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# BIBLE TALK

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## Part 2

This week we continue our study from last week: **Things you need to know about Islam** (pt. 2).

Since the September 11 terrorist attack, the media has portrayed Muslims and the Islamic religion as peace-loving, gentle individuals who simply love God the same way all other religious people do. Is this truth or is it propaganda?

- Are Muslims, by and large, peaceful?
- Is Islam a “religion of peace” which is opposed to violence?
- Is the terrorism of September 11 out-of-character for this religion and is it the result of only a few out-of-control extremists?

A brief look at Islamic history will reveal that what we saw on September 11 is not an isolated case. The leadership of our country is expecting all of us to undergo a case of massive amnesia. We are supposed to forget and ignore all the news reports of daily violence and terrorism that occurs in Islamic controlled countries.

The reason Islam is a violent-filled religion is because the leader and founder of Islam was a violent, hate-filled person. Mohammed was rejected by the citizens of Mecca as a prophet of God. He withdrew from Mecca to the city of Medina. Eventually he returned to the city of Mecca and with the sword conquered the city. Active opponents near at hand were conquered by the sword. Josh McDowell writes:

*“Between the return to Mecca and Muhammad’s death, the prophet zealously and militantly propagated Islam, and the new faith quickly spread throughout the area.”* (Ready Defense, p. 305).

**Q:** Why do people use the sword to spread their religion? Why would a religious group threaten to kill people who will not convert to their religion?

The answer is obvious: Because the reasoning used to support that religion is indefensible! If reasoning and argumentation could prove a religious group to be the

true religion of God, then reasoning and argumentation would be used. But when there is no sound reasoning, a sword is used.

As we noted last week, Mohammed claimed to be a prophet from God with a new religion. He claimed to be having revelations from God, but he offered no proof. When men are converted, it is because of fear for their lives, but not because of sound reasoning and argumentation.

By way of contrast, the apostles of Christ went everywhere “reasoning” with people and “debating” – because the religion of Christ is built upon sound argumentation and sound reason.

### **Acts 17:2**

<sup>2</sup> Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths **reasoned** with them from the Scriptures,

### **Acts 17:17**

<sup>17</sup> Therefore he **reasoned** in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

### **Acts 18:4**

<sup>4</sup> And he **reasoned** in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

### **Acts 24:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.

<sup>25</sup> Now as he **reasoned** about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

Over and over again you will read such statements. God rules over His people by reason. He appeals to man’s intellect – whereas Satan appeals to man’s fleshly appetite.

When people have nothing to reason about – when they cannot prove their case by logical and sound evidence – they must resort to threats, intimidation, violence and terrorism.

Look at the Arab nations. Look at Islamic controlled nations. Do you know of any of them that are “peace-loving”? In all honesty, is the Islamic religion based on trying to **convince** unbelievers that Islam is God’s religion, or are they trying to intimidate and threaten those who disagree with them. Jesus said, “By their fruits you will know them” (Mt. 7:16). In them is fulfilled the words of Jesus:

**John 16:2**

<sup>2</sup> "... the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.

This is exactly what happened on September 11, 2001.

To conclude our brief survey of the Islamic faith, keep these important points in mind:

- Islam was founded by a self-proclaimed prophet – who was himself unsure whether he was receiving revelations from God.
- His wife convinced him that the angel Gabriel was speaking with him and that he should form a new religion.
- Rather than reason with people and convert people by debate and argumentation, Mohammed turned to the sword – and so have all his followers since.

How should Christians treat Muslims? Exactly as Christ prescribed:

**Matthew 5:43-45**

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

<sup>44</sup> "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

<sup>45</sup> "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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Call again next week when we consider a new subject on *Bible Talk*.