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## Islam: "Religion of Peace"

by: Daniel Weierbach, Assoc. Pastor

### Just a thought...

"Christianity is...rarely understood by those outside its bounds. In fact, this is probably one of the greatest tasks confronting the apologist—to rescue Christianity from misunderstandings."

—  
Alister E. McGrath

In today's society, one cannot go a week without hearing the wickedness of "radical Islamic terrorists." Whether it be the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013, the massacre in Brussels earlier this year, or the shooting in Orlando by a lone-wolf ISIS supporter. There is no denying the threat the world is facing in "Islamic extremists." But is that what these terrorists are? "Extremists?" "Radicals?" The answer to that question lies in the historical foundation of the Islamic religion.

In the year 570, Islam's greatest prophet, Muhammad, was born into a relatively poor family from Mecca. His father, Abdullah ibn Abdul-Muttalib, died when Muhammad was 2 months old, and his mother, Aminah bint Wahb, died 6 years later. Muhammad ended up staying with his grandfather, Abd al-Muttalib, as a Bedouin for the next 2 years, until his grandfather's death. Back in Mecca, his uncle, Abu Talib, raised Muhammad from that point on. Fast-forward 17 years, Muhammad married an older woman, Khadija, a wealthy and influential figure. Having four children with Khadija, Muhammad had to bury three of them. At age 40, Muhammad claimed to

have received his first revelation from angel Gabriel, and upon trying to proselytize to the Quraysh people of Mecca, he was "violently rejected." Due to an assassination attempt, he and his family fled to Medina in 622, and there he became a powerful dictator. Almost a decade later, after leading numerous attacks and battles against his enemies, Muhammad returned to Mecca and conquered the land in 630. In the course of Muhammad's life, he went from a quiet man of a lowly beginning with unfortunate circumstances surrounding death in his family, to becoming a powerful dictator. Muhammad's life plays a vital role in understanding the "peacefulness" of Islam.

Peace, Islam is a religion of peace, right? After all, that's what we are hearing in our communities and in the media. Is that accurate? To answer that question, we must turn our attention to the Quran, and how Muhammad claimed to receive his revelations from Gabriel.

The Quran is interesting in its organization. While not ordered by thought or chronology, the Quran is organized from the shortest Surah (or chapter) to the longest, spanning 114 Surah's. According to Is-

lamic scholars, when Muhammad received his revelation from Gabriel, he was told in which Surah, and the position in the

### *Muhammad's life plays a vital role in understanding the "peacefulness" of Islam.*

Surah, that revelation was to be included. He goes on to state that "the Prophet might have continued to receive parts of several surahs at the same time" concluding that the "manuscripts did not form a single or coherent text."<sup>1</sup> The revelations began in 610 and concluded upon his death in 632. What is interesting about the way in which Muhammad received his revelations, and in which Surah they were to be placed, is the Islamic teaching of *abrogation*.

Abrogation is the Islamic teaching that if two verses contradict each other, then the latter verse cancels out the earlier verse. Though most Muslims have never heard the term, it is clearly taught in Surah's 2:106 and 16:101. Take Surah 2:190 and Surah 9:5 for instance. Surah 2:190-2 states "Fight in the way of

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.islamicislamic.com/quran\\_compilation.htm](http://www.islamicislamic.com/quran_compilation.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.missionislam.com/quran/revelationorder.htm>

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all those who fight you but do not transgress. Indeed, Allah does not like transgressors." Two verses later it states "And if they cease, then indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful." Sounds merciful (peaceful), fight against those who fight you, but if they stop, then you stop.

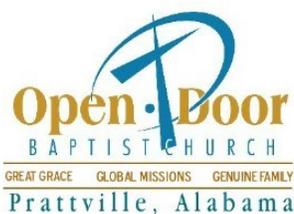
However, compare with Surah 9:5 "And when the sacred months have passed, then kill the polytheists wherever you find them and capture them and besiege them and sit in wait for them at every place of ambush. But if they should repent, establish prayer, and give zakah, let them [go] on their way. Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful." To sum it up, after their holy days concluded, fight against those that disbelieve in Allah and only grant peace if they repent and turn to Islam. Abrogation clears this contradiction by making void the verse that was "revealed" earlier to Muhammad, and the latter revelation stands firm. When reviewing the order of revelation of the Surahs,<sup>2</sup> we find that Surah 2 was given to Muhammad prior to Surah 9. As a matter of fact, there are 26 Surahs between the two! Couple this with understanding Muhammad's life, we can see a change of character.

**Abrogation...though most Muslims have never heard the term, it is clearly taught in the Quran.**

In Muhammad's earlier revelation, during times of peace and prosperity, Surah 2 was most likely compiled. Surah 9 is the second to last Surah Muhammad supposedly received from Gabriel, at the end of his life, while a ruthless dictator. The revelations Muhammad claimed to receive from Gabriel were in fact revelations he had concerning his life and his situations. Beginning from the lower class of society, creating a religion, having an assassination attempt, marrying into wealth and power, eventually returning to conquer the land that had once tried murdering him. Muhammad's life certainly reflects his evolving theology.

"Radical Islamic extremists," is that what these individuals who conduct these terror attacks are, as the media and administration conveys to us? I submit to you that they are not, but they are merely following the teachings of the Quran espouse. Rather, the "radicals" are those Muslims that condemn these attacks and seek to live a life of peace.

Is Islam a religion of peace? I believe that when Muhammad first created the Islamic religion, he did so peacefully. However, when chased out of Mecca by the Quraysh tribe, and marrying into wealth, influence, and power, his peacefulness left him and he vowed vengeance upon his enemies. What was once a peaceful attempt to bring people into his religion, Muhammad turned to forced conversions through fear. Islam is no religion of peace, rather it is another cult religion of bondage to its tenets like Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormonism. However, we as Christians would do well to understand that our Savior, Jesus Christ, died for their sins, just as he died for ours. It is the Christian duty to declare to them the Gospel, and be used by the Holy Spirit to release them from the bondage and tyranny of Islam, welcoming them to peace and grace found in Jesus. So today, and this day forward, let us be bound together to pray for those held captive by Muhammad's false religion, that they may find eternal salvation in Jesus. ✨



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### Service Times

OD Café begins @ 9:15 am  
Sunday Worship Service @ 10:00 am  
Sunday Night Growth Groups @ 6:00 pm  
AWANA Wednesday Night @ 6:30 pm  
Wednesday Night Bible Study & Prayer @ 7:00 pm

### Ministries

ABC (Alex & Braxton against Cancer)  
C4C (Apologetics Ministry)  
GO Program (Outreach Ministry)  
Od Jobs (Resume Writing / Interview Ministry)  
Od Men (Outdoor Ministry)  
Od Women (Ladies Fellowship)