

A Message to our neighbors

What is Islam, who are the Muslims, who is Allah, and what is the Quran?

What is Islam?

Islam is an Arabic word which means submission. This submission is to the one and only true creator who has no partners, no son, no daughters, or no comparison. Islam is a complete way of life that teaches all people how to live a righteous, pious life, obeying Allah's commandments.

Who is Allah?

The word Allah is an Arabic word for the one and only God, who has no partners.

Muslims are those who submit themselves willingly to the one and only Allah and direct all of their worship to Him alone. The Muslim believes that Allah created mankind for the purpose of worshipping Him. So to inform mankind, Allah sent divine messengers and prophets to proclaim the message that 'there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone', and when Allah sent these messengers He sent them with divine revelations and books, as Allah sent Moses with the Torah, David with the Psalms, Jesus with the Gospels and Muhammad with the final revelation sent to mankind contained in the Quran. Allah is unique in His characteristics, attributes and actions. Nothing from the creation can be compared to Him. He has no father, son, spouse or partner. He has always existed and will remain for eternity. He is the one who controls all the affairs of the entire universe and He is the one who gave us life and will resurrect us after we die.

What is the Quran?

The Quran is the final revelation from Allah to all of mankind. It was revealed to Allah's last messenger the

Prophet Muhammad. The Quran completed and abrogated all of the previous books and revelations which came before it such as the Torah, Psalms, Gospels, etc... The Muslims believe in all of these revelations (in their original form) and believe in all of the messengers and Prophets which Allah sent, starting from Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and the final prophet Muhammad. The Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad over 1400 years ago and still remains in its original form, free from alterations and changes. This is one of the most distinguishing features of the religion of Islam and the main source the Muslims depend upon for understanding their religion.

We as Muslims believe that after the creation of Adam, just one original message has been repeatedly delivered to mankind throughout the history of humanity.

Thus, to remind people about this message and bring them back on track, many prophets and messengers including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad were sent by the only true God to convey this message:

The true God is only ONE. Worship Him Alone and keep His commandments

The True God, The Creator

Sent:	To Convey:
---Adam	God is One
---Noah	God is One
---Abraham	God is One
---Moses	God is One
---Jesus	God is One
---Muhammad	God is One

God sent these major prophets as well as many other prophets and messengers to accomplish several tasks and missions, some of which are:

- 1) To receive guidance from God and deliver it to the people.
- 2) To convey the message that God is One.
- 3) To be role models to their people.
- 4) To instruct their people to fear God and keep his commandments.
- 5) To teach their followers important religious and moral tenets and worldly matters
- 6) To guide those who deviated, disobeyed God, or worshipped other gods or idols.
- 7) To tell people about their final destination and what leads to Paradise or Hellfire.

It is the same God who created and sent those prophets and messengers. He is the creator of all humans, all animals, and all objects. It is this ONE TRUE GOD who created the whole universe (including nature) and all it contains. He is the Creator of life, death, and life after death.

The Oneness of this true God, the Creator, is clearly evident and easily traceable in the holy scriptures of the Jews, Christians, Muslims and others

Studying the concept of God in the Bible and the Qur'an sincerely and objectively, a sincere seeker of the truth would be able to discern the unique qualities belonging to the true God only.

Some of the qualities that distinguish this only true God from others who claim to be God are:

- ✓ This true God is Creator, not created.
- ✓ This true God is ONE, not three or more! He has no partners nor equals.
- ✓ This one true God is invisible; no one can see Him in this life. He is not physically manifested or incarnated in other forms. But we see his signs here on earth.
- ✓ The one true God is eternal; He does not die or change. He is perfect, All Powerful, All Knowledgeable.
- ✓ This one true God is not in need of anyone like a mother, a wife, or a son; or anything like food, drink, or help. But all of creation are in need of Him.
- ✓ This one true God is unique in His attributes; no one is like Him. No human or animal descriptions can be attributed to Him.

We can use these criteria mentioned above in examining and rejecting any claims of being god.

Now let's turn to discuss the one message mentioned above and cite some of the Biblical and Qur'anic verses confirming the Oneness of God.

THE ONE TRUE GOD IN THE BIBLE:

(The Old Testament):

- Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord (Deuteronomy 6:4)
- Has not the One God made and sustained for us the spirit of life?(Malachi 2:15)
- You may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after Me. I, I am the Lord, and besides Me there is no Savior. (Isaiah 43:10-11)
- I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god. Who is like Me? (Isaiah 44:6)
- And there is no other god besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides Me. Turn to Me and be saved....To Me every knee shall bow. (Isaiah 45:21-23)
- God is not a man that he should lie nor is he the son of God that he should repent (Numbers 23:19)

THE ONE TRUE GOD IN THE BIBLE

(The New Testament):

- One came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he (Jesus) said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God (Matthew 19:16-17)

- Now this is life eternal, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (John 17:3)
- Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only (Matthew 4:10)
- Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is One Lord. (Mark 12:29)
- For there is one God and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. (1Timothy 2:5)

THE ONE TRUE GOD IN THE QURAN

- Say: He is Allah, the One; Allah the Eternal, Absolute; He begets not, nor is He begotten; and there is none like unto Him. (112:1-4)
- There is no god but I; so worship Me. (21-25)
- Can there be another god besides Allah (God)? Nay, most of them know not (27:61)
- Can there be another god besides Allah (God)? His is Allah above what they associate with Him. (27:63)
- Can there be another god besides Allah (God)? Say, 'Bring forth your proof, if ye are telling the truth!' (27:64)

What do you think about this message? If you're interested in learning more or discussing this message come join us for a cup of tea at ISWMD or the Hagerstown Downtown Dawah Center.