



Mistakes we Make



- We judge Islam by Muslims.
 - Consider Christians (Westboro Baptist)
 - Judging of Restaurants (Olive Garden)
- We assume Muslims know the Qur'an.
 - 80% of Pakistani People have never read the Qur'an. Any of it.
- We assume Muslims obey the Qur'an.
 - Christians always obey the Bible, right?

Mistakes we Make (cont.)

- We assume all Muslims are the same.
 - We know peaceful Muslims and think all Muslims are peaceful.
 - We hear about violent Muslims and think all Muslims are violent.
- We don't know the Qur'an.
- We don't know History.
- We don't even really know Muhammad.



Orthodox Christianity

- What does the Bible teach according to its natural reading in context?
- What did Jesus do as an example for Disciples?
- How did the Apostles interpret and apply Jesus' teaching?
- What is the example of the first century church?





Orthodox Islam

- What does the Qur'an teach according to its natural reading in context?
- What did Muhammad do as an example for Muslims?
- How did the disciples interpret and apply Muhammad's teaching?
- What is the example of the 7th century (AD 632-700) Muslim society?

Understanding
Muhammad

Understanding Muhammad

- What we “know” comes from Muslims (this is not a Westernized version).
- So we ask:
 - What was he like?
 - What did he do?
 - What did he intend to create when he started Islam?



Muhammad's Life



The Text of the Qur'an

Later Chapters

Earlier Chapters

Ch. 9

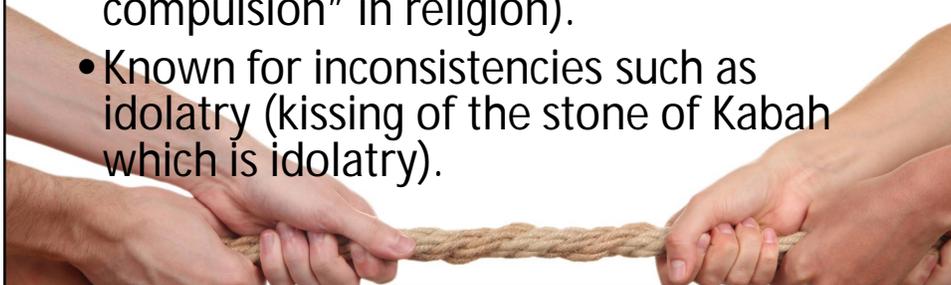
Muhammad's Example

- Slaughtered about 400, possibly 800, Jewish men and sold the women and children into slavery (AD 627).
 - This is praised in Qur'an 33:25-27.
 - Modern Iranian Muslim Apologist Reza Aslan defends Muhammad by saying, he might have killed a whole tribe, but it wasn't as bad as genocide.



Muhammad's Example (cont)

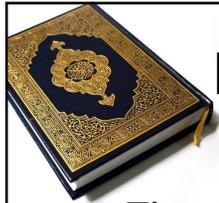
- Known for making himself an exception to the rules (example: number of wives)
- Known for making violence on caravans.
- Put his enemies to death for religiously opposing him (even though there is "no compulsion" in religion).
- Known for inconsistencies such as idolatry (kissing of the stone of Kabah which is idolatry).



Summary of Muhammad

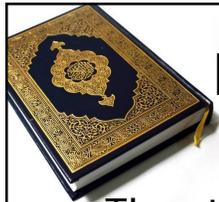
- Did much good for the Arab people.
- Elevated the status of women in that culture.
- Life of hypocrisy, violence, and death.
- Early life – promoted peace.
- Later life – conquering, iron-fisted ruler.

Understanding the Qur'an



Popular Understanding of the Qur'an

- "The Qur'an teaches peace." 5:32 – "...if anyone slew a person...it would be as if he slew the whole people: and if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people."
- The Qur'an teaches tolerance and accepts Christians and Jews (2:136, and 4:163).



Popular Understanding of the Qur'an (cont.)

- The stories of the Qur'an were meant to validate the Bible (12:111).
- "If you (Mohammed) doubt the reliability of the Qur'an, you should ask those who are reading the Bible, which was revealed prior to your life." (10:94)
- There is nothing new in the Qur'an which was not revealed to former apostles" (41:43)

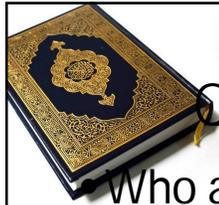
Two Mistakes of the Qur'an

- Since Christians often misinterpret the Bible, doesn't it stand to reason the Qur'an is often misinterpreted?
- Most non-Muslims (and many Muslims) do not know about or understand the concept of "Abrogation."



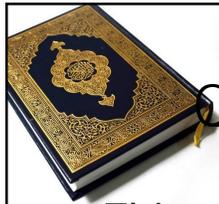
Qur'an in Context

- 5:32 – is a quote from the Jewish Talmud.
- Context = 5:33-34 – "The punishment of those who wage war against God and His Apostle...is execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite side, or exile from the land...Except for those who repent [convert] before they fall..."



Qur'an in Context (cont.)

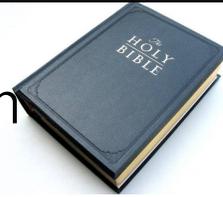
- Who are true Jews and Christians?
 - Those who believe in Allah and Muhammad as the prophet.
 - Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus were all Muslims according to the Qur'an.
- How are Jews and Christians today classified?
 - Pagans and polytheists.
 - Believing in the Trinity or that Jesus is God is the unforgivable sin of Islam.



Qur'an in Context (cont.)

- This means, according to the larger context of the Qur'an:
 - Modern Christians and Jews are equal to the pagans of the Qur'an.
 - They are also "infidel" of the Qur'an.
 - Commands to fight the infidel and pagans in the Qur'an apply to modern Jews and Christians.
 - Other interpretations ignore context or simply claim the contrary despite evidence.

A Biblical Comparison



- John 14:6 – “...no one comes to the father except through me [Jesus].”
- But we have Christians who claim that
 - People of other religions go to heaven.
 - Sincere people go to heaven.
 - If someone is a good person they get to go to heaven.
 - Jesus isn't necessary for salvation.

Why are there Qur'anic Inconsistencies

- Muhammad's early ministry and later chapters are peaceful.
- Muhammad's later ministry and earlier chapters are violent.
- Peaceful Muslims have their verses.
- Violent Muslims have their verses.
- Who is right?





The Concept of Abrogation

- Abrogation means “replacing.”
- Later revelation replaces the former.
- Example: Muslims were once required to pray facing Jerusalem.
 - This was changed to Mecca 2:143-144.
 - The reason: to test the people to see who would do it.
 - Unbelievers are the ones who still focus on Jerusalem.

The Last Abrogation

- Chapter 9 is the only surah that does not start with “in the name of God, most benevolent, ever-merciful.”
- The title of Surah 9 is “Ultimatum.”
- Surah 9 is the LAST THING Muhammad said.
- It is his “Great Commission.”

Surah 9:5

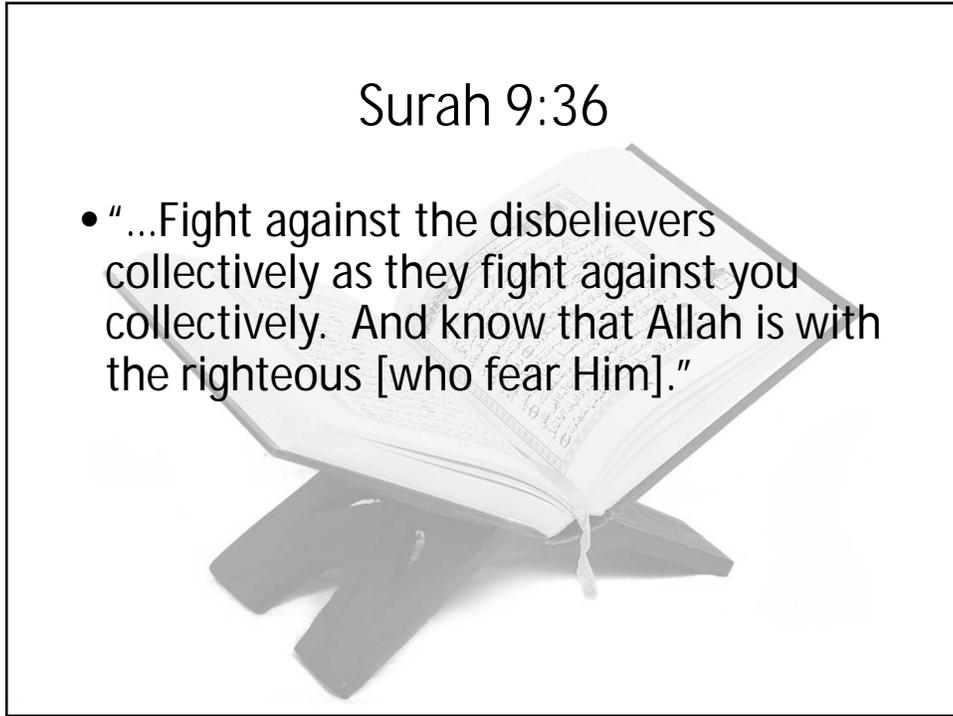
- 9:5 (considered to be the last thing Muhammad said) – “And when the sacred months have passed, then kill the polytheists wherever you find them and capture them and besiege them and sit in wait for them at every place of ambush. But if they should repent [convert], establish prayer, and give zakah [charity], let them [go] on their way....”

Surah 9:29

- Fight those who do not believe in Allah or in the Last Day and who do not consider unlawful what Allah and His Messenger have made unlawful and who do not adopt the religion of truth from those where given the Scripture – [fight] until they give the *jizyah* [tax for being a non-Muslim] willingly while they are humbled [subdued].

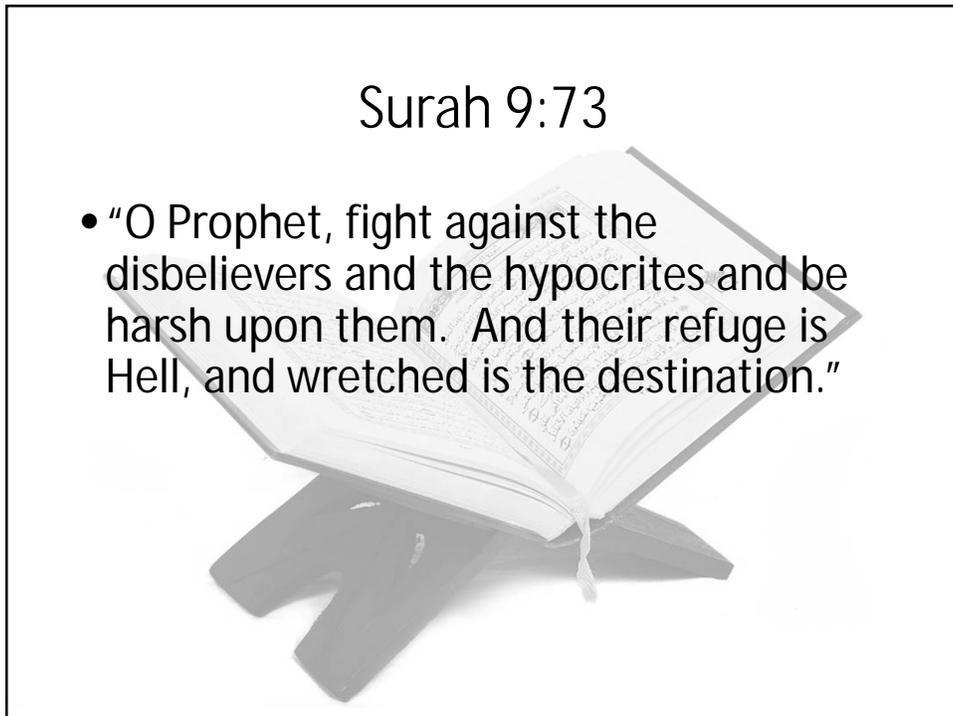
Surah 9:36

- "...Fight against the disbelievers collectively as they fight against you collectively. And know that Allah is with the righteous [who fear Him]."



Surah 9:73

- "O Prophet, fight against the disbelievers and the hypocrites and be harsh upon them. And their refuge is Hell, and wretched is the destination."



Surah 9:111

- "God hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods. For theirs (in return) is the garden (of Paradise). They fight in His cause, and slay and are slain."
- This verse specifically links jihad and salvation.
- There are 149 verses in the Qur'an concerning jihad.

Surah 9 and Abrogation

- 9:5 abrogates no less than 124 verses.
- If a Muslim does not believe in abrogation, then the Qur'an has contradictions.
- Attempts to "harmonize" the passages fail to honor the natural use of language and abuse the context.

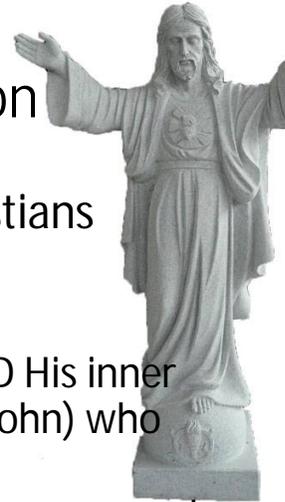
Summary

1. Muhammad began peacefully but ended in war.
2. The Qur'anic verses begin preaching peace, but end preaching war.

Perhaps Muhammad was misunderstood?

Understanding Islamic History

Biblical Connection



- Jesus is the example for Christians
 - We have his words.
 - We have his life.
 - Jesus had the 12 Apostles AND His inner circle of 3 (Peter, James, and John) who were with him all the time.
 - The Apostles carried out Jesus' commands during the first century of the church.

Islamic Comparison



- Muhammad is the example for Muslims
 - We have his words (violence).
 - We have his life (violence).
 - Muhammad had his inner circle of followers as well (Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali – the first four “rightly guided caliphs”).
 - How did Muhammad's followers carry out his commands during the first century of the Islamic faith? (AD 632-700)

The Death of Muhammad

- He left no instructions on who would replace him (he had become a political leader).
- Some wanted to vote to gain a consensus (Sunna) others – the minority or “shia” wanted a blood relative.
 - Thus the birth of the Sunni and Shi’ite.
 - They have hated each other from the beginning.



Establishing Leaders #1

- Abu Bakr was elected the first leader.
- This began the “caliphate,” with Bakr being the first “caliph.”
- Abu Bakr was (one of) Muhammad’s father-in-laws and was the first person to ever openly declare himself a Muslim.
- Firm supporter of abrogation which justified his expansion with the sword.

Establishing Leaders #2

- Umar was elected the second caliph after Abu Bakr.
- Also was with Muhammad from the beginning.
- Also spoke with and question and learned from Muhammad directly.
- Also spread Islam by the sword.

Umar as Quoted in the Hadith

- "Muhammad said, 'I have been commanded to fight the people until they testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except God and that Muhammad is the Messenger of God.'"

Establishing Leaders #3

- Uthman was the third caliph after Umar was assassinated.
- Also was from the beginning.
- He compiled the Qur'an.
 - Muslims who had been with Muhammad were quickly expiring due to all the war.
 - Uthman compiled everything, even bits written on bone and palm leaves.
 - Compiled the Qur'an, burned all the pieces.
 - This means there is no way to verify the text of the Qur'an (No Textual Criticism).

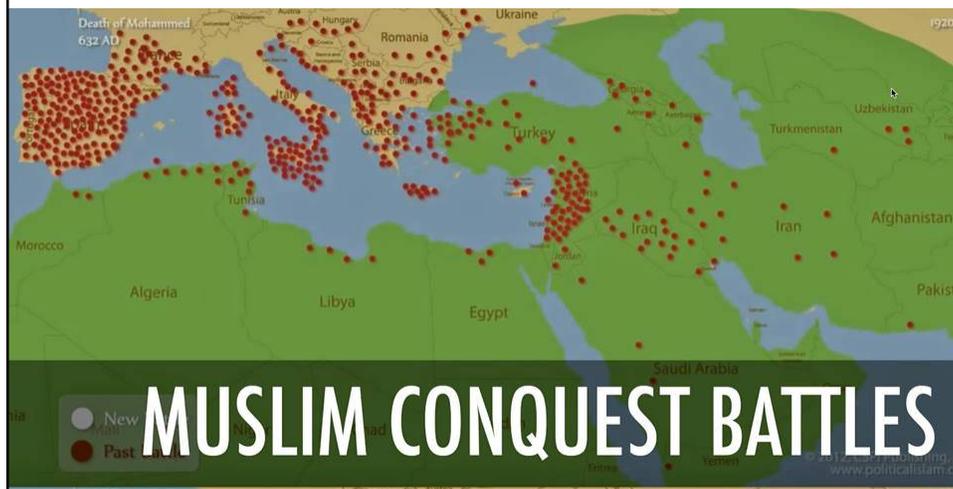
Establishing Leaders #4

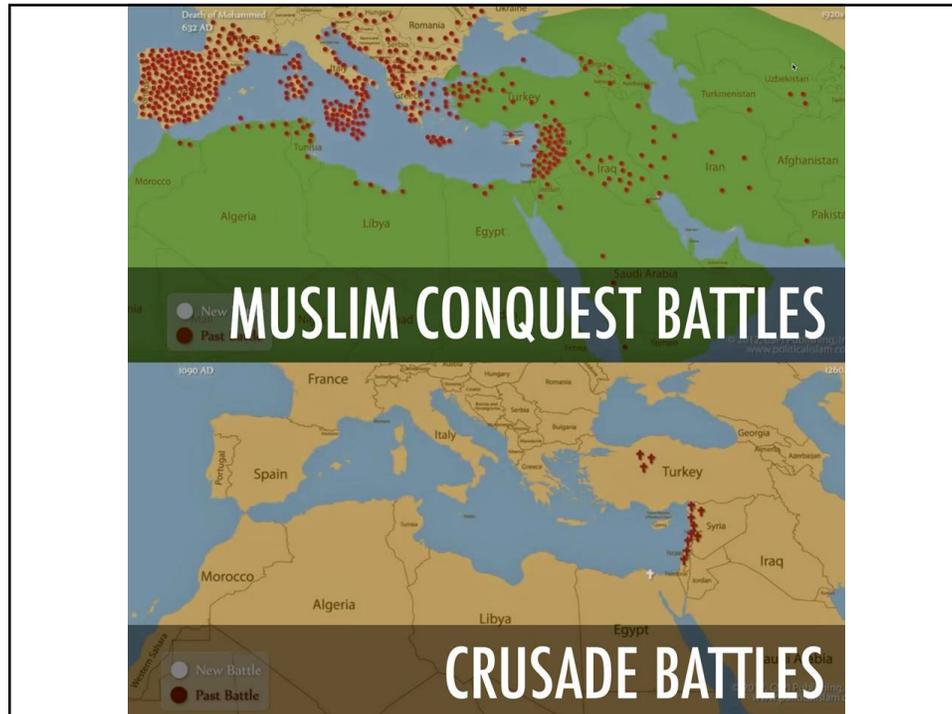
- Ali was the fourth caliph after Uthman was assassinated.
- He was 12 years old when he began following Muhammad (analogous to the Apostle John)
- Further bloody expansion.
- Assassinated.

The Context of History

- The caliphate fractured and different Islamic empires rose and fell by the sword.
- The Islamic empires made significant progress encroaching into the Byzantine Empire (Christian) and by crossing the Strait of Gibraltar and claiming much of Spain.

Islamic Expansion was the Most Successful In History





Islam vs. Christianity



- Both groups have been struggling against each other from the beginning.
- The historical struggles are well documented.
- The modern crisis is a direct result of both Islamophobia and Westernphobia.
- The existence of the nation of Israel is an ever present, absolute insult to the Islamic nations.

Summary

1. Muhammad began peacefully but ended in war.
2. The Qur'anic verses begin preaching peace, but end preaching war.
3. The followers who knew Muhammad have a history of violence worse than he did.