

**Surprising Comparison
between
Christianity and Islam**

Dudley Woodberry

Symbol of the Crescent Moon

Reflected light

Beauty

Empty center

Pre-Islamic Religious Setting **(7th Century)**

Pagans:

- **Rejected polytheism**
- **Adopted pilgrimage**

Pre-Islamic Religious Setting **(7th Century)**

Jews:

- **Accepted biblical characters**
- **Much of rabbinic law**

Pre-Islamic Religious Setting **(7th Century)**

Christians:

- **Venerated Jesus and Mary**
- **Rejected “3 gods,” divinity of Jesus, crucifixion**

Beliefs

God

“Allah”

- Used by Arab Christians
- Mean God of Bible, but not “3 gods”

Names and attributes – mostly biblical, or rabbinic

- But not Father
- Love only for good (Q. 3:31-32)
not Rom. 5:8; I Jn. 4:10

Jesus – not divine, nor “Son of God” (Q. 72:3)

	<u>Bible</u>	<u>Qur'an</u>
Truth	Jn. 14:6	19:34
Word	Jn. 1:1	10:19
Apostle	Heb. 3:1	4:171
Sign	Lk. 2:34	19:21
Servant	Phil. 2:7	19:30

Jesus – not divine, nor “Son of God” (Q. 72:3)

Bible

Qur'an

Messiah	Jn. 4:25-26	3:45
Faultless	Heb. 4:15	19:19 Cf. Muhammad's “sins” 40:55 47:19 48:2
Miracles	Lk 7:21-22	3:49

Jesus

Crucifixion/death

Q 4:156-158 “they did not kill him...
God raised him”

Q 3:55 “I am going to receive
you/cause you to
'die' (*mutawaffika*) and raise you to
me

5:117 God received him/caused
him to 'die' (*tawaffaytani*)

Al-Tabari (d.923), al-Razi (d.1210), al-
Baydawi (d.1284-1316), IbnKathir
(d.1373) allow for real death

Jesus

return

Q 43:61 “He is a sign of the hour”

Muhammad

Relations with Christians

- **“nearest in affection” (Q 5:82)**
- **Fight... until... they pay
tribute...subdued” (Q 9:29-35)**

Biblical Characters/"Prophets"

Adam

Noah

Abraham

David

Mary

Bible

- **“confirms...Torah and Gospel”
(Q3:3)**
- **“if in doubt...ask those...before”
(Q10:94)**
- **God gave gospel to Jesus so
Christians should judge by it
(Q5:47)**
- **Muslims required to believe
scriptures of Moses, Jesus, and
the prophets (Q3:84)**

Charge of Changing Scripture, but accurate text implied

- Jews “conceal” these truths (Q 2:146)**
- Some heard the Word of God and changed it (Q 2:75)**
- Some wrote false scripture portions to sell (Q 2:24)**

Sin and Salvation

Human Nature

Qur'an

Good and Neutral (Q
30:30)

Bible

Image of God (Gen
1:26-27)

Fallen (Eph. 2:3)

Solution

Qur'an

Law

Forgiveness

Bible

Law

Forgiveness

New Birth (Jn. 3:5)

Practices

The 5 Pillars – all but references to Muhammad – Mecca, used by Jews and/or Christians previously

1. Confessions of Faith

There is no god but God (“Allah”)

Muhammad is the Apostle of God

2. Prayers – 5 times a day

salat

ablutions

direction of prayer

3. Almsgiving – 2 1/2%

**4. Fasting – Daylight during month
of Ramadan**

5. Pilgrimage - parallels with Judaism

Judaism

Islam

•Haj (Ex. 23:18)

Hajj

•Holy Place

Mecca

Temple court/Gentiles

Only for Muslims (Q
9:28)

Jews

Priest

High Priest

•Covering

Tabernacle

Ka`aba

Judaism

- Direction of Prayer

Jerusalem

- Shoes Off

Burning bush

- State of Consecration

Nazarite vow

Hair not cut

Priestly robes

- 7 times around
sanctuary

Feast of Tabernacles

(Ps. 26:6)

Islam

Ka`aba

Mosque

Hair not cut

White cloths

Ka`aba

Christian Response to Islam

Spectrum

Similarities

Bridges

Difference and Denials

Obstacles

Crescent Moon
Center—the glory of God
in the Face of Jesus Christ