

1: The Background of Islam | Xenos Christian Fellowship

1 of 4 Denise L. Carmody Professor, Department of Religious Studies Santa Clara University Santa Clara, California Academic Credentials.

At that time, the religious setting of the Arabian Peninsula was "a rather primitive polydemonism and worship of stones, stars, caves and trees. The Islamic scriptures, known as the "Koran," are the "reciting" of the revelations he claimed to have received for the next 22 years. As a result, Muhammad found his first followers among the lower class and those who were ripe for a new social order. In he traveled to Yathrib, which is now called Medina. This event, called the "Hejira," is viewed as the turning point of Islam. From then on, Islam was no longer just a religion but a distinct political power. In Medina, the community of believers became a state with Muhammad as its religious and political leader. Muhammad declared the Kaaba the temple in Mecca was the holiest shrine in Islam. To this day, Muslims direct their prayers facing the city of Mecca and the shrine of Kaaba. Today, Islam claims over million followers. It is a great force in Africa, a middling presence in China and the Soviet Union, a shareholder in the petropolitics of the Middle East, a huge presence in Indonesia, and the religion of more than 6 million North Americans. Teachings of Islam "The faith and practice of Islam are governed by the two great branches of Muslim learning, theology and jurisprudence, to both of which some reference has already been made. There is no priesthood and no sacraments The Articles of Faith These are basic doctrines every Muslim is required to believe. Whoso disbelieves in God and his angels and His books, and His Messengers, and the Last Day, has surely gone astray into far error. Those who believe, and then disbelieve, then believe, then disbelieve, and then increase in unbelief--God is not likely to forgive them, neither to guide them on any way. Yet, Allah is not a personable, but a transcendent God, for He is so far above man that He is not personally knowable. Different than angels are the jinn jannies or demons. The leader of the jinn is Shaitan Satan. Scripture - There are four books Muslims consider inspired: Muslims believe the former three contain error because they have been tampered with by Jews and Christians. When asked for a miracle to attest his claim to be a prophet, Muhammad would refer to the miracle of the Koran. This was done in cooperation with other and finally an authorized revision of the text was established by Caliph Uthman. Other versions in existence were ordered to be destroyed. Allah will judge each person according to their deeds, sending them to heaven or hell. Heaven is a place of sensual pleasure. They would never be sick, menstruating, pregnant unless he wished , bad-tempered, or jealous. Muhammad is the last and greatest prophet. This strong fatalism has played a central role in Muslim culture, and may be connected to the lack of modern progress that has characterized Muslim countries until recently. The creed is repeated regularly by worshipers. The Hadith book of tradition has turned these prayers into a mechanical procedure of standing, kneeling, hands and face on the ground, and so forth. The call to prayer is sounded by the muezzin a Muslim crier from a tower called a minaret which is part of the mosque the place of public worship " 12 Almsgiving Zakat - Muslims are required to give one-fortieth of their income to help the poor. Fasting Ramadan - Faithful Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset everyday during this holy month. Much more than a mosque, it is believed to be the place where heavenly power touches the earth directly. Yet it may happen that you will hate a thing which is better for you; and it may happen that you will love a thing which is worse for you; God knows, and you know not. They will question thee concerning the holy month, and fighting in it. They will not cease to fight with you Fight you therefore against the friends of Satan; surely the guile of Satan is ever feeble" Sura 4: It includes a religious war against unbelievers with the object of converting them to Islam or subduing all opposition. It is the sacred duty of the Muslim nation to ensure that Islam triumphs over all religions. It is considered a general duty of the nation as a whole, not of individuals. Furthermore, it is a duty which relates only to religion. It has nothing to do with economic exploitation, political repression or imperialism in any form. In his early career Mohammed spread Islam by teaching and persuasion: When, at Medina, he declared that God had allowed him and his followers to defend themselves against infidels, and later when he proclaimed that he had divine leave to attack them and set up the true faith by the sword. Muhammad himself fought in nine battles and ordered many more. Islam and Christianity God - Muslims deny the doctrine of the

trinity, considering it polytheistic. They consider it blasphemous to call God "Father" because it implies to them that He had sexual relations. Although Allah is said to be loving, this aspect of his nature is almost ignored, and his supreme attribute of justice is thought to overrule love. Islam, for example, would not consider our New Testament to be the Injil gospel of Jesus. His original words have been corrupted and many have been lost. Therefore, from the Muslim point of view, it follows of necessity that these Scriptures must have been corrupted. Historical evidence makes no impression on the crushing force of the syllogism. So it is, and it can be no other way. The Muslim controversialist feels no need to study evidence in detail. As was pointed out earlier, when Muhammad was asked to validate his prophetic claim, he neither claimed to be divine, nor to have been raised from the dead. Unfortunately, the book lends itself neither to falsification nor verification. There is no predictive prophecy such as that used by the God of the Bible to verify his word. And those you fear may be rebellious admonish; banish them to their couches, and beat them. If they then obey you, look not for any way against them" Sura 4: In these few words, God has made known the status of women in relation to men. In relation to other matters the status, rights and duties of women are defined with various degrees of rigidity, but in this the message is clear, finite and complete; it is not a matter for discussion or compromise. The Koran also states: The status of women in Islam says a great deal about Muslim society. Reward and punishment in the afterlife depend on deeds, not gender; marriage and conjugal life are precious; women have dowry rights in some divorces, inheritance rights, rights to remarry, and rights to protection in time of pregnancy and nursing. Furthermore, the misogyny latent in most patriarchal religions had dark effects in Muslim society. The tradition placed more women in the Fire than in the Garden, and the prime determinant of their destiny was their treatment of their husbands. In legend Muhammad virtually despised female nature as stupid and irreligious. The Muslim woman was considered erotic and empty-headed. Thus she was subject to purdah seclusion and veiling , polygyny, concubinage and the harem. For example, Muhammad originally ordered his followers to pray towards Jerusalem sura 2: Such alterations are explained by sura 2: Islam does believe Jesus was a sinless prophet though not as great as Muhammad. God is only One God. If they refrain not from what they say, there shall afflict those of them that disbelieve a painful chastisement. Will they not turn to God and pray His forgiveness? God is All-forgiving, All-compassionate. The Messiah, son of Mary, was only a Messenger; Messengers before him passed away; his mother was a just woman; they both ate food. Behold, how We make clear the signs to them; then behold, how they perverted are! Regarding the Crucifixion, the Koran states: Those who are at variance concerning him surely are in doubt regarding him; they have no knowledge of him, except the following of surmise; and they slew him not of a certainty--no indeed; God raised him up to Him; God is All-mighty, All-wise. It is impossible that God should so desert a prophet in the fulfillment of his mission. It would be contrary to His justice to permit the suffering of an innocent on behalf of others. It would be contrary to His omnipotence not to be able to rescue a prophet in danger. Therefore Jesus cannot have been left helpless in the hand of his enemies. Here again, the historical reliability of the New Testament documents are being denied without evidence by a book with less credibility. This contradicts the Torah Gen. Islam cannot explain how a righteous God can accept sinful men without compromising his own moral character. It is also unclear where the cut off line is between a saved Muslim and an unsaved Muslim. It does not require keeping the laws perfectly, but neither does Islam specify how close you have to come to be given eternal life. Footnotes 1 Denise L. Carmody and John T. Wadsworth Publishing Company, p. Pierce Beaver, et al. William Eerdmans Publishing Company, p. William Eerdmans Publishing Company, p. A Concise Introduction, San Francisco: Harper and Row, p. Victor Books, p.

2: Women in Islam - Footnotes

Women, the state, and religion today in the People's Republic of China / Miriam Levering Women and Chinese religion in contemporary Taiwan / Barbara Reed Today's Jewish women / Denise L. Carmody.

Thursday, 21 May Sherif Abdel Azeem Jewish laws and regulations concerning menstruating women are extremely restrictive. The Old Testament considers any menstruating woman as unclean and impure. Moreover, her impurity "infects" others as well. Anyone or anything she touches becomes unclean for a day: Anything she lies on during her period will be unclean, and anything she sits on will be unclean. Whoever touches her bed must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean till evening. Whoever touches anything she sits on must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean till evening. Whether it is the bed or anything she was sitting on, when anyone touches it, he will be unclean till evening" Lev. Due to her "contaminating" nature, a menstruating woman was sometimes "banished" in order to avoid any possibility of any contact with her. She was sent to a special house called "the house of uncleanness" for the whole period of her impurity. Furthermore, the husband of a menstruous woman was forbidden to enter the synagogue if he had been made unclean by her even by the dust under her feet. A priest whose wife, daughter, or mother was menstruating could not recite priestly blessing in the synagogue. She is neither "untouchable" nor "cursed. A married couple are not allowed to have sexual intercourse during the period of menstruation. Any other physical contact between them is permissible. A menstruating woman is exempted from some rituals such as daily prayers and fasting during her period. The Globe and Mail, Oct. Swidler, Women in Judaism: Scarecrow Press, p. On being a Jewish Feminist New York: Schocken Books, , pp. Ruether, "Christianity", in Arvind Sharma, ed. State University of New York Press, p. Elm Tree Books, pp. Carmody, "Judaism", in Arvind Sharma, ed. Simon and Schuster, p. Togay, "Adultery," Encyclopaedia Judaica, Vol. Judaism from a Feminist Perspective New York: Truth Seeker Company, p. Arno Press, p. See also Priesand, op. University of Chicago Press, p. Amana Publications, p. Elsayyed Sabiq, Fiqh al Sunnah Cairo: Dar al Qalam, pp. Pinter Publishers, p. Siddiqi, Studies in Islamic History Karachi: Jamiyatul Falah Publications, 3rd edition, p. The Toronto Star, Apr. Dar al Shorooq, 4th edition, pp.

3: Unclean, Impure Women?

This book examines how the women's movement is affecting traditional religions and civilizations throughout the world. It reviews cases of global impact in Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Australian aboriginal religion.

Teaching t Introduction As we close out our study of Romans, chapter 16 includes a long list of greetings read Today, many so-called scholars have characterized Paul as the architect of male chauvinism and misogyny in western civilization. The truth is that Paul, following in the foot-steps of Jesus, was a revolutionary liberator of women. Both of these cultures had a low view of women. Three reasons for gratitude, to be repeated by Greek men: The Apocryphal book Ecclesiasticus also contains these misogynous statements: Consider these two contemporaries: Let her, therefore, be obedient to him. Like the Apocrypha, it praises male Old Testament heroes without any mention of women Sirach Jewish rabbis prayed, "Blessed be He that He did not make me a Gentile; blessed be He that He did not make me a boor slave ; blessed be He that He did not make me a woman. Apart from the Bible, the religions of the world with few exceptions have a rich legacy of justifying the oppression of women. Gnosticism was the first major counterfeit form of Christianity to infiltrate the church beginning in the late first century AD. It was a reworking of Christianity into salvation by spiritual insight and self-knowledge, very similar to New Age thinking today. For every woman who will make herself male will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. If she did, she would bring disgrace on herself in the present life and enter the womb of a jackal for her next rebirth. In such a social position, many widows felt they had little to lose by throwing themselves on their husbands funeral pyre suttee. Even suttee, though, was not simple. If the widow did not burn herself out of pure conjugal love, her act was without merit. Thus, the males sometimes tried to gain powers of liberation moksha by symbolic or actual sexual intercourse, with the result that the females became instruments rather than equal partners. In Hindu society, women were not generally eligible for moksha; the best that a woman could hope for was to be reborn as a man. Worse than the ward status, however, was the strain of misogyny hatred of women running through Hindu culture. The birth of a girl was not an occasion for joy. Recent reports of FGM and wife-burning are unfortunately consistent with the misogyny that is indigenous to Islam. Moreover, the Quran does not even consider the possibility that women might assume leadership roles in the community, receive an education equal to that of males, teach law or theology, or engage in polygamy as males could. The Muslim woman was considered erotic and empty-headed. Thus she was subject to purdah seclusion and veiling. Another revealing view of women in Islamic society comes from the imagery of the Garden. For many men, the best part of the heavenly Garden was the hur: In addition to his earthly wife, each male in heaven could expect to have seventy hur. They would never be sick, menstruating, pregnant unless he wished , bad-tempered, or jealous. He would be able to deflower a thousand each month and find them all intact when he returned to them. This is the same word used to describe good leaders in 1 Thess. Persis "Persian lady" has worked hard kopiauw and is beloved by Paul. Does this really sound like a man who was threatened by women, or who hated them, or who believed they were incapable of spiritual ministry or leadership? In other passages that go beyond the scope of this teaching, he upholds certain distinctions in marital and church roles. What he is saying is that men and women are fundamentally equal in the eyes of God, and he swam against the tide of his culture by forming churches that expressed this truth. Although Adam was created first, God is neither male nor female. Men and women are equally sinners saved by grace Rom. Christian men and women are equally indwelt by the Holy Spirit, who transforms us into the same image of Christ Col. Men are not more inclined to be godly, and the profile of spiritual maturity is the same character qualities. Christian men and women are equally gifted by God and called into significant ministry in the church Rom. This is not just abstract theology. This is truth that can change your life by bringing you into a relationship with the living God, and by changing the way you relate to men and women. Eerdmans Publishing, , p. Kregel Publications, , p. AD in Tos Berakoth 7: AD in Bab Menahoth 43b. Carmody and John T. Carmody, Ways To the Center, pp. Carmody, Ways To the Center, p. For the full quote, see Richard N. Copyright Gary DeLashmutt.

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6: Romans - Paul's View of Women

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