paradise.”
- “Of all the prophets, which one is able to help us get to paradise?”

# Camel Method

- Warning - the goal is not to keep a Muslim reading the Qur'an but to open the door to reading the Bible.
- There is not enough light in the Qur'an to bring a Muslim to faith.
- There is enough to open the door for a spiritual discussion.

# Bible and Qur'an

- The Qur'an doesn't agree with the Bible on many points.
- Muslims teach that the Bible has been corrupted by Jews and Christians.
- History and archaeology confirm the historical accuracy of the Bible.

# Bible and Qur'an

- The Qur'an teaches that Christians worship three gods (Sura 5:116).
- The Qur'an teaches that Abraham was told to sacrifice Ishmael (Sura 37:100-111).
- The Qur'an teaches that Jesus was not crucified (Sura 4:157).

# Bible and Qur'an

- The Qur'an says the Samaritans tricked the Israelites at the exodus and were the ones who built the gold calf (Sura 20:85).
- The Qur'an states that Alexander the Great was a Muslim and worshiped Allah (Sura 18:89-98).

# Character of God

- Do Christians and Muslims worship the same God?
  - Allah is transcendent and unknowable.
  - Allah reveals his will but not himself.
  - Allah is master, but not father.
  - We can call God “our Father.”

# Character of God

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

# Sin and Salvation

- Muslims teach the though Adam and Eve sinned, God forgave them.
- They don't believe in our sin nature.
- Instead we have the ability to save ourselves through obedience and submission to Allah.

# 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

