

## False Prophet, False Religion

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by Bill Crews

The man Mohammed (or Mahomet, or Muhammad — all meaning “praised”) lived about 570-632 A.D. An Arab, he was born of the tribe of Koreish in the city of Mecca in the western part of the Arabian peninsula and near the Red Sea. Since his father died before his birth and his mother when he was about six years old, he was cared for first by his grandfather and then by his uncle.

When he was about forty, Mohammed claimed to have received revelations from God or “Allah” through the angel Gabriel, and he began to teach his doctrines. He made converts who became his followers, and he and they were persecuted. He left Mecca as a fugitive and went more than 200 miles north to the city of Medina. Whereas at Mecca he apparently preached against the use of physical force and submitted to persecution, at Medina he became a political ruler and military leader, destroying many of his enemies and opposers with the sword. He arrogantly claimed to be the last and greatest of God’s prophets, wrote the infamous Koran (or Qu-ran), and founded a new religion, Islam (“submission” to God). His followers are known as Moslems or Muslims (“true believers”).

Accepted by most Moslems as authoritative are the Koran, the contemporary poetry of his adherents (especially his “court poet”), four accepted biographies of Mohammed written in the 8th and 9th centuries by followers, and the books of traditions (Sunna) of Mohammed’s “table-talk” and habits of life. Mohammed took the liberty of changing and rewriting history to suit his claims and goals. Here are some things taught by Mohammed:

1. His fundamental doctrine: ***“There is but one God, Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet.”***
2. He taught that God has had many prophets, but six of them were sent to proclaim new laws and dispensations — Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Mohammed.
3. He said that through the prophets were given certain Scriptures that were inspired. All of these have been lost but four, the Pentateuch (Genesis through Deuteronomy in the Bible), the Psalms, the Gospels (Matthew through John), and the Koran — the first three of which have been falsified and mutilated.
4. Mohammed declared that he was the last and greatest of God’s prophets, and the Koran the last and greatest of God’s revelations.
5. He did not accept the Bible, either the Old Testament or the New Testament. He acknowledged that God gave a law through Moses, but rejected every thing in the Old Testament as a hopeless and corrupted version of that law and the history of the Israelites or Jews.
6. He acknowledged Jesus of Nazareth to be nothing more than a prophet of God and just a man. He rejected the deity of Jesus and all that is connected with it — virgin birth, atonement, resurrection, ascension, exaltation, etc.
7. He acknowledged that God gave some revelations through Jesus of Nazareth, but maintained that the New Testament contains only a hopeless perversion of these.
8. He emphasized as chief in importance in one’s life these four things: (1) Purification and prayer (Moslems are to pray daily facing toward Mecca), (2) Alms-giving; (3) Fasting (their month Ramadan is set apart for fasting daily from sunrise to sunset; in practice many just sleep through the day and stay awake and feast in the night), and (4) a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage, if possible, to Mecca (the rigors of this pilgrimage take a high toll on human life, especially in the summer months).

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