



ISLAM

Overview of one of the world's major religions

Approximately 22% of the world's population practices Islam. A follower of Islam is called a Muslim. It is estimated that there are between 5 and 8 million Muslims in the US.

Basic information on Islam:

- The name “Islam” is from the Arabic word “salam” which means “submission.”
- Islam was founded in A.D. 622 by Muhammed.
- There are two basic groups in Islam, the Sunnis and the Shiites.
- The holy book of Islam is called the *Qu'ran* (sometimes written as Koran in English). It is composed of 114 chapters and 6236 verses.

Basic beliefs of Islam:

- Islam emphasizes submission to Allah, who is claimed by Muslims to be the one true God whose final prophet was Muhammed.
- Islam teaches that the *Qu'ran* is God's infallible word, revealed to Muhammed by God through the angel Gabriel.
- The main doctrines of Islam are known as the Six Articles of Faith. They are the beliefs that all Muslims share.
 - God –Muslims believe there is only one supreme God, the creator of the universe, and his name is Allah.
 - Angels –Muslims believe angels are comprised of light and have different purposes.
 - Scriptures –Muslims claim to believe in four books, the *Torah* (Moses), the *Psalms* (David) the *Gospel* (Jesus) and the *Qu'ran* (Muhammed). They believe th *Qu'ran* is the only book that has not been corrupted by man.
 - Prophets –Muslims believe that all the “messengers of God” from Adam to Muhammed must be accepted equally.
 - Resurrection – Muslims believe that at the end of the world every human will be resurrected to be judged. On this judgment day the innocents will go to heaven and the corrupt to hell.
 - Divine Creed – God is not limited to anything. He knows what has happened in the past, what is now happening, and what will happen in the future. Although human beings have freedom of choice, God already knows the choice they will make.

- Every believer is expected to practice the Five Pillars of Faith:
 - Reciting at least once during their lifetime the creed, “There is no god but Allah, and Muhammed is his Prophet.”
 - Praying five times a day facing in the direction of Mecca, the holy city of Islam.
 - Giving help to the needy. Every Muslim is required to give 2.5% of his yearly savings or excess money to charity.
 - Fasting from sunrise to sunset during the month of Ramadan. Among other things, Muslims are not allowed to eat, smoke, or drink from sunrise to sunset.
 - Participating in the Hajj (the journey to Kaaba) at least once in his or her lifetime. Kaaba means “House of Allah” and it is located in Mecca.

Visit www.4truth.net to learn more about Islam and how it compares to Christianity. The Web site, owned by the North American Mission Board, is free to users who register. Information on how to witness to Muslims is also available at this site.