

Islam



Islam

- “**Islam**” means:
“Peace through submission to [the will of] God”
- Muslim (sometimes “Moslem”) =
“One who submits”
- “**Muslims**” are people who practice Islam
- [“Muslim” can also be an adjective meaning “Islamic”]
- God is called “**Allah**”
- Monotheistic/Abrahamic

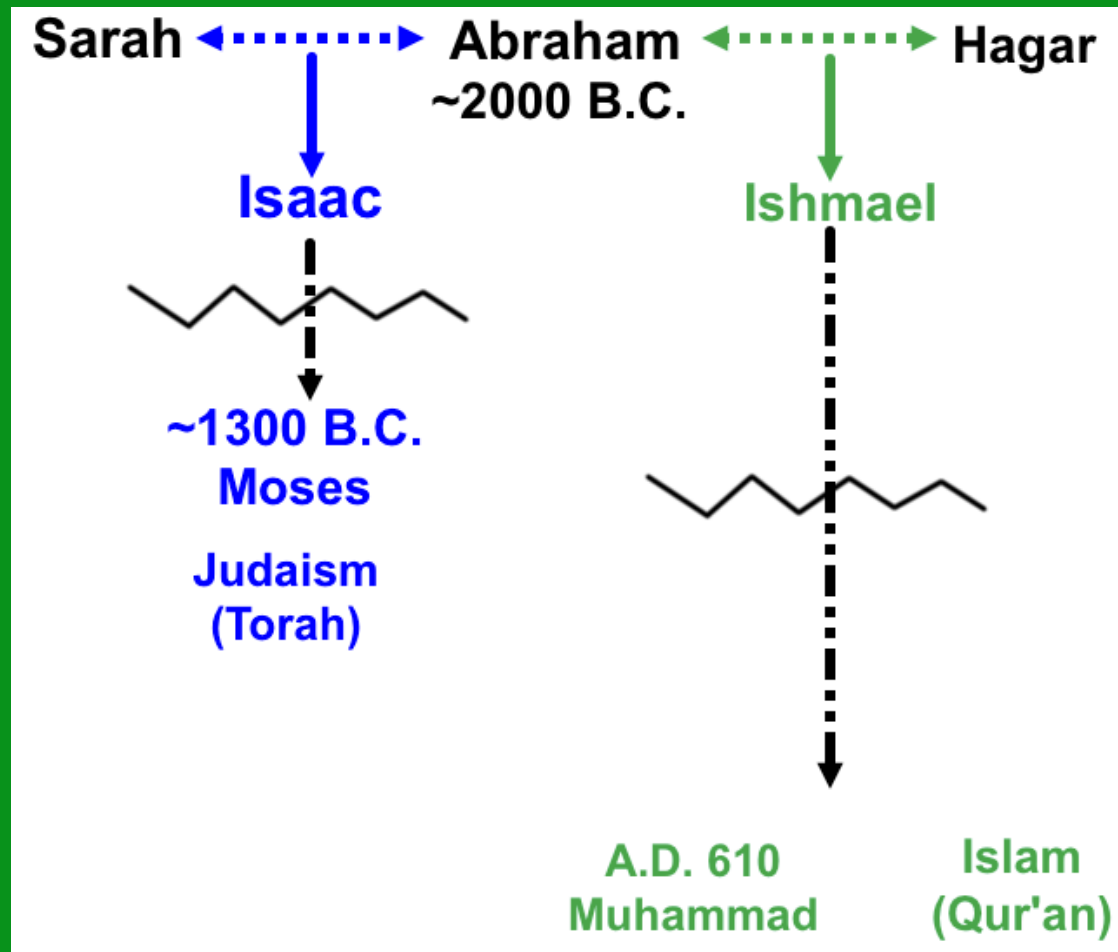
History

According to Islam...

- Muhammad was told by the Angel Gabriel that he was to be the “messenger of God” (a prophet)



In the beginning...an Abrahamic religion



Holy books

- **Qur'an**: Word of God given to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel.
- **Sunnah**: Muhammad's words and deeds on how to apply the Qur'an's teachings to everyday life (guides for proper living)
- **Hadiths**: Quotes from the prophet Muhammad

History

- Early persecution of Muhammad & Islam in Mecca
- He left to go to Yathrib/Medina where there were many converts to Islam
- Muhammad returned to Mecca, fought, won
- Dedicated Ka'aba (sacred structure believed to be built by Abraham) to Allah
- Used his political and military leadership skills, as well as his religious leadership to unify most of Arabian peninsula under Islam

After Muhammad's death...

- Muhammad had not named a successor; his friend and father-in-law took over; caliphs were elected
- Area was expanded
- Muslim rebels opposed caliph and killed him and system of electing caliphs related to Muhammad
- New caliphs were based on adherence to the Sunnah
- Some still wanted caliphs related to Muhammad; this, plus opposition to leaders' lavish lifestyle split caused caliphate to split
- Shi'ites – believe leaders should be related to Muhammad (10-15%)
- Sunnis – believe that leaders just need to follow the Sunnah (85-90%)

The Five Pillars of Islam

Profession of faith:	Prayer – 5x/day (facing Mecca)	Alms – charity (money, food) for the poor	Fast(ing) – to refrain from eating/ drinking	Pilgrimage – journey to sacred place (Hajj): Mecca
"There is no God but God and Muhammad is the Messenger of God."				

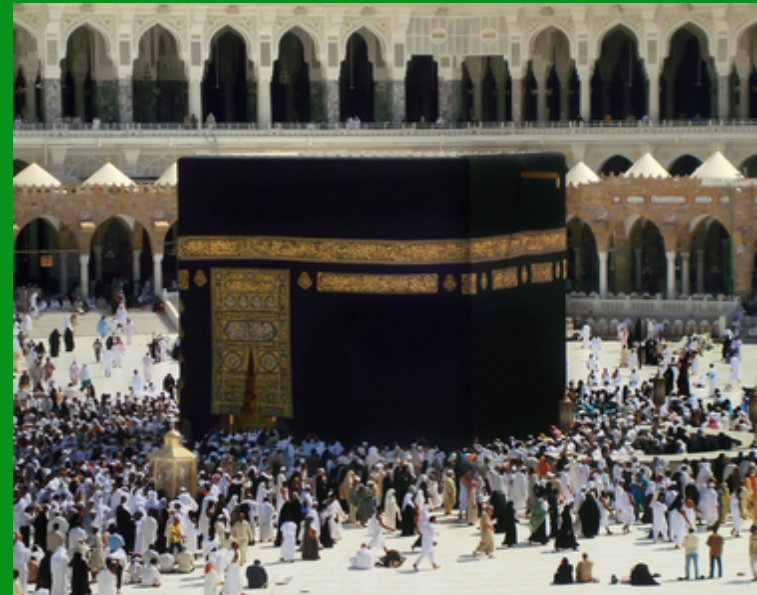
Related vocabulary

- Mosque – Muslim place of worship
- Imam – leader of prayer in a mosque
- Mecca – holy city
- Ka'aba – sacred structure located in Mecca
- Caliph – the head political and religious leader, successor to Muhammad
- Caliphate – area under Islamic religious rule; rule by a caliph
- emir – local Muslim political leader

Mosques in Tucson



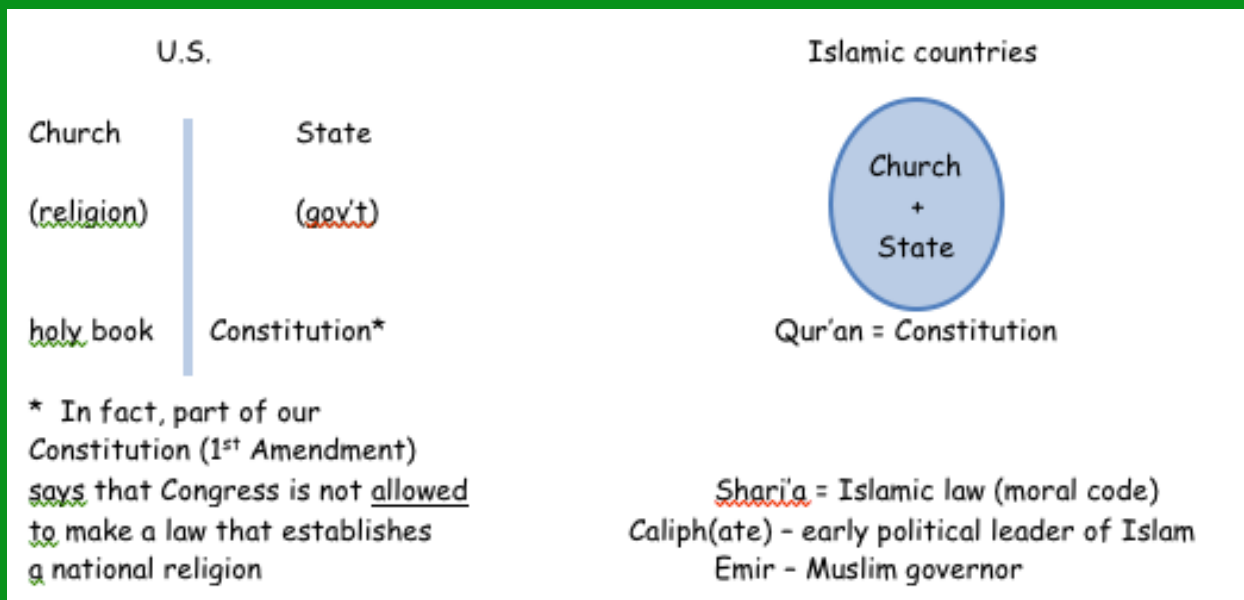
Mecca



Ka'aba

Practices

- Dietary restrictions – no pork, no alcohol
- Islam often combines with the government (Qur'an = Constitution)
- Sharia law – Islamic moral code, often applies to government laws; uses Qur'an & Sunnah



No images of Muhammad

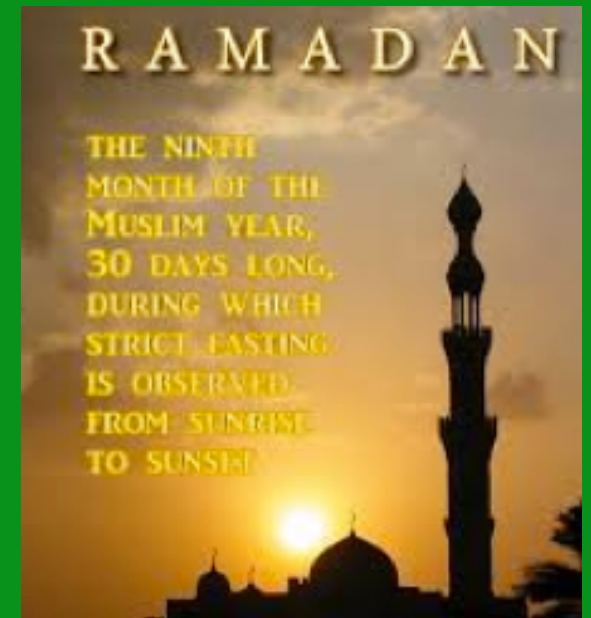
Reason: It could lead to worshipping Muhammad rather than Allah; image of name used instead)

- Not prohibited in Qur'an but at the prophet's request
- sometimes OK with Shi'a, not Sunni
- early images used for teaching, but not too much detail or he was veiled or in shadow
- OK in some contexts (e.g., Iran, Turkey, central Asia) but not Arab
- applies to Moses and Jesus, too



Holy Days (Holidays)

- Ramadan – commemorates the giving of the Qur'an to Muhammad; consists of a month of fasting during daylight hours
- Eid – celebrates the end of fasting



Where practiced

- Middle East
- Northern Africa
- Indonesia, Malaysia



Works Cited

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