**Jesus / Muhammad**

**Three Comparisons - Make a Decision**

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**Introduction**

There are two main goals of this researcher paper. First, to make a comparison between Jesus, the Christ of Christianity, and Muhammad, the Messenger of Islam. The second goal is for the reader to be able to make a decision about who is the better man to found a worldwide movement, Jesus or Muhammad. Who would you choose to be the founder of a worldwide religious-faith movement that is reported to be of the highest moral character, for peace and the improvement of humanity? And yes, which one has the correct message concerning eternal life?

 I acknowledge that there can be volumes written about Jesus and Muhammad but due to predetermined parameters of this paper, there will be only three areas of comparison: birth, moral teachings and/or character, and geographical biographies. Within these parameters, the most impactful information will be provided. With any study of religion and religious leaders, they are tied to a place of origin as to a particular city and a book.

Factual evidence will be presented from the Islam’s sacred books, the Qur’an and the Hadith(s). The sacred Old and New Testaments of the Jewish and Christian faith will be quoted. The New American Standard Bible will be quoted unless otherwise referenced. The Qur’an will be quoted from the Holy Qur’an edited by Maulana Muhammad Ali*.[[1]](#footnote-1)*

**Setting the Stage**

In a broad statement, both Christianity and Islam teach that there is one God and an eternal life. They both teach that during a person’s lifetime there are choices the individual can make that will determine their eternal destination. In Islam, outside the Qur’an and the Hadiths, there is not an abundance of historical documents about Muhammad. Therefore, particularly concerning Muhammad, additional Islamic historical writings will be cited. But, again, the goal of identifying the better man for God should be based on the Qur’an, Hadiths and the Christian Bible. It is expected that detractors of Christianity or Islam have written numerous critical essays about each other. Therefore, those writings will not be considered for making the decision on who is the better man.

 I will note here in the beginning of this comparison between Jesus and Muhammad that the information I present about Islam and Muhammed are well-known to Islamic leaders and scholars and dedicated Muslims who have grown-up in Islamic countries and culture. Just as Americans claim that George Washington was the first President of the United States, Muslims know that Muhammad’s life-story starts in Mecca in Saudi Araba in 570 A.D. I do not have to quote a source to support either statement to their respected groups. It is unfortunate that Americans and the majority of people in the West are unfamiliar with basic Islamic history. Particularly in light of 911 and the ongoing armed conflicts with Islamic countries.

As a Christian American, I undertook a deep study of Islam several years ago. There is so much to learn in order to begin to get an understanding on the Islamic mind and religious culture. I have witnessed to them and have visited a Mosque. One Iman told me that he trained four years on Saudi Arabia, but he had never read the New Testament. But then most Christian pastors have most likely not read the Qur’an. The difference is that the Qur’an has many passages about Jesus and the Jews (people of the book), but the Bible does not have any scriptures pertaining to Islam or Muhammad. However, Muslims claim there are scriptures that do observe Muhammad, but these are accurately refuted by Western scholars.

 As of the writing of this paper, it is widely reported (and any online search will find) that there are about 2.6 billion Christians in the world with about half that number being Roman Catholic. Islam is reported to have about 1.9 billion members and considered to be the fastest growing religion in the world. Considering the world has about 8.1 billion alive souls, Islam and Christianity account for 4.5 billion people which is about half the world’s population.

**Foundational Considerations**

Names Mean Things

Many Christians know that the name “Jesus” comes from the Hebrew word Yeshua (Joshua), meaning *the Lord saves*. The Greek rendering for the Hebrew Messiah is *Christos* (Christ) meaning *the Anointed One.* Muhammad’s name means *praiseworthy*. The word “Islam” means *submission to God,* and the word “Muslim” is a person who *lives in submission to God*.

Islam’s Beginnings

It is well-known that Islam’s beginning is tied to Muhammad’s first revelation he claimed to have received from Allah through the angel Gabriel in 610 A.D. However, after Islam began, they claim Adam was the first Muslim (Surah 2:31). Islam claims that all the prophets after Adam were Muslims. Islam claims a lot of things that cannot be supported. The Qur’an, as Islam’s primary source book contrasts with the Bible that has historical and archeological credibility. Islam and the Qur’an stand in an isolated fictional history that this paper will prove through credible modern scholarship.

The Qur’an’s Availability and Dating

Like Christian’s rely upon pastors, the faithful Muslim reads the Qur’an but heavily relies upon their Imans for interpretation. In many Muslim communities, the Qur’an is only allowed in the Arabic language. There are some Muslim communities that allow the Qur’an to be translated into the native tongue; English is one of those languages. With the reliance upon the world wide web, many Muslim leaders made the Qur’an available in English and other languages.

However, many Muslims in the world do not read Arabic and do not have the Qur’an in their native tongue and, therefore, are at the mercy of their Iman. Iman’s control all information given at a Mosque. So, there is always a filter. This is like the Christian Dark Age where the Bible was only available in Latin and not in the vulgate language of local communities. In addition, for centuries, the commoners in western populations were illiterate.

 Islam claims that the revelations Muhammad received from Allah were written down about twenty years (652) after Muhammad died (632 A.D.). A reasonable person quickly makes the assessment that this is over 600 years after Jesus lived. Therefore, the claims the Qur’an makes about Jesus, Christianity and Judaism are several hundred years after the fact. There is not any written history prior to the life of Muhammad where someone claimed to be a Muslim.

Who Knew What and When

 Considering Islamic beginnings, we need to keep in mind that Muhammad never claimed to be a Messiah as Jesus did. Islam teaches that prior to Muhammad’s claim of receiving revelations from Allah, he had no idea he was to be a Messenger of God. In contrast to Jesus, He claimed to be God several times (Examples: John 8:58, 10:29-31, 14:6-11). After the Resurrection, the disciples accepted Jesus as God who incarnated himself and had lived with them (John 1:1, 2, 14). Jesus knew who He was in childhood (Luke 2:49). There was not any epiphany Jesus experienced to convince Him that He was the Messiah. John the Baptist water baptized Jesus to fulfill scripture which identified Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus already knew who He was and the purpose of His earthly mission. This is in contrast to Muhammad who was reported to be forty years old when he received notice from Allah. Prior to that time, Muhammad did not have any clue that he would be a religious leader.

 God’s incarnation to be Jesus is in great contrast to Muhammad. Despite Islamic claims that Adam was the first Muslim, Islam is based on Muhammad’s revelation that he received when he was forty years old from Allah through the angel Gabriel. This is part of the standard Islamic narrative. Regardless of the Islamic source, the following is the basic Muslim witness about the origins of the Qur’an.

Origins of the Qur’an

 Islamic sources teach that Muhammad’s revelations began in 610 when he lived in what they claim was a well-established trade city of Mecca. Muhammad received revelations while retreating to a nearby cave (Hira’) which continued until he migrated to Madina in 622. From Madina, Muhammad continued to receive periodic revelations until the year of his death in 632. The revelations eventually were written down to make the Qur’an.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Islam teaches that Abu Bakr, in 652, ordered the revelations of Muhammad to be collected from whoever had written or memorized them. By that year, many of the men who had memorized Muhammad’s revelations had died in battle. A man named Zaid was the actual person who interviewed people who had learned from Muhammad. All these Qur’ans are no longer in existence.[[3]](#footnote-3)

There are 114 chapters in the Qur’an. Chapters in the Qur’an area called Surahs. It is strictly held by Isam that these Muhammad’s revelations were written in Arabic to comprise the book called the Qur’an.[[4]](#footnote-4) The Qur’an is considered to have two main divisions. Surahs written before the Hirji in 622 and those written afterwards. The Hirji is when Muhammad moved to Madina from Mecca.[[5]](#footnote-5) The word Qur’an means *to recite, to read*. Surah 96 is believed to be the first revelation Muhammad received.

Surah 96:1 *Read in the name of the Lord the who creates. 2 Creates man from a clot. 3 Read and thy Lord is most generous. 4 Who taught by the pen. 5 Taught man what he knew not. 6 Nay, man is surely inordinate. 7 Because he looks upon himself as self-sufficient. 8 Surely to thy Lord is the return. 9 Hast thou seen him who forbids. 10 A servant when he prays? 11 Seest know that he is on the right way. 12 Or enjoys observance of duty. 13 Seest thou if he denies and runs away? 14 Knows he not that Allah sees? 15 Nay if he desist not, We will seize him by the forelock.*

 There are many online sources of Islamic beginnings that are easily accessed for the average seeking person. I found that the Al-Islam.org website to be objective in that they report both Sunni and Shia versions of when Muhammad received his first revelations.[[6]](#footnote-6)

 The standard Sunni account of Muhammad’s first meeting with the angel Gabriel report that Muhammad was frightened and considered the experience may be an evil encounter with a jinni (evil angel). The Sunni account depicts the angel Gabriel pressuring Muhammad three times to read but he become ill every time he was pressured to read. Muhammad told the angel Gabriel that he could not read. Muhammad was eventually able to verbally repeat the verses and the angel left him. According to Bukhari, the most respected Hadith writer, Muhammad was so scared that he considered suicide.[[7]](#footnote-7)

 Shia Islam teaches a different story about Muhammad’s first encounter with the angel Gabriel. Theirs is a smooth encounter where Muhammad was not frightened and welcomed that Allah chose him to be his last messenger. According to the Shia account, Muhammed was not pressured by the angel and did not hesitate to read the verses Gabriel presented.

 Islam strictly teaches that Quranic text has not changed in any way from that time (610 – 632). Islam teaches that Muhammad is the last of a long line of prophets sent by God, of which, Jesus is in that line. Muslims claim that Muhammad’s revelation from God override all previous revelations including Jesus.[[8]](#footnote-8)

Islamic Sacred Hadiths

 Considering the sacred source documents of Islam, most Christians know about the Qur’an but do not know that Islamic Hadiths exist and do not know they are sacred. However, most Christians have heard of Sharai Law which is applied in Islamic courts in countries like Saudia Arbia. Sharai Law is based upon the Qur’an and the Hadith(s). The Islamic civilization and culture are still governed directly or by traditional law codes derived from Islam’s sacred books, the Qur’an and the Hadiths. These books which govern Islam theocracies are the foundation of Sharia Law and are believed to be immutable and divine. For Americans and all westerners to understand the importance of the Qur’an and Hadiths, they can consider them as binding as the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. This can become an acute reality if a westerner visits an Islamic state, like Saudi Arabia, and inadvertently commits a violation of Sharia Law.

 So, why should the Hadiths be considered when gaining knowledge of the life of Muhammad in comparison to Jesus? Here is a quick boilerplate Islamic history that most practicing Muslims know.

 Hadiths are also Islamic sacred writings next to the Qur’an. Hadiths report the teachings, statements and/or actions of Muhammad that Muslims aspire to follow in order to gain approval from Allah. The Hadiths cover in detail the Islamic religious obligations, practices, legal issues, moral conduct of Muslims, and specifically the personal conduct of the Prophet Muhammad.

A hadith means a statement. If a man saw the Prophet doing something or he heard him saying something, and then he reported it to others, it would be called a hadith or a tradition. The companions considered it their duty to preserve all the traditions of the Prophet for the benefit of the Muslim Ummah for all time. A hadith could also be a comment of the Prophet on some person. If he paid a compliment to any of his companions, or if he criticized someone, his remarks gained wide publicity among the Muslims.[[9]](#footnote-9)

 The four Gospels in the New Testament can be considered to be the parallel to the Hadiths, in that the Gospels chronicle the life actions and teachings of Jesus. The four Gospels chronicle Jesus’ statements and actions like the Hadiths do for Muhammad. This is why it is critical to read the Hadiths in making a comparison between Jesus and Muhammad. There are thousands of Hadiths. The Sunni Islamic faithful consider the “six books” to be trustworthy:[[10]](#footnote-10) Bukhārī (194-256), Abū Dāwūd (202-275), Muslim (206-261), Tirmidhī (209-279), Ibn Mājah (209-273), and Nasā'ī (215-303). Note that these were produced about 200 years after Muhammad died. Ghassan Abdul-Jabbar (PhD, University of Chicago) who reports this list also

 includes in his report the line of narration for each Hadith. This is the Islamic “line of custody” to authenticate that each Hadith dates back Muhammad.

 Shia Islam holds the following list of Hadiths to be sacred.

1. Al-Kafi authored by Theqatul Islam, Muhammad bin Ya'qub Kulayni (329 A.H.),

2. Al-Tahzib authored by Shaykh Tusi, may Allah bless him (460 A.H.)

3. Al-Istibsar authored by Shaykh Tusi, may Allah bless him (460 A.H.)

4. Man La Yahzuruhu al-Faqih authored by Shaykh Saduq (r.a.) (381 A.H.)

5. Wasail al-Shi'ah authored Shaykh Hurr Amili, may Allah bless him (1104 A.H.)

6. Behar al-Anwar authored by Allamah Muhammad Baqir Majlisi (r.a) (1110 A.H.)

7. Jami' al-Ahadith al-Shi'ah authored by Ayatollah Ismail Mu'ezzi Malayeri (1429 A.H.)

8. Jami al-Ahadith Software (Noor 2/5) prepared by Islamic Computer Sciences (Noor) which comprises most of Shi'ah hadith books.[[11]](#footnote-11)

 Shia Islam is mainly limited to Iran and parts of Iraq and Afghanistan. Basically, the rest of world’s Islamic populations, like Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, Indonesia, Syia is predominantly Sunni Islam. The split in Islam came when Muhammad died of poisoning in 632. The main reason for the fracture was a dispute over who the next Islamic leader should be. Specifically involving `Ali, the cousin and son-in-law of Muhammad. However, there were other elements to the split that included politics, theology and emotion over ritual practice.[[12]](#footnote-12)

 Sunni Muslims make up about eighty-seven to ninety percent of the Islamic faithful. Shia Muslims account for about thirteen to ten percent.[[13]](#footnote-13) There are also very small minority groups.

 All of these original source dates for the writing of the Hadiths are from the Islamic Calendar which calculates from the Hijri era (move to Madina from Mecca) and so designated A.H. for Anno Hegirae. At that time, Muhammad and his followers traveled from Mecca to Madina in 622. It is believed that Muhammad started the first Muslim community in Madina. The event has been named the “Hijrah”. By examining the Islamic dates, the Hadiths were written within 109 years between 840 -912 A.D. or 196-303 A.H. This is important because Muhammad died in 632 A.D. leaving a gap of about 200 years between the time of his death and the first Hadith written detailing his life. This means that whoever wrote about Muhammad’s life was not an eyewitness as compared to Matthew and John who were eyewitness to the life of Jesus. In contrast to the dating of the Hadiths, the New Testament’s production is much closer to the life of Jesus than the Hadith writers were to Muhammad’s life span. A solid case can be made that all of Paul’s letters (Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts, James, Jude, 1 Peter, 2 Peter) were all produced before 70 A.D.

**Why Compare Jesus to Muhammad?**

Islam Threatens Western Civilization

 Islam and atheism are the biggest challenge to Christianity. Therefore, I hold that it is of primary importance to press the Christian Church to make an accurate comparison between Jesus and Muhammad. This should be accomplished using both groups’ primary source documents the Bible, Qur’an and the Hadiths. In this effort, the comparison should be understandable to the average church member and Muslim. This is why the comparison will be limited to three in this report.

 Due to world events through the centuries, Islam and Christian countries have conflicted, as in the Crusades. Therefore, there is a greater need to educate the Church comparing Jesus to Muhammad. This need surpasses any other comparison that could be made with Jesus to any other world religious leaders past or present. With this observation, how is it that a person becomes a Muslim or Christian?

Easier to Become a Member of a Church or a Mosque?

 I observe that one of the challenges the Christian church faces is in their membership requirement. In comparison, how easy is it to become a Muslim compared to becoming a Christian. Christianity is not united on membership. Depending on the Chrisitan tradition a person is introduced, there can be many paths to becoming a Christian. Many Evangelical traditions teach that a single heart-felt prayer is all that is required. This has been called the “Sinner’s Prayer”. Other traditions have a works-path to becoming a Christian. Examples of the merit systems is found in the Roman Catholic Church, Church of Christ, and the Lutheran Church. They all teach that water baptism is a necessary act of merit a person must complete to become a Christian and gain salvation. The Roman Catholic Church claims that they alone have the treasury of merit from Christ to forgive sins. They even claim to have the power to remove original sin from a baby in infant baptism. The Roman Catholic Church reports about 1.2 billion members in the world. Therefore, they have the single most visible Christian witness. It is my experience that when I have witnessed to Muslims their complaint about Christianity is often observations they have about the Roman Catholic Church. They may not name the Roman Catholic Church when they accuse Christians of being polytheist for praying to Mother Mary but that is where that practice resides.

 However, to become a Muslim, there is just one thing you have to do. By saying the *Shahada* with a sincere heart, a person becomes a Muslim. There are not any classes or rituals. It is not complicated. Once this prayer is said then the other four pillars of five are to be pursued and practiced. Becoming a Muslim starts with this single prayer. There are two views on the impact of these diverse requirements. It is easy to become a Muslim. It is harder to become a Christian particularly in the Western societies. Unless a person is born into a Christian family, it is a challenge for them to become a Christian due to the immense pressure of atheistic secularism.

 A good readable reference book for the average church member to learn about the basics of Islam is “Answering Islam” by the respected late Christian apologists Norman Geisler and Adbul Saleeb1. The following is a summation of basic Islamic information that Geisler and Saleeb present.

 The word “Islam” means to submit. Therefore, Islam’s goal is to have the whole world submit to Allah and his prophet-messenger, Muhammad. Islam teaches that the five-fold pillars of Islam start with saying the *Shahada* or profession of faith: “There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.” *Shahada* means to “bear witness”. A person who says this with a sincere heart is all that is necessary to become a Muslim.[[14]](#footnote-14)

 This simple prayer as compared to many Christian traditions make entrance into Islam very easy. After the *Shahadah* prayer is said, there is a directive in Islam for a person to practice prayer (*salah*). Seventeen prayers are required each day. To accomplish these prayer requirements, Muslims are required to pray five times each day. Friday at noon, Muslims go to the mosque for prayer. A third pillar is to fast (*sawn*), in observance of Muhammad receiving the Qur’an from Allah. Muslims fast during the month of Ramadan of their lunar Calendar. This is a daytime fast. Muslims are allowed to eat at night. Giving alms is the fourth pillar of Islam. Islamic tradition proscribes about 2.5 percent of their income. All of these are important to the Muslim. Westerners will be familiar with another pillar of Islam called *haji* (Pilgrimage). Muslims are directed to take a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lifetime, provided they have financing and are healthy enough.

Evangelism by Word or Sword?

 The Qur’an and the Hadiths represent a movement that is committed to having the whole world submit to their beliefs. Westerners grow-up in a world where religion is a choice. Religion has its choices in the West. The First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution (The Bill of Rights) states: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

In Islamic countries, like Saudia Arabia, there is no such law. Saudia Arabia rules by the close adherence to the Qur’an and supporting Hadiths (Sharia Law). Despite how many Muslim leaders present a pacifist and tolerant view to the West, in reality, Islam is committed to world submission to Allah and his messenger Muhammad. Chapter 9 of the Qur’an details the foundation Quranic verses for Islamic world conquest. This is in the context of how non-Muslims are to be treated who do not convert and do not pay the tax for the right not to convert.

Surah 9:5 So when the sacred months have passed, kill the idolaters, wherever you find them, and take them captive and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush. But if they repent and keep up prayer and give the due charity, leave their way free. Surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

 Muslims will agree that is what happened in Muhammad’s day but that was for that time only. Muslims quickly point to the Old Testament when Jewish leaders were told by God to conquer other people and charge that there is not any difference. The Christian response is that God was using Joshua to judge people who had been practicing evil for hundreds of years in child sacrifice.[[15]](#footnote-15) In addition, those military campaigns directed by God were not marching orders for all time. Representation of the true Islamic belief being enforced are seen in the actions of Islamic State in Iraq, Afghanistan (Taliban) and Pakistan who performed what Muhammad did as detailed in the Qur’an and Hadiths. This will be covered in the moral comparison of this paper.

 In the quest to conquer the world, Muhammad led military campaigns. In the first one hundred years of Islam, all of North Africa and large parts of the Middle East Asia all were militarily conquered in the name of Allah and his messenger Mahammad. In contrast to Christ, He never led an army, never physically attacked anyone. It is well-known that Jesus told Peter to put away his sword when the authorities came to arrest Him (John 18:10).

Outcomes -Jesus’ Countries Compared to Muhammad’s Countries

 It can be said that the relationship between Western and Islamic countries can be better understood when there is a clear education regarding Jesus and Muhammad and the civilizations founded upon them. By in large, Western civilization is founded upon and governed by the Judeo-Chistian code (the Bible). The Islamic civilization is founded upon the teachings of Muhammad as he claimed to have received them from Allah through the angel Gabriel.

 The historian and author Tom Holland makes a summation about how western civilization is founded upon Christianity in his book *Dominion.* Paraphrasing Holland, who says that people in Western civilization are like goldfish, and the water that we swim in is Christianity*.* I find his observations in the preface of *Dominion* to be more defining.

To live in a Western Country is to live in a society still utterly saturated by Christian concepts and assumptions. Two thousand years on from the birth of Christ, it does not require a belief that he rose from the dead to be stamped by the formidable – indeed the inescapable influence of Christianity. Whether it be the conviction that the working of conscious are the surest determinants of good law, or that the Church and state exist as distinct entities, or that polygamy is unacceptable, its traced elements are to be found everywhere in the West.[[16]](#footnote-16)

 Support for Tom Holland’s observations can be seen in America’s capital city of Washington D.C. Known around the world as America’s capital, Washington D.C. is one of the most famous cities in the world that represents the values and cultural religious traditions of the Americas and Western civilization. In Washington D.C., the U.S. Supreme Court building houses the nation’s highest judicial court of law. On the East edifice of the U.S. Supreme Court building, at the top-center of the structure, there is a sculpted relief of Moses holding the Ten Commandments. There are other law codes represented underneath Moses. Moses, being at the top-center, heavily communicates the message that the Judeo-Christian code takes precedent over other codes. In addition, the Ten Commandments are depicted by Roman numerals several times within the Supreme Court building. A rather recent atheistic position put forth by detractors of Christianity will say that the Roman numerals can represent the ten Bill of Rights. However, with Moses holding a depiction of tablets of the Ten Commandments on the East edifice, it is not plausible that other displays of the tablets and Roman numerals represent something else.

 In comparison, Islamic countries represent the civilization code of Islam as revealed in the revelations of Muhammad. The teachings of both Jesus and Muhammad laid the foundational law codes for countries of their followers.

The Difference in a Child’s Name

 Another highlight of Western civilization being heavily influenced by the Judeo-Christian worldview is in the naming of children. America has become more diverse in recent decades, but the historical influence of biblical names appears throughout American history. A quick survey by any American looking for people named Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James, Jacob, Mary, Judith/Judy, Martha, Elizabeth, Sara, Rebecca, Rachel, Hannah, Chloe, Esther, Phoebe is easily assembled.

 In comparison to westerners naming their children from biblical characters, Islamic countries ~~t~~name their children after names of people noted in the Quran and Islamic history. In reality, the naming of children based upon a belief system is prevalent in all of the world faiths and religions. Names have meanings. It is well-known in Christian societies that the name Jesus is from the Hebrew name Joshua with a root meaning “the Lord is salvation”. We read from the New Testament, "*She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins*." (Matt. 1:21, Zec. 9:9).

 The name Muhammad means “praiseworthy” as the greatest of those who give praise to Allah. Muhammad also carries the meaning about a person who Allah blesses and praises. There are many supporting text in the Quran to this meaning of the name Muhammad. *And rise at ˹the last˺ part of the night, offering additional prayers, so your Lord may raise you to a station of praise (*Q17:79). *Indeed, Allah showers His blessings upon the Prophet, and His angels pray for him. O believers! Invoke Allah’s blessings upon him, and salute him with worthy greetings of peace (Q 33:56).*

 Wake Up Call Post WWII Preoccupied West

 At times, I have been so elated in my life over my victories that I failed to see the next challenge coming. I was born in 1957 under the Eisenhower administration. I was designated by demographers to be a “Baby-Boomer”. I was reared and heavily influenced by the post WWII successes that created societies in the West that did not have any thought of Islam being a political or religious threat. Western governments who won WWII, the Allied Powers, carved the world up as it was a board game to some. There are many details to these events that are not taken lightly by the Arab countries. The formation of Iraq to the division of Germany and Berlin, the Western powers made decisions based upon pressures derived from their post WWII victory. The French were given their rubber colony back, being the country of Vietnam. In America, we all know what that decision eventually led, 58,000 plus dead America soldiers. An open wound that has yet to heal. The United Nations, in 1968, voted to give the Jews a national charter. This obviously has brought the attention of the whole Islamic world upon their historical concerns about non-believers, Crusaders and the infidels. I will never forget when President George W. Bush used the word “Crusade” in a speech to address America’s response to 911. I am sure he was well-meaning, but he just put gasoline on a historical fire between Islam and the West. Of course, with America reeling from 911, the President’s words seem to be justified. However, being a world leader, he should have had a better understanding of the word “crusade” and its powerful representations in the Muslim world. President Bush’s statement represents the unknowingness of the vast majority of Americans. With the most powerful American war machine and the western industrial military complex backing up the President of the United States, he can afford to say anything. But is it advisable?

 Considering these recent relationship issues between Christian and Islamic countries, the review of the post WWII world history sheds light on the need for American citizens to be more aware of the Islamic history and teachings. I am not saying America needs to be inclusive of Islam as in accepting their position. We need to know their beliefs in order to better witness to them and understand their motives. A study of both Christian and Islamic sacred text will expose the need for Western societies to be informed of the stark differences between Jesus and Muhammad. Most westerners are knowledgeable of the formation of the nation of Israel in 1948, when the United Nations issued the Jews a national charter. Since that time, there has been conflict between the Western governments who supported the formation of the Jewish state, Israel, and the Islamic states. This has led to numerous state military conflicts of which the western government states are in conflict with Islamic states. In reality, these conflicts are between two diverse and opposing teachings that originated in the teachings of Jesus and Muhammad.

 Therefore, the on-going Middle East conflict between the Jewish state and the Islamic countries should be a wake-up call to the average American citizen to understand the teachings and life of Muhammad as compared to Jesus. I am convinced that American leaders and leaders in the West are fully aware of the facts about Muhammad and Islam. But for domestic political purposes, they refuse to have a public education policy to fully inform the public the truth of Islam and Muhammad. It is a false public policy and belief to present or view Islam as just another world religious choice. The general American and western populations need to accurately know the detailed difference in how Jesus lived His life as compared to Muhammad. To hold the position that both are holy men who establish a worldwide monotheistic religion is insufficient and at the peril of western societies. I will provide Scripture citation from the Christian Bible and from the Quran and Hadiths to support this statement.

 Part of the problem is how modern American citizens, and the Western societies, view religion. Many see all religions as one big ball of the same thing. The prevalent postmodern view that truth is relative to the individual’s experience has to a large degree shattered the search for an overriding truth for all humanity. Therefore, applying the postmodern view to Islam, or any world religions in general, ~~that~~ there is not one to take precedence over the other and by doing so you may be viewed to be narrow-minded, bigoted, and judgmental.

 The WWII victory has to some degree distracted the average American/western citizen who over-pursued capitalistic values over other interests. In this distraction, our education systems failed to adequately educate children about the world looming threats including Islam. The WWII generation has been called the Greatest Generation and rightfully so. But with the success of winning the war in defeating Axis Powers and building an economic superpower came with a blindness to future threats. Soldiers became the world’s leading businessmen and workmen who could afford to “Baby-boom”. War pilots and G.I. Joe married Rosy the Riveter, who were women industrial factory workers who took the place of men off to war. American demographers named the post WWII population growth the “Baby-boomers” who were reared in a capitalistic nation with the goal to attain a college degree to achieve a superior lifestyle than the one of the Greatest Generation, who grew-up experiencing the hardships of the Great Depression. Economic gain was the number one goal. In hindsight, spirituality was there but second place. Many children grew-up aspiring to make capital gains over spiritual gains. For many, Jesus, became a historical name in an ancient book. Muhammad may have been a character in a comic book. It was the prevalent worldview that America was a Christian nation as indicated when Congress authorized “In God We Trust” to be printed on all paper currency in 1957. “In God We Trust” was already stamped on coins since the Civil War era. What does all these American observations have to do with comparing Jesus to Muhammad? Absolutely nothing, and that is the point. Asleep at the wheel of capitalism driving to the next entertainment high, until 911. But then, when 911 happened, individual terrorists were blamed for their individual acts. Islam, for cultural sensitivity reasons, was steered away from as the root blame for 911. America was still caught-up in the “political correctness” domestic politics world, and Islam could care less.

 The economic gains of post WWII worked to perfection as America, by any economic standard, outperformed all other world economic systems. America coming through WWII with an intact industrial complex gave an unapparelled advantage on the world stage. No other country could compete with American economic growth during the second half of the twentieth century. The new economic religion of American capitalism and social values rooted in Christianity was taking the world over with the exportation of McDonnald’s fast food and Coca-Cola. Laws of individual civil liberties spawned from the Judeo-Christian code gave the American citizen an unparalleled freedom to invent and work like the world had never seen.

The enemy had been defeated, and, as far as the average American was concerned, there was not any world economic or religious threats on the horizon. Maybe, perhaps. . . Islam was a concern for a question on a history exam. We were concerned about a political threat from Russia that formed the U.S.S.R. (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), and the Cold War was on for sure when the wall went up in Berlin 1961. Western governments focused on the immediate threat of the Cold War. It is understandable Islam was not on the radar. Some Islamic states became allied with the U.S.S.R. which was a concern. Turkey is an interesting Islamic country that did join N.A.T.O. in 1952. Turkey had closer political ties to the western countries. The American view of a foreign national threat was restricted to political and economic not religious. With religious freedom in America guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, religion was not seen by the public as a source of threat. Compared to the rest of the world, we all got along here. There was no need to kill your neighbor over being Baptist or Lutheran.

 Underlining all the successes of the Greatest Generation was the presence of secular and to some degree socialist professors on college campuses. There were enough to influence thinking minds who were depressed by the Vietnam war and draft. I remember the 1960’s well-cited lifestyle slogan, *if it feels good do it,* became the mantra that filtered into choices for every aspect of life, and yes, you can disregard the consequences. This adopted non-biblical worldview represented by the phrase *if it feels good do it* fostered the *me first* selfishness culture which replaced Jesus’ teaching that "*If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all*" (Mk. 9:35). The Sex, Drugs and Rock-N-roll cultural revolution created a serious challenge to the Christian witness to be seen as an exclusive claim to gain peace with God and eternal salvation. Finding peace with God was discarded. Therefore, the biblical call to just find peace with your neighbor through God’s Word was lost. Leaving God out-of-the equation left American youth on their own to correctly have a relationship with their neighbor. The results have been disastrous with every social measurement of divorce and unwed teen pregnancy off the charts. With liberal ungodly government policies, the largest welfare state in American history was created. The Sex, Drugs and Rock and Roll revelation of the 1960’s added to a dumbing down of young people, who then became adults and promulgated their beliefs to their children and the worldview repeats itself. Again, what does this have to do with Islam? Nothing.

The American post WWII experience produced a nation ignorant of Islam and Muhammad. It is just not in the cultural DNA of Sex, Drugs and Rock and Roll of the 1960’s America to learn real facts. Real facts are judgmental. Along with the cultural revolution of the 1960’s came the “no judgement” that was not only applied to domestic religious values but extended anything internationally. The American “no judgment” supported the “if it feels good, do it” lifestyle which extended to views about any religion including Islam. Islam was just another choice to make you feel good if that was your thing. . . no need to discern between or have knowledge of any belief systems, religions or worldviews since they were all basically the same. With the underling Darwinian public education system teaching that there is no life-after- death, there is no compelling spiritual reason to discern factors in this life that the Judeo-Christian worldview historically taught as deterministic for a person’s eternal life.

Demographic Reason to Compare Jesus to Muhammad

 Despite these challenges, in 2020, the well-known demographer the PEW Research Center estimated that Christians made up to 2.38 billion of the world’s eight billion population. This same study showed that in western countries there had been a decrease in the percentage of the Christian population from 1910, with 93 percent to 57 percent in 2010. However, non-American and non-European regions grew from about 6.5 percent to about 37 percent. It is of note that there was a decrease in the region PEW titled “Middle East -North Africa” from 7 percent to 6 percent during that same time.[[17]](#footnote-17) The Middle East-North-Africa are predominately Islamic regions. Therefore, we can see there is a great challenge to Christianity from Islam.

 The same PEW Research Center projects the U.S. Muslim population to grow from 5.2 million in 2010, to 10.9 million in 2030. “Globally, the Muslim population is forecast to grow at about twice the rate of the non-Muslim population over the next two decades – an average annual growth rate of 1.5% for Muslims, compared with 0.7% for non-Muslims.”[[18]](#footnote-18)

 There can be detailed demographic studies cited, but the overall fact remains that there is a growing challenge to the Christian presence and worldview from Islam. The Muslim growth rate is mainly due to biological growth in birth rates. However, it is of note that most converts to Islam in America come from a Christian background being 77% but as many who covert will also leave Islam according to PEW.[[19]](#footnote-19)

Americans innocently join Islam because of the religious freedom heritage that taught them all religions are about the same. With this attitude, you can pick one. Islam is easy to join, just say the Shahada and you are in. Once a person is in, particularly a woman, they learn over time that their new Muslim husband starts to impose the Sharia Law. The woman then discovers she does not have any rights and all western civil rights with which she grew-up do not apply to Islam.

With this challenge from Islam, the Christian Church, as a group, needs to have a response and that response is overdue. There has been a response from many in the academic arena, but academia very rarely filters down to the average church member. In the West, there is a relative silence from church pulpits or in church Bible studies to equip church members to have an informed and reasoned conversation about Islam and Muslims. It is a pervasive attitude and falsely held opinion that Islam is an ancient religion like Buddhism or Judaism.

**Three Comparisons**

 These three comparisons (birth, moral teachings and/or character and geographical biography) will overlap in content. It is impossible that each element stands alone without impacting the other.

Comparison Number One: Births

What does the Bible, Quran and Hadiths report about Jesus’ and Muhammad’s births and missions? A person’s life mission is tied to their purpose. I will present evidence for Jesus first.

Birth Mission and Prophecy of Jesus

It is settled history that Jesus was a real person and was born between the years 6-4 B.C.[[20]](#footnote-20)

Why the date before 1 A.D.? Dionysius the Little (Dionysius Exiguus) was a sixth-century Roman monk-mathematician-astronomer who was assigned the task to recalibrate the Roman Calendar from the founding of the city of Rome to the birth of Christ. Dionysius incorrectly dated the death of King Herod which he used to determine the birth of Christ. Herod died seven hundred and forty-nine years from the founding of Rome. Dionysius made an error by calculating the birth of Christ seven hundred and fifty-three years from the Founding of Rome. However, obviously, Herod had to be alive to meet the Magi and order the killing of babies (Matthew 2:16).

 Therefore, Jesus’ birth is well confirmed in the historical text of the Bible. The Apostle Paul calls Luke “the beloved physician” (Col. 4:14). Paul’s designation lends to Luke being an educated person who is capable of writing an accurate account of the life of Jesus. True to this opinion, Luke makes a compelling case that his letter is produced with great care and accuracy. Luke attributes his accuracy to the eyewitness and servants of the word who had handed down to him what they witnessed from the beginning. Luke was committed to write the account of Jesus’ life in consecutive order (Luke 1:1-3).

It is well-accepted that the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke were all written prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. None of the Gospels mention this event. Because Jesus prophesied that the temple in Jerusalem would be destroyed (Matthew 24:2) and none of the Gospel writers chronicled the event in their letters, it is strongly held by New Testament scholars that the Gospel letters must have been written prior to 70 A.D.

The historical record demonstrates that the life of Jesus was written about within thirty-seven years of His death lending to an accurate report. In contrast, the closest document that is in reference to Muhammad’s biography was written by Ibn Ishaq (not an eyewitness) about 100 years after Muhammad died. I also noted scholars do not have Ishaq’s original work but rely upon Ibn Hisham’s reproduction of Ibn Isaq’s work that was written about 200 years after Muhammad died.

An eyewitness to the life of Jesus, Matthew begins his Gospel letter with the record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, (Matthew 1:1). In addition, John is an eyewitness to the ministry life of Jesus. John ends his Gospel letter by affirming he is testifying the truth. In addition, John states that the world can not contain all the books that could be written about Jesus (John 21:24-25). Mark writes in the first sentence of his Gospel letter that Jesus as the Messiah fulfilled prophecy from Isaiah 40:3 and Malichi 3:1 which concerned John the Baptist. Mark and John do not chronicle Jesus’ birth narrative but how can they chronicle Jesus’ life if He was not born?

Jesus’ Birth and Prophecy

Was Jesus the Messiah prophesied to come in the Old Testament? Yes, God spoke through His prophet Isaiah, about 700 years before Jesus’ birth "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel” (Isa. 7:14). The Gospel writer Matthew quotes Isaiah (Matt. 1:23) to substantiate the prophecy. In addition, Isaiah 9:6 is a direct prophecy about Jesus forthtelling “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 53 is more about the mission of Jesus as the suffering Messiah, but it is irrefutably a direct prophecy about Jesus of Nazareth who went to the Cross to pay the price of sins of the world.”

From these Jewish Old Testament scriptures, Jesus’ Messianic purpose was prophesied hundreds of years before He was born. Randy Newman, a Senior Fellow for Apologetics and Evangelism of the C.S. Lewis Institute makes the following observations about Jesus’ Messianic fulfillment.

First, we must reckon with the fact that the same verses that New Testament writers labeled messianic are the same passages that Jewish scholars have identified in the exact same ways. You can find dozens of such references in the rabbinic writings like the Talmud, Mishnah, and Targums, all written long before Jesus was born. (Alfred Edersheim lists 30 pages of such quotes in his The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, Hendrickson Publishers, 1993, pp. 980-1010.)

Second, Jesus fulfills two very different kinds of Messianic prophecies. Old Testament scholars, both Jewish and Christian. Of the 800 verses pointing to a reigning Messiah of peace and prosperity, there are 500 that describe a suffering messiah who atones for sins.

(Micah 4:3, Isaiah 65:25, Psalm 2:9, Gen. 3:15, read all of Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12)

This study begs the question of how could one person do both—reign and suffer? However, when we received the fuller contexts of God’s Word we see Jesus is both roles. Two Messiahs: 1. Reigning king “Messiah, Son of David.” 2 Samuel 7, Psalm 89. 2. Suffering servant “Messiah, Son of Joseph” (Isaiah 53, Psalm 22).[[21]](#footnote-21)

Birth Mission and Prophecy of Muhammad

The birth narrative of Jesus is well-documented in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. However, there is not a Quranic Surah detailing the birth or prophecy predicting the birth of Muhammad. The birth account is written in sources like Ibn Ishaq’s book on the life of Muhammad. This is the problem when studying Islam, Muhammad and the city of Mecca and the Quran, it’s not well proven by any documents from the seventh century or before. Therefore, scholars have to rely upon Ibn Ishaq’s book as a starting point which was written about 200 years after Muhammad died. However, there is another consideration when citing Ibn Ishaq. Scholars do not have his original work.

 The well-known and published Islamic critic Robert Spencer addressed this concern in his book ‘The Truth about Muhammad Founder of the World’s Most Intolerant Religion’.[[22]](#footnote-22) Spencer identifies that Muhammad Ibn Ishaq Ibn Yasar, generally known as Ibn Ishaq, lived from 704-773 A.D., attempted to provide a continuous narrative of Muhammad’s life. This is due to the fact that the Qur’an only gives biographical nuggets about the life of Muhammad. However, the original is lost leaving scholars to rely upon the work of Ibn Hisham who died in 834 A.D. Ibn Hisham reproduced Ibn Isaq’s work in part. Ibn Hisham explains that he omitted material from Ibn Ishaq’s material because it was disgraceful and would distress certain people. Spencer details that Ibn Ishaq’s book in the form of Ibn Hisham’s abridgement has had its controversial reviews by some Muslims. But overall, Ibn Ishaq’s book is available in Islamic bookstores and is generally regarded as trustworthy. I used the Oxford University Press, edited by A. Guillaume, for the primary source for this report.[[23]](#footnote-23)

There is a parallel event (Year of the Elephant) in the Qur’an that is said to had happened at the same time of Muhammad’s birth. The birth of Muhammad, by name, is not found in the Qur’an. This is in contrast to Jesus’ name and title cited in the Jewish scripture and in the first sentence of Matthew’s Gospel “*The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah*,” (Matt. 1:1). Regarding Muhammed in the Qur’an, there are a number of texts Muslims point to substantiate Muhammad’s presence about being the “Messenger” of Allah (Surah 9:128). “Certainly, a Messenger has come to you from among yourselves; very painful for him is your falling into distress, most concerned (he is) for you, to the believers (he is) compassionate, merciful.”

 The dating of Muhammad’s birth reveal that Islam is not an ancient religion. It is informative when a Christian or non-Islamic person learns that Muhammad is reported by Islamic sources to be born, in what Islam calls the “year of the Elephant” on the 12th Rabī' al-awwal. This corelates to about 570 -571 A.D.[[24]](#footnote-24) The reference to Elephants is an Islamic reference that details an attack by the Christian ruler of Yemen (Abraha) on Mecca. In Surah 105:1-5, the Qur’an details Abraha’s attempting to destroy the Kabbah in Mecca but was defeated by birds who pelted his Elephant army with stones. The story of the Elephants in the Quran does not mention the birth of Muhammad. There are other sources that link the event to Muhammad’s birth, like Ibn Ishaq.

Islamic scholars are pressed to find a prophecy about Muhammad in the Qur’an or the Bible. Islamic scholars point to the Jewish Old Testament and claim there is a prophecy about Muhammad in Deuteronomy 18:15. "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.” However, Islamic scholars count on their followers to ignore the rest of the chapter. Deuteronomy 18:18 specifically declares that the Lord will raise up a prophet from the “Hebrews”. 'I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I commanded him.” In addition, in Deuteronomy 18:20, the Lord gives a warning about false prophets*.* Muhammad did prophecy falsely in Surah 53:19-25.

Deut. 18:20 'But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.' 21 "You may say in your heart, 'How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' 22 "When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

Is it recorded in the Quran that Muhammad spoke falsely. The Quranic text specifically details Muhammad approving and appealing to three pagan gods being Lat, Uzza and Manat.

Surah 53:19 Have you then considered Lāt and Uzzā, 53:20 and another, the third, Manāt? 53:21 Are the males for you and for Him the females? 53:22 This indeed is an unjust division! 53:23 They are nothing but names which you have named, you and your fathers — Allah has sent no authority for them. They follow only conjecture and what (their) souls desire. And certainly, the guidance has come to them from their Lord. 53:24 Or shall man have what he wishes? 53:25 But for Allah is the Hereafter and the former (life).

It is recorded in the Qur’an in Surah 22:52, that Allah responded to Muhammad that all prophets have spoken falsely.

22:52 And We never sent a messenger or a prophet before you but when he desired, the devil made a suggestion in regard to his desire; but Allah annuls what the devil casts, then does Allah establish His messages. And Allah is Knowing, Wise —2:53 that He may make what the devil casts a trial for those in whose hearts is a disease and the hard-hearted. And surely the wrongdoers are in severe opposition.

 Fromthese Surahs, it is clear that Muhammad spoke falsely. Considering that Muhammad is believed to be the Messenger Allah spoke to via the angel Gabriel, and that every word has not been changed for fourteen hundred years, these Surahs in the Qur’an indict Muhammad as being the very person he was not supposed to be, a false prophet.

 To regard any Islamic claims as accurate is difficult to accept. The fact that Muhammad was born almost 600 years after Jesus brings many questions. It is a reasonable question to ask why God took so long to speak through a final prophet when the Bible makes warnings about adding to God’s Word in Deuteronomy 4:1-2 and Proverbs 30:5-6. These warnings are in the context of taking away or adding to the meaning of God’s Word. The Qur’an does add and take away from God’s Word. One of the most glaring examples of editing God’s Word is in Surah 4:157.

and for their saying: We have killed the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the messenger of Allah, and they did not kill him, nor did they cause his death on the cross, but he was made to appear to them as such. And certainly, those who differ concerning it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge about it, but only follow a conjecture, and they did not kill him for certain; 158 rather, Allah exalted him in His presence. And Allah is ever Mighty, Wise. 159 And there is none of the People of the Book but will believe in this before his death; and on the day of Resurrection, he will be a witness against them.

Muhammad did not receive his first revelation from Allah until 610 A.D.[[25]](#footnote-25) Therefore, Islam is not an ancient religion paralleling Buddhism or Hinduism. With these revelations from Allah, through the angel Gabriel, Islam teaches that Muhammad was God’s last prophet who received the final revelations from God taking precedent over all previous prophets including Jesus. These revelations took place over a twenty-two-year period. It is well documented that Muhammad died by poison in 632 A.D. Eventually, the thousands of revelations Muhammad received from Allah were written down after his death.

**Moral teachings**

Jesus on Morality

 Jesus is the perfect moral standard in all of human history. One of the reasons Christianity is rejected is because people know they cannot live the moral life and teachings of Jesus. There is not one immoral statement or act of Jesus recorded in the Bible because there is not one. Surely someone in history would have exposed Jesus. The worst act Jesus did is to make the fig tree wither (Matthew 21:19, Mark 11:21). Jesus withered the fig tree to illustrate His teaching about faith. Being a good moral person not wanting people to be embarrassed for running out of wine at a wedding, Jesus’ first miracle was to turn water into wine at a wedding (John 2:11-12). It is noted that Jesus knew that the higher purpose was to declare who He was by this miracle. Jesus’ last miracle was one of salvation that directly affected another person with His words from the Cross spoken to the man who just confessed Jesus as Lord. Before Jesus breathed His last breath, Jesus told the man that he would be with Him in Paradise (Luke 23:42-43). The idea that Christians live perfect moral lives, like Jesus, is a misunderstanding. I am not writing this paper to address this misunderstanding, but a brief word is appropriate.

 God knows we will all fail and become sinners. The Apostle Paul writes to the sinners in Rome “as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; 11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; (Rom. 3:10-11). Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes 7:20 “Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.” God has the apostle John write in 1 John 1, the reality of the Christian sinful state.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us (1 John 1:6-10).

Muhammad on Morality

Muslims report that Muhammad was the most perfect man in appearance, soul and nobility. Here is an example of what Muslims are taught.

 The Prophet combined both perfection of creation and perfection of manners.

This impression on people can be deduced by the bliss that overwhelmed their hearts

and filled them with dignity. Men’s dignity, devotion and estimation of the Messenger

of Allâh were unique and matchless. No other man in the whole world has

been so honored and beloved. Those who knew him well, were fascinated and

enchanted by him. They were ready to sacrifice their lives for the sake of saving a

nail of his from hurt or injury. Being privileged by lots of prerogatives of perfection

that no one else had been endowed with, his Companions found that he was peerless

and they loved him. . . His stamina, endurance and forgiveness — out of a commanding position — his patience and standing what he detested — these were all talents, attributes and qualities Allâh Himself had brought him on. Even wise men have their flaws, but the

Messenger of Allâh, unlike everybody, the more he was hurt or injured, the

more clement and patient he became. The more insolence an ignorant anybody

exercised against him the more enduring he became.[[26]](#footnote-26)

Muhammad’s Hadith Record of Morality

 Who is one of the best sources to confirm the moral life of Muhammad? One of the best witnesses to the life of Muhammad is from a person who was a Muslim who realized the truth and humbled himself to Jesus Christ. The late Nabeel Qureshi, author, speaker, and teacher were one of the best witnesses to accurately teach Islam and the life of Muhammad. Nabeel’s conversion from Islam to Christianity is one of the most compelling anyone could ever see or listen. Qureshi’s witness can be read in his book *Seeking Allah Finding Jesus.* Despite Nabeel’s death from cancer in 2017, his testimony is recorded and lives through the man who witnessed the Gospel truth to him for four years, David Wood. David Wood is the popular founder of Acts 17 Apologetics Ministry who is not bashful about teaching the truth about Islam.

 In the past six years, I have learned a great many truths about Islam through a self-study. In addition to Qureshi and Wood, there are a credible number of other sources. Al Fadi is a converted Muslim from Saudi Arabia who founded and teaches through CIRA International an online ministry. Fadi frequently has guests such as academic critic of Islam Jay Smith and David Wood to present a detail study of Islam and Muhammad.

 In reference to the witness of Qureshi, he reveals in another book he wrote *No God But One Allah or Jesus?* that Muhammad’s treatment of women, allowance for prostitution, marrying a nine year old girl, and the allowance of slaves and to have sexual relation with slaves to be a report that he did not know until he started investigating the primary sources, the Hadiths.[[27]](#footnote-27)

After receiving information that was critical of Islam from reading Qureshi, Wood, Fadi, and Smith, I was driven to research for myself all the information I received. I found that the Hadiths were vital in understanding and learning the truth about Islam and Muhammad. After my review of some of the claims made by Islamic critics, I investigated the primary sources, the Qur’an and Hadiths. I also found the best commentary accepted by Muslims on the Qur’an to be Tanwīr al-Miqbās min Tafsīr Ibn 'Abbās (Shorten to Ibn ‘Abbas) who was the cousin of Muhammad.[[28]](#footnote-28)

The online book, Page ii, General Editor’s Introduction, substantiates the credibility of Ibn ‘Abbas. Among the most important sources for understanding the Qur’an are the tafsir works, commentaries on the Qur’an, which help to properly explain and contextualize the Revelation. . . Tanwir al-Miqbas remains a pivotal work for the study of Islamic exegesis for the following reasons:

1. The traditions attributed to Ibn ‘Abbas that are at the core of this work render it as a seminal work of exegesis.

2. This commentary is unabridged and uncensored as are other works in the series.

3. The work is an example of the tafsir type known as tafsir bi’l-riwaya or tafsir bi’l-ma’thur. That is, it contains reports going back to the Prophet (pbuh) or a Companion, in this case Ibn ‘Abbas.

4. Tanwir al-Miqbas does not contain elaborate theological or philosophical explanations.

5. Tanwir al-Miqbas does not contain the technical grammatical explanations commonly found in other works.

6. Tanwir al-Miqbas is unencumbered by isnads or chains of transmission, occasionally found in other tafsir works, thus making the work accessible to the non-specialist.

This is important because the witness of Ibn ‘Abbas brings clarity to verses in the Qur’an. This is vitally important in review of the verses highlighted in this report specifically Surah 65.4.

Therefore, from this study, I realized that what is acceptable and considered normal to the historic Islamic culture, chronicled in the Qur’an and Hadiths, is appalling and demonstratively against the Judeo-Christian code. In addition, Shariah law, based on the Qur’an and the Hadiths, stands as an afront and in opposition to the U.S. Constitution.

 I found the following Hadith record of the life of Muhammad to be the most repugnant to a civilized society. Muhammad’s actions are beyond a few amoral indiscretions; these Hadith records highlight the life of a barbaric man.

 The evilest amoral wrong I could find that Muhammad was guilty was marrying a six-year-old girl named Aishah and consecrated the marriage when she was nine. Aishah was the daughter of his close companion Abu-Bakr. I did not want to believe this account. I found that it is not only true, but the Islamic culture supports this evil behavior.

 Qur’an verse 65.4 was a revelation from Allah through the angel Gabriel to Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah. The context of this verse is to regulate how much time must pass before a woman is allowed to remarry.

Qur’an 65:4 And those of your women who despair of menstruation, if you have a doubt, their prescribed time is three months, and of those, too, who have not had their courses. And the pregnant women, their prescribed time is that they lay down their burden. And whoever keeps his duty to Allah, He makes his affair easy for him.

 The words in 65.4 “too, who have not had their courses” is a reference to girls who have not started their menstrual cycle. How do we know this is the correct reference. I found in the most trusted Islamic commentary to be Ibn ‘Abbas which is readily accessible online. The commentary is set up by Qur’an Surah numbers.

65:4] (And for such of your women as despair of menstruation) because of old age, (if ye doubt) about their waiting period, (their period (of waiting) shall be three months) upon which another man asked: “O Messenger of Allah! What about the waiting period of those who do not have menstruation because they are too young?” (along with those who have it not) because of young age, their waiting period is three months. Another man asked: “what is the waiting period for those women who are pregnant?” (And for those with child) i.e. those who are pregnant, (their period) their waiting period (shall be till they bring forth their burden) their child. (And whosoever keepeth his duty to Allah) and whoever fears Allah regarding what he commands him, (He maketh his course easy for him) He makes his matter easy; and it is also said this means: He will help him to worship Him well.

The fact that the question was asked directly to the Messenger of Allah” is disturbing and reveals that the practice of marrying children was common.

The Qur’an and the commentary report the Islamic approval from Allah about the open practice of pedophilia. Sahih Bukhari is the most respected Sunni Islamic Hadith. Sahih Bukhari published the following: Sahih al-Bukhari 5133; Narrated `Aisha: that the Prophet (ﷺ) married her when she was six years old and he consummated his marriage when she was nine years old, and then she remained with him for nine years (i.e., till his death).[[29]](#footnote-29)

Additional reflection upon Muhammad’s moral character and his treatment of women, particularly his wives is revealed in many Bukhari Hadiths.

Sahih al-Bukhari 5068, 5215; Narrated Anas: The Prophet (ﷺ) used to go round (have sexual relations with) all his wives in one night, and he had nine wives. [[30]](#footnote-30)

Sahih al-Bukhari 232; Narrated `Aishah: I used to wash the semen off the clothes of the Prophet (ﷺ) and even then I used to notice one or more spots on them.[[31]](#footnote-31)

Sahih al-Bukhari; Narrated `Amr bin Maimun: I heard Sulaiman bin Yasar talking about the clothes soiled with semen. He said that `Aisha had said, "I used to wash it off the clothes of Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) and he would go for the prayers while water spots were still visible on them.[[32]](#footnote-32)

 The following Musnad Ahmad 16245 and Bukhari 5456 Hadiths are a record of very odd acts of Muhammad. The context of the Muhammad licking fingers is the belief that there is blessing in the food. The context of sucking a little boys’ tongue is perverted. The following were cited from the Acts 17 Apologetics Islamoblog.[[33]](#footnote-33)

Sahih al-Bukhari; Narrated Ibn `Abbas: The Prophet (ﷺ) said, 'When you eat, do not wipe your hands till you have licked it, or had it licked by somebody else.[[34]](#footnote-34)

Musnad Ahmad 16245—[Mua’wiya said]: "I saw the prophet sucking on the tongue or the lips of Al-Hassan son of Ali, may the prayers of Allah be upon him. For no tongue or lips that the prophet sucked on will be tormented (by hell fire)"

Al-Adab al-Mufrad al-Bukhari 1183—It is related that Abu Hurayra said, "I never saw al-Hasan without my eyes overflowing with tears. That is because the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, went out one day and I found him in the mosque. He took my hand and I went along with him. He did not speak to me until we reached the market of Banu Qaynuqa. He walked around it and looked. Then he left and I left with him until we reached the mosque. He sat down and wrapped himself in his garment. Then he said, 'Where is the little one? Call the little one to me.' Hasan came running and jumped into his lap. Then he put his hand in his beard. Then the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, opened his mouth and put his tongue in his mouth. Then he said, O Allah, I love him, so love him and the one who loves him!'" (Al-Adab al-Mufrad Al-Bukhari, Number 1183)

Musnad Ahmad 16245—[Mua’wiya said]: I saw the prophet sucking on the tongue or the lips of Al-Hassan son of Ali, may the prayers of Allah be upon him. For no tongue or lips that the prophet sucked on will be tormented (by hell fire).

**Geographic Biography**

 It is important to know the geography of the land where Jesus and Muhammad were born. These geographic locations affected their lives, mission and message. The cities and regions of the world where they were born impacted their lives and sculpted a narrative that is unique to their claims.

Jesus’ Geographical Biography

 The known development of geographic lands where Jesus was born was well established in the 1st century A.D. From Roman and Jewish records, the world has known the city of Jerusalem had been established for centuries. From Jewish sources, there is the story of Abram coming from Ur in about 2000 B.C. (Gen. 12). The biblical historian John Bright identifies that Jerusalem was an established town in southern Palestine by the nineteenth century B.C. [[35]](#footnote-35)

 When I do a word search for “Jerusalem” in the New American Standard Bible, I get 811 hits. The following towns have their respected citation in the NAS: Nazareth -17, Gallie – 69, Bethlehem – 49. There is not any doubt in anyone’s mind that the geographical development of Israel was well-developed by the time Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1,6,8). Matthew cites the prophet Micah in his Gospel to verify the prophetic nature of Bethlehem as the birthplace of the Messiah (Mic. 5:2). By the accuracy in reporting the correct location of Jesus’ birth brings legitimacy to the life story of Jesus.

 The geographic location of Israel was important to the Greeks and Romans as an overland crossroads for Africa, Asia and Europe. From Alexander the Great to the Roman Emperors, they wanted to control the region. The overland road from Egypt through Israel was historically called the Via Maris. The King’s Highway started in the port of Elath on the Gulf of Aqaba.[[36]](#footnote-36)

Muhammads’ Geographical Biography

 Muslims report that Muhammed was born in Mecca (Makkah) in the Year of the Elephant which corresponds to about 570 A.D. (Sealed Nectar 57) There are two main questions that can be asked from the Islamic teaching that Muhammad was born in Mecca in 570 A.D. Why is Muhammad’s name only mentioned four times in the Qur’an: 57. 3:144, 48:29, 33:40; 47:2.? The second question is similar. Why is their only one reference to the city of Mecca, and that reference is questionable? “Certainly, the first house appointed for mankind is the one at Bakkah, blessed and a guidance for the nations” (Qur’an 3:96).

 Christians know that Muslims pray five times a day. Some Christians know that the Muslims all over the world pray in the direction of Mecca by instruction in the Qur’an

(2:144, 149,150). All of the references only directed a Muslim to pray in the direction of the “Sacred Mosque”; there is no mention of the city of Mecca.

 What is a “qibla”? A “qibla” is an outward protrusion in the wall in every mosque indicating the direction to pray. Dan Gibson has devoted years of his life to determine the direction of the earliest qibla’s. I reference Gibson’s book*, Early Islamic Qiblas* that revealed his research that there was not one mosque’s qibla facing Mecca for the first eighty-seven years of the Islamic Calendar. Gibson mapped the oldest Mosque. (page 7,172) Gibson identified the Nabatean city of Petra as the location the oldest qiblas were facing. Petra is 600 miles north.[[37]](#footnote-37)

From Gibson’s research, legitimate questions can be asked about Muhammad and Mecca. When was Mecca established as a town? Since the origins of Islam are based upon Muhammad being born in Mecca and receiving his first revelations from there. . . the unveiling of the qibla directions bring the accuracy of the Islamic narrative under great question with Gibson’s report. The underlining narrative is that Muhammad got it all wrong or years after he died others changed the Islamic narrative. Either way, a prophet of God and/or his followers should not make such a glaring error. Imagine if Christians found that the Bible got the birthplace of Jesus wrong in addition to the narrative regarding the geographic origins of Christianity.

**Conclusion**

 There were two goals stated for this paper. To make a comparison between Jesus the Messiah of Christianity and Muhammad, considered by Muslims to be Allah’s Messenger and last prophet superseding all others before him. The second goal was for the reader to have sufficient information to make a decision who is the better man to found a world-wide religious movement that brings peace to the world. There were a few categories considered due to the parameters of this report. After some foundational information about Islam as compared to Christianity was brought forth, the known record of birth, moral teachings and action and geographic biographies were considered for each man. Within these parameters, there were only a few things highlighted. However limited the information, I reason that it is sufficient to make a decision regarding who the better man is to be a religious leader.

Considering the birth record and prophecies about their births surrounding both men, Jesus has the clear historical record within Judaism and Christian histories. The fact that Muhammad’s name is only mentioned four times in the Qur’an lends to many open speculations including, who is the real Muhammad? In addition, considering that the closest biographical record of Muhammad is about 200 years after he died lends to additional open speculation about his reported life narrative. In contrast, three of Jesus’ life biographies (Matthew, Mark, Luke) can be dated confidently to within thirty-seven years of his death with Matthew being an eyewitness to the life of Jesus.

Any civilized thinking person should consider Muhammad’s amoral record alone to disqualify him from being anywhere near women and children much less a religious leader. Islam’s own sacred books the Qur’an and Hadiths confirm that Muhammad was a pedophile and woman abuser. In western civilized societies committed to the protection of women and children, Muhammads would have been charged with felony crimes. This report was too brief to chronicle the robbery and homicidal life Muhammad lived that is well reported in the Hadiths.

The geographical biography of both men is strikingly different. Every geographic aspect of Jesus’ life has been verified. There could not be a wider gap in the legitimacy of the geographic narrative between Jesus and Muhammad. Due to Gibson’s qibla report, there are now growing questions about the origins of Islam including the person of Muhammad and the city of Mecca.

Jesus is the better man.

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