

A Brief Survey and Introduction to Islam

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.” Galatians 1:8 NKJV

- I. Introduction
- II. What is Islam?
 - A. Mohammed (or Muhammad), his visions, and Khadija’s encouragement
 - B. The Koran or Qur’an, Hadith, and Sharia
 - C. Roots in Judaism and Christianity
 - D. Six Articles of Faith
 - Belief in the existence and oneness of God
 - Belief in the existence of angels
 - Belief in the God-authored books
 - Belief in the existence of prophets
 - Belief in the Day of Judgment
 - Belief in God’s predestination
 - E. The Five Pillars
 - Shahadah – Oath, declaration of faith
 - Salah – Prayer, 5 times a day
 - Zakat – Alms giving
 - Sawm – Fasting, especially during Ramadan
 - Hajj – Pilgrimage to Mecca, at least once in a lifetime
 - F. The Islamic god, Allah
- III. Muslim expansion and geography
 - Islamic Medina, and the Arabian Peninsula – 622 to 632
 - Rashidun Caliphate – 632 to 661
 - Umayyad Caliphate – 661 to 750
 - Abbasid Caliphate – 750 to 1517

IV. Historical context and events

451 – Council of Chalcedon

476 – Western Roman Empire Ends

527 – Justinian becomes Roman Emperor

570 – Mohammad born

604 – Gregory the Great dies

610 – The start of Mohammad's visions

622 – The Hegira

627 – Battle of Ninevah – Byzantium defeats the Sassanids

732 – The Mayor of the Palace, Charles Martel, defeats the Umayyads at Tours

786 – Start of the so-called Islamic Golden Age

800 – The Crowning of Charlamagne as Holy Roman Emperor

1096 – First Crusade begins

1453 – Constantinople falls to Ottoman Turks

1532 – The Peace of Nuremberg

V. Concluding remarks