Islam Series - A Religion of Peace or Violence - It’s History

Introduction:
A. This study of Islam is not to incite hatred and distrust for those who claim to follow this man made doctrine - but rather to help Christians to know more about the history - the belief and faith of this the third largest religion in the world.
1. Knowledge is powerful and knowing the facts and the truths - helps us to better be able to speak and teach those of the world - whether it is Islam, Jw’s, Mormons, Catholic, Jews Atheists .... etc.
   a. It will be my aim not to belittle nor make false accusations against this religion - but to simply lay out the facts and truths and let you make and draw your own conclusions.
   b. If Islam is from God and it is the faith we must follow then be prepared to do that - but if it can be shown that it can’t be from God - will be you honest and courageous enough to turn to the one and living God and submit to His Will and not the “doctrines and commandments of men.”
B. The apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit of God, spoke God's will for us. He said, "But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should speak to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:8).
1. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by Me." (John 14:6).
2. These are things that faithful Christians believe and accept because they are the words of the Lord, the Son of God.
C. It has been reported by many in the news media, and explained by a great many religious and political people, that the horrific September 11th, attacks were carried out by "radical extremists" who are not loyal to Mohammedan faith principles as taught in the Koran.
D. Though it may be true that the actions of the terrorists do not represent the feelings of most Muslims, it is not true that their actions are in violation of the teachings of the Koran.
1. There are many passages in the Koran which teach Moslems to fight the unbelievers.
2. Some of them we will quote today
E. Islam has a history and it is factual: ie -it can be verified by a diligent search - tho’ some of the claims made are questionable.
1. Founder of Islam is Mohammed ---- 570-632 AD
   a. His father was Abdullah, his mother was Aminah,
      (1) Taken in by his grandfather,
      (2) Abu Talib, his uncle, a leader of the Quraish tribe took him in
   b. Married a wealthy widow named Khadijah (He was 25, she was 40)
   c. A frequent place of seclusion was a cave on Mount Nur.
      (1) Entrance to the cave of Hira
   d. Claimed to receive angelic revelations beginning in A.D. 610
      (1) Galatians 1:6-9 ---- Note well what the Apostle Paul wrote here
   e. Rejected by Mekkans – fled to Madinah.
      (1) A covenant from leaders of Madinah was a turning point for Islam A.D. 621,622
   f. In 630, Muhammad returned to Mekkah with such an overwhelming force that the Mekkans made no resistance. “This was the first of the violent history of Islam - force by the sword - not by the good conscience”
   g. Mekkah, thus became the center of Islam on the Arabian peninsula
2. The Growth of Islam After Muhammad’s Death:
a. Continued to flourish under the leadership of Muhammad's companions.
   (1) Spread into Europe, Africa, and Asia.
b. Eventually the caliphate evolved into the Ottoman Empire.
c. Fast Growing Religion. ---- it is the second largest growing religion only behind Christianity.
   (1) According to a 2010 study, Islam has 1.62 billion adherents, making up over 23% of the world population (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_by_country)
   (2) Approx - 1/5th of Worlds Population.
   (3) About 6,000,000 in the U.S.
3. Today about 1 billion Muslims are spread over 40 predominantly Muslim countries and 5 continents.
   a. Two Sects - Shiites and Sunnites.

   A. The Qur’an ---- Recitation, or something to be recited
   1. Allegedly revealed to Mohammed by the angel Gabriel over a period of 23 years (but only compiled and recorded after his death).
      a. Muslims consider the Quran to be the only book that has been protected by God from distortion or corruption. However, some significant textual variations (employing different wordings) and deficiencies in the Arabic script mean the relationship between the text of today's Quran and an original text is unclear. Quranic chapters are called suras and verses are called ayahs.
      b. Muslims believe that the Quran was verbally revealed from God to Muhammad through the angel Gabriel (Jibril), gradually over a period of approximately 23 years, beginning on 22 December 609 CE, when Muhammad was 40, and concluding in 632 CE, the year of his death.
      c. Shortly after Muhammad's death, the Quran was collected by his companions using written Quranic materials and everything that had been memorized of the Quran.
      d. Muslims regard the Quran as the most important miracle of Muhammad, the proof of his prophethood and the culmination of a series of divine messages that started with the messages revealed to Adam and ended with Muhammad.
      e. The Quran assumes familiarity with major narratives recounted in the Jewish and Christian scriptures. It summarizes some, dwells at length on others and, in some cases, presents alternative accounts and interpretations of events.
      f. The Quran describes itself as a book of guidance. It sometimes offers detailed accounts of specific historical events, and it often emphasizes the moral significance of an event over its narrative sequence. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Koran)
   2. One passage asserts: “Praise be to God, Who hath sent to His Servant [Mohammed] The Book [the Qur’an], and hath allowed Therein no Crookedness” (18:1).
   3. A description of the Qur’an
      a. Surah - or book may be referred to with either a name or a number.
      b. Ayah - a verse in the Qur’an.
      c. Order - The Surah's are not arranged in chronological order, but in order of their length, starting with the longest
      d. Surah #2 has 286 Ayah and Surah 114 has 6 Ayah. The exception to this is Surah #1 which has 7 Ayah, and is titled, "Al-Fatihah," or "The Opening."
About the same length as the New Testament.
Divided into 114 Surahs.
Each Surah is given a title in association with its main teaching
Written originally in Arabic
Considered the ipsissima verba – very words of Allah

4. Is The Qur’an From God?
a. McClintock and Strong observed, “it is exceedingly incoherent and sententious, the book evidently being without any logical order of thought either as a whole or in its parts” (V.151).
b. Morally Flawed:
   (1) Those who oppose… “executed, crucified, or cutting off the hand and feet from opposite side… (5:36)
   (2) Women of ill-conduct – “she may be admonished, deprived of sex, or beaten – in moderation.

B. Other Sources Considered Authoritative
1. “The AHadith,” - Stories of Muhammad's life and are considered to be "approved examples."
   a. Compiled in the 9th century AD.
   a. Denotes tribal/common law and the examples of the Prophet, his words and deeds.
3. “The Ijma” - Standardizes Islamic law
   a. Since the 3rd century After Hadith, have been primarily closed to further interpretation.
      (1) This was true for most parts but is not true today!

III. The Teachings of Islam –
A. In examining the teachings of Islam, we will consider:
   1. Five Pillars of Islam
   2. What is JIHAD?
   3. IMAN: (6 principles of Faith)
   4. The God of the Qur’an
   5. The Jesus of The Qur’an

B. Five Principles (Pillars) of Islam:
1. FAITH – Shahada
   a. There is no god worthy of worship except God and Muhammad is His messenger.
2. PRAYER - Salat
   a. Obligatory prayers which are performed five times a day,
      (1) Dawn,
      (2) Noon,
      (3) Mid-afternoon,
      (4) Sunset
      (5) Nightfall,
   b. The Dome of The Rock In Jerusalem ---- “Muhammad had a dream . . . He was carried to Jerusalem from Mecca on a white animal, smaller than a horse and bigger than a donkey. From Jerusalem he was carried up to heaven escorted by Moses. While there Muhammad plead with God to reduce the daily prayers from fifty to five.”
      (1) The Ahadith teaches Muslims to pray five times a day
3. THE 'ZAKAT' - obligatory charity
a. Means both 'purification' and 'growth'.
b. Possessions are purified by setting aside a proportion for those in need, and, like the
pruning of plants, this cutting back balances and encourages new growth.

4. "Sawm" - THE FAST
a. **Every year in the month of Ramadan**, all Muslims fast from first light until sundown.
b. If they are physically unable to do this, they must feed a needy person for every day
missed.
c. Children begin to fast (and to observe the prayer) from puberty.

5. **PILGRIMAGE - (HAJJ)**
a. **Annual pilgrimage to Makkah** - an obligation for the able.
b. About two million go to Makkah each year.
c. Begins in the twelfth month of the Islamic year (lunar, not solar).
d. Pilgrims wear special clothes:
   (1) The rituals include
       (a) circling the Ka'ba seven times,
       (b) going seven times between the mountains of Safa and Marwa as did Hagar during her
search for water.
   (2) Stand together on the wide plain of Arafa and join in prayers for God's forgiveness.

IV. **Muslims Profess Islam is a Religion of love and peace and tolerance, citing…**
A. **The Teachings of Islam – JIHAD**: (Striving)
1. Most Muslims deny that Jihad refers to a 'Holy War.' They stress that Islam is a religion
   of peace – quoting this passage from the Quraaan -
   a. “Let there be no compulsion in religion. Truth stands out clear from error: whoever
      rejects evil and believes Allah hath grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold, that never
      breaks. And Allah heareth and knoweth all things.” Surah 2:256
2. At times the term is used to describe an intellectual struggle with unbelievers.
   a. 25:52 Therefore listen not to the Unbelievers, but strive (Jihad, NR) against them with
      the utmost strenuousness, with the (Qu'r'an).
   b. Public and private devotion.
      (1) Respecting the dietary laws.
      (2) Abstaining from, theft, murder, fornication, adultery, lying, cheating.
      (3) 29:69 And those who strive (Jihad, Ney Reeber) in Our (Cause), We will certainly
      guide them to Our Paths: for verily God is with those who do right.
3. Within the faith of Islam, this effort can be individual or collective, and it can apply to
leading a virtuous life; helping other Muslims through charity, education, or other means;
preaching Islam; and fighting to defend Muslims. Western media of the 20th century
continue to focus on the militant interpretations of the concept of jihad, whereas most
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4. However . . . The most common use of Jihad in the Qu'r'an is to indicate literal warfare.
   (1) [al-Baqarah 2:190] Fight in the way of Allah against those who fight against you, but
begin not hostilities. Lo! Allah loveth not aggressors.
   (2) 2:191 And slay them wherever ye find them, and drive them out of the places whence
they drove you out, for persecution is worse than slaughter. And fight not with them
at the Inviolable Place of Worship until they first attack you there, but if they attack
you (there) then slay them. Such is the reward of disbelievers,
2:216 Fighting is prescribed for you. They ask thee concerning fighting in the Prohibited Month. Say: "Fighting therein is a grave (offense); but graver is it in the sight of God to prevent access to the path of God, to deny Him, to prevent access to the Sacred Mosque, and drive out its members. Tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter.

5. Warfare Against Unbelievers - the literal “Holy War”
   a. John Walker called himself "Abdul Hamid" as he fought for the Taliban. (ABCNEWS.com)
      (1) He is a 20-year-old American who . . . told reporters he supported the Sept. 11 attacks. He is now in U.S. custody.
      (a) Described himself as a "jihadi," a fighter of holy wars,
      (b) He told CNN that he had arrived in Afghanistan about six months earlier and had attended al Qaeda training camps where he saw Osama bin Laden many times. ---- http://www.cnn.com/CNN/Programs/people/shows/walker/profile.html
      (c) Walker grew up in the Washington, D.C., suburb of Silver Spring, Md., and at age 16, he said, converted to Islam. In the ensuing years he went to Yemen to study Arabic, and then to Pakistan to learn the Koran. Six months ago he joined the Taliban.
      (d) "The ideas of the Taliban occupied my mind a lot," he told reporters. "The Taliban are the only government that actually provides Islamic law
   b. So when you meet (in fight... Jihad in Allah's Cause) those who disbelieve smite at their necks till when you have killed and wounded many of them, then bind a bond firmly (on them, i.e. take them as captives). Thereafter (is the time) either for generosity (i.e. free them without ransom) or ransom (according to what benefits Islam), until the war lays down its burden.

6. Christian Evangelism Is Viewed By Islam As An Act of Aggression
   a. "In the battle for the hearts and minds of mankind, "cruci-FICTION" is the only card the Christian holds. Free him from his infatuation and you will have freed the Muslim world from missionary aggression and harassment." ---- Crucifixion or Crucifiction by Ahmed Deedat, Published by Islamic Propagation Centre International, Madressa Arcade, Durban 4001, R.S.A., 1st print March 1984, P.9
      (1) U.S. aid workers Dayna Curry, left, and Heather Mercer, right, were arrested in August and accused of proselytizing — a charge that could have carried the death penalty.
      (2) The foreign aid workers were freed from an Afghan prison Nov. 16 in a dramatic rescue as their Taliban captors fled the advancing Northern Alliance troops after a three-month imprisonment.

7. The Qur’an Instructs It’s Believers To Fight
   a. Fight and kill till there is no persecution ---- Surah 2:191-194
   b. We shall strike terror into the hearts of those that disbelieve ---- Surah 3:152,153
   c. Seize and kill the hypocrites wherever you may find them ---- Surah 4:90
   d. Fight Jews and Christians till they become Muslims ---- Surah 9:29

8. A Muslim’s Death In Battle Exalted
   a. Thus [you are ordered by Allah to continue in carrying out Jihad against the disbelievers till they embrace Islam (i.e. are saved from the punishment in the Hell-fire) or at least come under your protection] but if it had been Allah's Will, He Himself could certainly have punished them (without you).
b. But (He lets you fight) in order to test you, some with others. But those who are killed in the Way of Allah, He will never let their deeds be lost. He will guide them and set right their state. And admit them to Paradise which He has made known to them (i.e. they will know their places in Paradise more than they used to know their houses in this world). (V.47:4, 5,6).

B. **IMAN: (Faith)**
1. Divided in six parts.
   a. **Allah**
      (1) Sole Creator Sustainer Provider and the One in Whose Hand is the disposal of all affairs.
      (2) Everything stands in need of Him, but He stands in need of none.
      (3) He is the Only One Who is worthy of being worshipped.
      (4) He has the Best Names and Perfect Attributes.
   b. **His Angels**
      (1) The angels are creatures of light.
      (2) They are Allah's obedient slaves, they do that which they are commanded and are incapable of disobedience.
      
      (a) 2 Peter 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned,
      (b) Jude 1:6
   c. **His Messengers**
      (1) Allah sent the Messengers like Moses, Jesus, Abraham etc.
      (2) prophets of Islam are human and never part of divinity; simply recipients of revelation.
      (3) God never speaks directly to man, he sends angels or inspiration.
   d. **His Books.**
      (1) Allah sent down the books like the Torah, Psalms, New Testament etc.
      (2) He sealed (finalized) the Messengers with Prophet Muhammed and abrogated all previous books with the Qur'an.
      (3) Worship should be done according to the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet.
   e. **The Last Day.**
      (1) To believe that Allah has ordained a fixed term for everything.
      (2) On that Day of Resurrection, rewards and punishments will be assigned.
      (3) Every one will be justly rewarded or punished.
   f. **Divine Preordainments**
      (1) He has created everything in due proportion.
      (2) The Belief in Preordainment (Qadar) means to believe that everything — good or bad — happens or takes place according to what Allah has ordained for it.

C. **The God of the Qu’ran**
1. The greatest thing Allah has forbidden?
   a. (Polytheism) -To believe that there is one who shares Allah in His acts i.e. ascribing partners or setting up rivals to Allah in His rights

D. **The Jesus of The Qu’ran** - they offer this booklet “We believe In Jesus” and then write:
1. Allah negates from Himself the possibility of His having any "son" or associate in His dominion, in His acting and decreeing and in the worship of Him. - Alharamain
2. What they say they believe about Jesus:
   a. They claim to respect Him - Jesus is mentioned by name in twenty-five places in the Quran
b. “The Holy Quran honours this mighty Messenger of God, and the Muslims have not fallen short over the past fourteen hundred years in doing the same. There is not a single disparaging remark in the entire Quran to which even the most jaundiced among the Christians can take exception.”

3. **Islam Denies Christ’s Deity:** say
   a. Jesus, a righteous prophet, vi.85;
   b. birth, iii. 45:47; xix. 22-33;
   c. apostle to Israel, iii. 49-51;
   d. like Adam, iii.59;
   e. not crucified, iv.157;
   f. no more than apostle, iv.171; v.78; xliii 59, 63-64;
   g. not God, v.19,75;
   h. sent with Gospel, v.49;
   i. not son of God, ix.30;
   j. Mission limited, n.1861 to xiii.38;
   k. disciples as God’s helpers, lxi.14;

4. **Just a few quotes from the Quran:**
   a. (QURAN – 21:26) ----- No son did Allah beget, nor is there any god along with Him
   b. (QURAN – 4:171 – 172)  ---- Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (no more than) a Messenger of Allah, . . . For Allah is One God. Glory be to Him: (far exalted is He) above having a son.
   c. (QURAN – 4.157) ---- That they said (in boast), "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Apostle of God";- but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not:-

E. **Jesus of the Scriptures (Bible):**
1. Mark 1:1 Jesus Christ, the Son of God;
2. John 1:34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.
3. John 1:49 Nathanael . . . thou art the Son of God;
4. John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.
5. The good confession - Acts 9:20
6. Apostles declaration - Romans 1:4
7. Punishment promised to rejecters - Hebrews 10:29
8. Overcomes the world? - 1 John 5:5
9. Calls God a liar if one doesn’t believe Jesus is God’s Son - 1 John 5:10
10. Life is in the Son - 1 John 5:12
11. Eternal Life - 1 John 5:13
12. 1 John 5:20 ---- And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

V. **In Conclusion:**
A. In Regard To The Religion of Islam We have considered:
1. Its founder -
2. Its sources of authority –
   a. The Qur’aan
b. The Ahadith,
c. The Sunnah
d. The Ijma
3. Its Five Pillars -
a. FAITH – Shahada
b. PRAYER - Salat
c. GIVING - 'ZAKAT'
d. THE FAST
e. PILGRIMAGE (HAJJ)
4. What is JIHAD?
a. Most Muslims deny that Jihad refers to a 'Holy War.' -
b. The most common use of Jihad in the Qur'an is to indicate literal warfare.
5. The God of the Qu'raan
a. Trinitarianism, the Christian belief that God is three persons in one substance, is vigorously repudiated by Muslims
6. The Jesus of The Qur’aan
a. not crucified, iv.157;
b. no more than apostle, iv.171; v.78; xliii 59, 63-64;
c. not God, v.19,75;
d. not son of God, ix.30;
e. disciples declare themselves Muslims, v.114;
f. mission limited, n.1861 to xiii.38;
B. You Must Know Who This Man Jesus is:
1. “You may be an atheist or an agnostic or you may belong to any of the religious denominations that exist in the world today. You may have been a Communist or a believer in democracy and freedom. No matter what you are, and no matter what your religious and political beliefs, personal and social habits happen to be— YOU STILL MUST KNOW THIS MAN! . . .” S. H. Pasha
2. You MUST KNOW JESUS . . .
a. The confession of Peter. (Mat. 16:16)
b. The message preached – (Acts 8:35,37)
c. They killed the prince of life – (Acts 3:15)
d. He died for our sins, was buried and raised the third day, (1 Cor. 15:3,4)
e. The author and finisher of our faith – (Heb. 12:1,2)
f. Acts 4:12 —- “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Resources:
• A site on Islam by Ney Rieber http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/9465/
• An Islamic web site - http://www.al-sunnah.com/50q.htm
• Prophecies concerning Muhammad - http://www.islamworld.net/prop.html
• What is Jihad - http://www.islamworld.net/jihad.html
• Other sites . . . Understanding Muslims, (from a seminar for Christians)
• Notes on the Background of Islam, from The Islamic Invasion by Robert Morey
• Notes on the Historical Background of Islam with References, by Chuck Missler
• Christian Information Ministries: The Religion of Islam
• Allah is Not a Personal God
• Islam, Islam, Islam, Islam (Advocate of Islam Ibrahim Shafi)
• Islam, Christianity and Science (pro-Islam site by Yusuf Abed)
• Answering Islam (Jochen Katz)
• Christianity and Islam Resources (UK)