

## **The Faiths of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - Richard Smoley**

### **Handout 2**

Taken from Islam section of Mr. Montgomery's World Religions Website:

[http://staff.gps.edu/montgomery/World%20Religions/Faiths/islam/Islam%20\(Huston%20Smith\).htm](http://staff.gps.edu/montgomery/World%20Religions/Faiths/islam/Islam%20(Huston%20Smith).htm)

**ISLAM** (Huston Smith)

#### **Misconceptions**

-before we begin discussing the religion itself, it is necessary to clear up some common misconceptions regarding Islam

-the religion is often referred to erroneously as Muhammadism

- • inaccurate...
  - the devout insist that Muhammad did not shape the religion, God did
  - Muhammad was merely the vehicle who passed it from God to man
- • offensive...
  - gives the impression that the faith centers on Muhammad the man, rather than on God, the Almighty

-Islam... derived from the word 'salam' (peace, surrender)

- • the dual translation gives deeper meaning to become the perfect peace that comes when you surrender your life to God
- • the adjective form of Islam is Muslim

#### **Historical Origin**

-Islam has its main following in the Arab peoples

-In its scriptural development, Islam parallels the history of the Bible to Abraham

-the main scriptural text of Islam is called the Koran...

- • in the beginning, there was Allah
  - al... the
  - Illah... God
  - Allah... the God
- • Allah created the world
- • Allah created man, and the first was Adam
- • the line of Adam led to Noah
- • Noah had sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth
- • the descendants of Shem are called the Semites, the Islam are Semitic
- • Through his wife, Sarah, Abraham had a son Isaac
- • Through his concubine, Hagar, Abraham had a son Ishmael
- • this is when the Koran splits with the Bible...
  - the line of Isaac stayed in Palestine and became the Jewish race
  - the line of Ishmael went to Mecca and became the Muslim people

#### **The Dawn of Islam**

-the line of Ismael progresses through the ages to the 6th century AD

-in 571 AD, Muhammad (highly praised) was born

- • Islam holds that there were many prophets before Muhammad
- • Muhammad, however, is believed to be the final prophet
  - called “the seal of the prophets”
- • he was born into the leading tribe (Koerish) of Mecca
- • his life was one familiar with tragedy
  - his father died before Muhammad was born
  - his mother died when Muhammad was six
  - he moved in with his grandfather who died when Muhammad was nine
  - finally moved to the loving home of his uncle
- • Muhammad toiled endlessly as a shepherd for his uncle
- • he was said to be the perfect child (sweet, gentle, helpful, upright)
- • there was always a ‘special’ aspect about him
  - he loved people and they loved him
  - despite his love, he was always somewhat aloof and contemplative
  - he became saddened and disgusted by the general state of society

-the society into which Muhammad was born had collapsed much like Confucius’

- • social order was based on piracy and machismo
- • there was little emphasis on family or duty or mutual respect
- • the government in Mecca had collapsed
- • Alcoholism and sexual immorality was rampant
- • violence and gambling was pervasive
- • religion was perverted to a state of animistic polytheism
  - the desert was said to be ruled by demons called ‘jinn’

-at age 23, Muhammad began a caravan business under the widow Khandija

- • though 15 years his elder, they soon fell in love and were married
- • from this point, Muhammad began fifteen years of progressively more intense spiritual preparation that would lead to his ministry
  - retreated frequently to meditate on a cave on Mt. Hira
  - he constantly pondered the divine
  - he concluded that all other gods of the current religion were false except for Allah
  - Allah was the creator, provider, and planner of the universe
  - Muhammad reasoned that there could only be one God
  - this led to the key creed in all of Islam

- • ‘La ilaha illa Allah’... There is no God but Allah

-revelation arrived to Muhammad late one night, 15 years after he had begun his quest

- • God demanded thrice that Muhammad cry
- • Muhammad, understanding it was God who called him, asked what to cry
- • God asked that Muhammad cry the name of God and his teachings to the people
- • Muhammad ran home to tell Khandija, who believed
- • Muhammad began his ministry

-Muhammad’s ministry was based solely on reformation and praise

- • Muhammad defamed miracles and mysticism

- refused to perform them
- said they made belief in magic, not in God
- he taught respect for the one great sign that God is all around us... the world
- said one true miracle was the gift of the Koran
- the negative reaction to his early ministry was severe (by the powerful and government)
  - • began with ridicule and mockery
  - • moved on to verbal abuse and threat
  - • moved to physical violence and persecution
  - • moved to murder
- the people initially rejected Islam for three reasons
  - • monotheism threatened govt. Revenue made by offerings at numerous shrines
  - • moral teachings of Islam demanded an end to the “good life”
  - • in a society based on class discrimination, it taught that all are equal under God
- Islam’s main message was to turn from evil and to prepare wholeheartedly for the coming of God
- its initial three years yielded only forty converts
- as time continued, though, Islam became unstoppable

### **Late History**

- after ten years of ministry, Islam’s followers had swollen into the hundreds
- the Meccan government was furious and tried to capture and kill Muhammad
- in 622 AD, Muhammad fled to Medina
  - • his flight is called the ‘Hijrah’ or the ‘Hegira’
  - • a delegation from Yathrib came to Mecca to ask that M become their king
  - • Muhammad agreed on the condition that they would follow Islam exclusively
  - • Yathrib became Medinat un-Nabi (the city of the prophet)
  - • Medinat un-Nabi was shortened to Medina (the city)
  - • Muhammad had a narrow escape from the pursuant Meccans
  - • It is from this year that the Islam calendar dates
- Muhammad’s time in Medina was a major shift
  - • he had to make the shift from a prophet to a statesman
  - • he made the transition without flaw
  - • Muhammad ruled in a successful and wise manner
    - lived in a clay house and refused trappings of royalty
    - milked his own goats and mended his own clothes, refusing wealth
    - ruled with justice and mercy, refusing usurpation and abuse
    - united the warring factions of Medina under him in peace
    - won converts to Islam far and wide
- the battle between Mecca and Muhammad (Medina) continued
  - • 624... Medina defeats Mecca despite being outnumbered and returns in pace
  - • 625... Mecca retaliates and crushes Medina, but fails to follow up

- • 627... Mecca returns and lays siege to Medina, unsuccessfully, Mecca falls
- • 630... Muhammad journeys to Mecca  
-re-devotes Kaaba stone to Allah / Mecca to Islam
- • 632... Muhammad dies in Medina

### **The Koran**

-despite their love for Muhammad, the Muslim do not mistake him for the basis of Islam  
-the true and only basis of Islam is... The Koran

- • Muhammad called it his one, 'standing miracle'
- • Koran translates as 'to read' or 'to recite'
- • it is 4/5 the length of the New Testament
- • it is composed of 114 chapters of decreasing length, called 'surahs'

-in the more orthodox side of Islam, the Koran is considered to be pure and absolute

- • each letter was inspired by God and recorded directly

-all degrees of Islam believe that the content and message are pure

-some hold that the Koran was dictated to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel

-the Muslim hold the Torah and the Bible are God's texts, too, but that they are...

- • incomplete due to man's mental youth at the time of translation (a new race)
- • partially corrupt through the process of translation and transmission

-the Muslim hold the Koran to be...

- • the final and complete volume of God's will
- • infallible and literally accurate throughout

-Its impact on the Arabic world has been immeasurable, its success due to conditions...

- • being nomadic, the Muslim cannot slake thirst for arts through the material
- • the Muslim, therefore, depend on words for art, because they are portable
- • there is a love of the Arabic language by necessity, therefore
- • the Koran is the most exquisite use of the language ever

-the Koran is considered untranslatable due to purity and beauty in the Arabic language

### **Basic Theological Concepts**

-the concept of Allah (the divine)

- • everything in Islam is God-centered
- • Allah is considered to be invisible and immaterial
- • Allah is considered to be one and indivisible...  
-Hindu is flawed due to prolific representations and personalities of God  
-Judaism is flawed by its recurrent habit of reversion to idolatry  
-Christianity flawed by near polytheism of Christ and the Trinity  
...Islam holds Christ to be a true prophet of immaculate conception, son of God claim was figurative
- • Allah is the one, almighty, omniscient ruler and creator of the universe
- • Allah is not domineering or ruthless, but benevolent, peaceful and protective
- • Allah created a world of joy that is essentially good
- • man has direct and unlimited access to Allah through prayer

-the concept of creation

- • Islam asserts that the world did not emerge unconsciously from God (Hindu)
- • Islam says that the world was intentionally and specifically created, ergo...
  - 1) the world is completely real
  - 2) since the world is Allah's creation, it is inherently good

-the concept of man

- • man is Allah's ultimate creation
- • individuality is fully real and good, not illusory (Hindu)
- • individuality as expressed in the soul is eternal, not fleeting
- • expression of the true self leads to value, virtue, goodness and fulfillment
- • man has free will and responsibility for his actions

-the concept of judgment

- • man will be judged on his life and actions
- • goodness on earth leads to a paradise in heaven
- • evil on earth leads to hell
- • actions on earth determine your fate in an eternal afterlife
- • judgment is based on deed rather than on idea

### **The Five Pillars of Islam**

-Islam teaches man to walk the 'straight' path...

- • straight... uncorrupt
- • straight... direct/explicit/replete of answer (Islam is instructive in living)

-Islam says that Allah's revelation to man has four stages

- • through Abraham... the truth of monotheism
- • through Moses... the Ten Commandments
- • through Jesus... the Golden Rule
- • through Muhammad... how to follow the Golden Rule

-the five pillars regulate and instruct the private life of the devout

1) The Islam Creed

- • "There is no God but Allah; Muhammad is His prophet"
- • each Muslim must say this creed at least once in his life
- • its two halves explain its meaning
- • first half... 'There is no God but Allah'
  - establishes and asserts monotheism
  - there is no mere God, but THE GOD
  - God is a proper name and insists a distinct being with personality
- • second half... 'Muhammad is his prophet'
  - Muhammad is authentic
  - the Koran is valid

2) Prayer

- • Koran says that man should be constant in prayer
- • prayer is a means to pour forth love to God

- • the two themes of prayer are gratitude and supplication
- • Prayer keeps the human mind centered in its dependency on God
- • five unified prayer times per day- sunrise, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, bed
- • prayer can occur anywhere (Unified Mass on Friday)
- • Koran is unspecific style, Muhammad ritualized prayer

### 3) Charity

- • some people happen to have more possessions
- • those with more wealth should give to those with less
- • all people should tithe 2.5% of their total worth annually
- • money goes directly to the needy

### 4) Observance of Ramadan

- • this was the month of Muhammad's revelation and of the Hegira
- • it lasts one lunar month
- • the devout fast from sunrise to sunset (both food and water)
- • you may eat in moderation after dark
- • fasting teaches...
  - self discipline
  - dependency on God
  - sensitizes compassion

### 5) Pilgrimage

- • given ability, one must take a pilgrimage to Mecca
- • pilgrimage serves many purposes...
  - heightens devotion to God
  - reminder to equality between men (all wear same clothes)
  - serves international relations

## Social Doctrine

### -Traditional abstinences

- • gambling... the ban stands
- • alcohol... ban loosened to say that there can be no intoxication
- • pork... seen as primarily hygienic, most have dropped it

### -Brotherhood

- • this is a reality for Islam
- • to see its importance, must look at pre-Islam Arabia
  - no restraint on inter-tribal violence
  - glaring social (class) and economic gulf and prejudice
  - brutal treatment of women
  - infanticide was common
  - alcoholism and gambling were rampant
- • Islam sets detailed proposals for achieving, socially, the goal of Golden Rule
- • Islam feels that Jesus' work was unfinished and needed more time to instruct on idea

- • they developed systematic laws of social morality
- • Islam, predominantly, regulates four main social areas...

#### 1) Economic Regulations

- society's health depends on distribution of wealth
- Islam broke barrier of caste and special privilege
- acquisitiveness and competition are fine in balance with fairness and compassion
- banished primogeniture for system of equal inheritance
- banned charging interest (recent law on business loans)
- said that unearned money is not one's own
- Poor Due of 2.5%

#### 2) Status of Women

- forbids infanticide
- daughters are included in inheritance (1/2 share of male)
- allowed education, suffrage, and vocation
- insists that marriage is the only locus for sex
  - • women must consent before marriage
  - • strict divorce regulations (either male or female can start)
  - • trust is set up in the wife's name before marriage
  - • Koran strives towards monogamy
- purdah (concealment) was to check sexual misconduct (loosened)

#### 3) Race Relations

- stresses absolute racial equality
- allows and encourages intermarriage

#### 4) Use of Force

- does not stress turn the other cheek or pacifism
- teaches forgiveness and the return of good for evil
- allows punishment for blatant wrong doing
- many rules for 'righteous war'
  - • must meet all promises
  - • must avoid treason
  - • must care for wounded (friend or foe)
  - • must not kill women, children, elderly
  - • must save shrines and crops
  - • war must be either in defense or to right a wrong
- no forced religion
- absolute religious tolerance
- willingly admit violence in the past and present
- deny...
  - • more intolerance than other religions
  - • Western history has been fair in its recording of Islam

- • mistakes are due to the religion itself
- Salam alakum... peace be with you
- 

From William Montgomery Watt's Introduction to the translation: **The Meaning of the Glorious Koran**

### **Background**

- • The word koran (qur'an) means reading or recitation
- • The Koran consists of revelations to Muhammad from God either by Gabriel, by disembodied voice or by inspiration
- • The Hadith is a secondary collection of anecdotes about what Muhammad said or did, not included in the Koran, and operates as a secondary canon to the primary text

### **Muhammad and the Origins of Islam**

- Muhammad was born in Mecca around the year 570 AD
- his family was a wealthy trade family, like most, but his father had died before Muhammad was born
- in his early childhood, Muhammad's mother also died, and he was sent to live with his grandfather, who died when Muhammad was about eight
- Muhammad then went to live with his uncle, but was disallowed trade on his own behalf since his line was broken
- eventually Muhammad goes into the service of a wealthy widow named Kadijah
  - • she is pleased with his services and marries him
  - • bears him seven sons
  - • marriage allows him to go into trade on his own
- Muhammad was a sensitive man who contemplated more and more the injustice and immorality of his own people
  - • contemporary religion did little or nothing to stop widespread profiteering, gambling, drunkenness, prostitution and murder
  - • Muhammad makes more and more frequent retreats to a nearby cave to contemplate the divine and the world
  - • in the year 610, he receives the call from God to be a prophet
  - • confused as to whether to believe himself or not, Kadijah was instrumental in encouraging him
  - • Muhammad began to tell his friends and family about what was revealed to him, and they converted and began the movement of Islam
  - • in 613, Muhammad begins to preach the revelation publicly
- Muhammad's preaching began to win him converts, especially among young men, the second or third sons of merchants, as well as among the poor
- Merchants and business men did not like Muhammad's preaching, as although it did not directly denounce them, it called for distribution of wealth rather than selfish and sheer acquisition

- the early years saw much opposition from merchants to include boycott's against him, his family and his followers and eventually an excommunication from his own family (619 AD)
- in 622 AD a delegation from Medina (Yathrib) approached Muhammad, accepted him as a prophet and asked him to come and rule and reform their city, he did so
  - • Muhammad and his followers make the Hijrah, or emigration, to Medina and settle in
  - • the Islamic Calendar dates from the Hijrah, said to have occurred on July 12, 622 AD
- Muhammad's position in Medina was not that of an actual king
  - • Muhammad and his emigrants joined a confederation that included eight other clans from Medina... there were other clans that did not join the confederation
  - • Muhammad was, then, but one chief among nine
  - • a number of the emigrants began to make raids on caravans traveling nearby, and in 624 they attacked a caravan going to Mecca
  - • the caravan escaped, but the emigrants engaged and destroyed a Meccan army traveling with the caravan to protect it, this was the Battle of Badr
  - • In 625, the Meccans return for revenge and manage to inflict heavy damage on Medina, although they were forced to return to Mecca due to their own losses
  - • In 627, in the Battle of the Trench, Muhammad successfully defends Medina from Mecca by digging a trench... this greatly gained him power and support
  - • Muhammad continues small raids to gain booty and allies
  - • in 628, Muhammad makes a treaty that would allow Muslims (the followers of Islam) to make the pilgrimage to Mecca to worship with immunity and without persecution and that would include a 10 year truce between Mecca and Medina
  - • in 630 a Meccan tribe breaks the truce, and Muhammad leads ten thousand troops into Mecca and subdues it peacefully
  - • from this time on Mecca was under Muslim rule
  - • from a mere leader of a tribe, Muhammad had become leader of the Tribes
  - • in 632, Muhammad dies

### **The Spread of Islam**

- the years after Muhammad's death saw an amazing spread of Islam
- eventually, most of Spain, North Africa, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Central Asia and North West India were under Muslim rule
- This expansion was primarily military and political, though, and not religious, as Muslim sees a number of religions as "people of the Book," that is as having written scripture that came from God
- People of the Book were protected minorities under the Muslim state rule

- • each minority had some amount of freedom under their religious head, but were required to pay a tax
  - • taxes were not bad, and were a tithe, but minorities were for the most part excluded from high and official positions and from participation in the army
  - • Islam won few converts from Christianity and Judaism, but a number from Zoroastrians and from pagans
- in 732 AD, the Muslim were defeated at Tours in France, and this stopped their expansion in the West of Europe
- in later years, the spread of Islam continued in parts of India, Malaysia and Indonesia, as well as in parts of East and West Africa
- over the years, much of the unified characteristic of Muslim rule was lost, but areas continued to practice Islam
- in the 1100's to the 1500's, Spain expelled Islam from its borders
- in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, Ottoman Turks conquered much of Southeast Europe, but the lost much of their power after about 1700
- the Ottomans failed to make many converts, but many Muslims did move into the conquered territories
- between the 1700's and the 1900's Christians through a series of Holy Wars recovered most of Southeast Europe

### The Text of the Koran

- after the initial revelation in 610, Muhammad continued to receive revelations at various intervals until his death
- the Koran is divided into chapters called surahs, but most scholars argue that the revelations came in units smaller than most of the surahs and that, therefore, Muhammad has a hand in culling them into formal units
- some surahs are, though, believed to have been revealed fully at one time
- Muhammad, himself, could neither read nor write, and had committed the entire text to heart
- although he may have employed scribes to record part of it, and although other followers may have also recorded his sayings, the text remained an Oral tradition until Caliph Othman commanded an official text be made in 650AD, as many of the men who had committed the entire text to memory had died in battle
- Othman, in the interest of uniformity and formality, produced this text, declared it the official and correct version and ordered all other versions or writing to be destroyed
  - • Othman's delegation first had to choose an appropriate order to the surahs as some variation existed
  - • next they culled all fragments of the writings and included them in the most appropriate surahs
  - • there was also the task of determining the appropriate script, as Arabic was not really formalized... Othman's text consisted of only consonants with no vowels, so disputes arose as to correct pronunciation

- • eventually in 900 AD, scholars decided that the Koran had been revealed in seven sets of readings, each with two transmitters. This led to 14 versions of the Koran, and all were accepted as true, as most differences were in pronunciation and none led to actual textual discrepancies as to message.
  - • Today, one set of readings in common use, called the Hafs version after its transmitter
- The Koran is not arranged chronologically
- many scholars have attempted to determine the time of each surah, as well as its place of revelation
- • early surahs emphasize God's goodness, His present control of the world, individual judgment according to conduct, and the necessity of acknowledging and worshiping God
  - • middle surahs focus on God's oneness
  - • later surahs focus on practical rules for the conduct of life in a community

### **Interpretation and Translation of the Koran**

- dating from Muhammad's own lifetime, there have been disputes as to exact meaning of some verses
- the Arabic language is such that sentences can be understood in slightly different ways, especially in terms of pronoun reference
- most Islamic scholars and commentaries have attempted to interpret the Koran to show that it supported the beliefs and practices of Islam as it had evolved in the third century of Islam, rather than how it would have applied in its inception
- "The Seal of the Prophets"
  - • In Muhammad's day, most Muslim would have taken the word seal to mean only that Muhammad served as a verification for all previous prophets... he showed that God was still alive and well and that what had come before still stood
  - • Due to the shifted interpretation, though, Muslims now understand seal to mean that Muhammad was the final prophet, so that Islam is the final of all religions, containing the perfect form of all moral and religious truth. They went on to interpret this in conjunction with other verses to indicate that Jews and Christians had corrupted their message over time, and thus, in Islam only is the pure form of the divine truth
- strict Muslims hold the Koran to be untranslatable into other languages

From Marmaduke Pickthall's Introduction to the Koran:

### **At Mecca**

- Muhammad's contemporary Meccans claimed descent from Abraham through Ishmael

- • claimed the temple Ka'bah had been built at Mecca for the worship of the One God
- • temple still remained in Muhammad's day, but Allah had become one god among many, and the chief worship at Ka'bah was to intercessors and the daughters of Allah... idolatry
- • some felt disgust at this practice and tried to find and remember what had been the religion of Abraham- called the Hunafa (those who turn)

-The Hunafa did not organize and were considered the agnostics, each searching for truth through inner journey, Muhammad was one of these

- • Muhammad's practice was to retire once each year for the month of Ramadan with his family to a cave in mount Hira
- • towards the end of one of these retreats, he received his commission
- • Pickthall claims the verb is translated "read" whereas most claim "recite," this choice is chosen by some to emphasize that Muhammad's claim of divine revelation must be true, since he could neither read nor write to have taken the message from elsewhere
- • Gabriel had descended from heaven to bring this great commission

-initially, Muhammad doubted the veracity of the vision

- • his wife, Kadijah, encouraged him and told him he was to be a prophet of the people
- • Kadijah took Muhammad to her brother, Waraqah, who was known to be a learned man in the ways of the Jews and Christians and who echoed Kadijah's sentiments
- • Muhammad's own doubt came from the Hunafa idea that true religion must be sought in the natural, not in attempted parlance with the supernatural
- • also, Muhammad was extremely honest and humble, he disbelieved that he, of all people, would be chosen as a prophet to the world

-The Koran is the collection of the words he uttered when he was in a trance state- the revelation of God through disembodied voice, Gabriel or inspiration

-the Hadith is a collection of his other day to day saying and actions, when not under divine influence... this is never confused or crossed with the Koran

-For the first three years of Muhammad's mission, he preached only to his family

-After these first years, he took his ministry public...

- • he preached against idolatry and spoke to the sovereignty of God, he spoke against the gods of the current day
- • at this point the Qureysh, the merchant class and ruling society of Mecca, became hostile and tried to subdue the emergent religion, falling short of assassination for fear of a blood feud
- • most of his converts were the poor, the humble and the defenseless

- • in the face of prosecution, he instructed most of his followers to flee to Abyssinia, a nearby Christian country, for safety
- the rivalry with the Qureysh became fierce, but Muhammad's converts grew
  - • Qureysh tried to keep Muhammad away from the Ka'bah
  - • they warned all pilgrims of the madman who preached in their midst
  - • they tried to bribe Muhammad's uncle to allow them to kill him
  - • they tried to compromise with Muhammad, that they would accept his religion and him as King, if he would allow room for the lesser gods and idolatry
  - • finally, they concocted a ban among all the tribes for any dealing with Muhammad or those who followed him... they posted this ban in the Ka'bah and Muhammad was forced to go into hiding in the family stronghold for three years
  - • finally, people and friends grew weary of the ban and voted to have it taken from the temple and revised, when they did so, they found that white ants had destroyed the entire document, save the words, "In Thy name, Oh Allah!" The ban was lifted
  - • When Muhammad began to preach again, he won almost no converts and considered himself a failure, until a group of Men from Yathrib heard him
  - • Yathrib sends a delegation to ask Muhammad to come to them... In Yathrib were a number of Jews who prophesied the coming of a prophet among the Arabs and who felt Muhammad to be the one
  - • Yathrib officially accepts Muhammad as the Prophet and vow to defend him
  - • Muhammad and his followers make the Hijrah to Yathrib, which becomes Medinat-un-Nabi, or Medina
  - • the Qureysh conspire to have one man from each tribe at Mecca strike Muhammad at once, thus killing him
  - • they feared what he would become if away from their presence
  - • it is at this time, Muslims claim, that Muhammad received the revelation that he must fight his persecutors until there was no more persecution and all religion was for Allah
  - • Muhammad makes his miraculous flight on the night he was to be killed
- there is a difference between the early Meccan surahs and the later Medenean ones
  - • Meccan surahs speak to the individual soul and to the veracity of Muhammad
  - • Meccan divided into four groups: very early, early, middle and late
  - • Medina surahs speak to the conduct of a social and political community

## At Medina

- In his first year at Medina, Muhammad makes a pact with the Jewish tribes there present, giving them equal rights and full religious freedom in return for their support of the new state
- The Jews eventually rebel and seek to convert his followers, resenting their lack of dominion
- Muhammad changes the Qiblah (place towards which the Muslims pray) from Jerusalem to the Ka'bah in Mecca
- Muhammad sends out expeditions to reconnoiter and to dissuade other tribes from joining the Qureysh... they were prepared to fight but never really did
- In the second year of the Hijrah, Muhammad heads raiding party with the supposed goal of raiding a caravan bound for Mecca... his real reason was to engage the Meccan army which accompanied it
  - • Muhammad meets and defeats the Meccan army at Badr
  - • this begins a blood feud between the Qureysh and the Islam state, where before there was only enmity
  - • this prompts an attack in the third year by the Meccan army on Yathrib
  - • Muhammad rides out to attack on Mt, Uhud and they begin to carry the day when a band of archers leaves their post to join the quest for spoils, this allows the Meccan cavalry to shoot the gap and rout the victors. the second day of the battle, M returns to the field, and the Meccan army decides to head for home
  - • this defeat causes a loss of faith in the Muslims
  - • many tribes decide to side with the Qureysh, and the rebel Jews step up their attempts to subvert M and his efforts
- In the fifth year, the Qureysh again decide to attack Yathrib with 10,000 men
  - • Muhammad digs a trench in front of the city, which delays the opposing cavalry and their army
  - • one of the Yathrib Jewish tribes decides to side with the Meccans
  - • a wind from the sea so severe rises that the Meccan army decides to turn home
- In the sixth year, Muhammad decides to attempt a pilgrimage to Mecca with 1400 men
  - • this leads to the treaty of Al-Hudeybiyah
  - • treaty proposes a ten year truce and allowed pilgrimages beginning the next year
  - • the truce leads to a huge number of converts for the Muslims
- In the seventh year, Muhammad leads an attack against the stronghold of the Jewish opposition at Kheybar and wears them away one by one
  - • Muhammad's cousin and the Abyssinian exiles show up to join Muhammad
  - • while there, a Jewess prepares him a meal of poisoned meat... he tastes, but does not swallow it and contracts the illness which will eventually kill him

- • at the end of this year, the Muslims make their first successful pilgrimage under the truce
- In the eighth year, the Muslim make an unsuccessful attack on the Assyrians and the Qureysh break the truce by attacking a tribe allied with the Muslims
  - • Muhammad gathers troops and marches to Mecca with ten thousand men
  - • at this show of force, the Qureysh surrender and M enters the city unopposed
  - • he grants general amnesty to all, and almost the entire city converts
  - • Muhammad destroys the cities idols and Islam rules in Mecca
  - • a group of pagan tribes tries to take back the Ka'bah, but Muhammad and 12,000 troops conquer them after a shaky start at Huneyn
  - • Muhammad installs ministers at Mecca and returns to Medina
- In the ninth year, another Syrian attack threatens
  - • many Muslims refuse to join the campaign
  - • Muhammad sets out, but upon arriving in Syria, finds the rumored attack untrue
  - • Muhammad declares that only Muslims are allowed to make the pilgrimage to Ka'bah, not pagans
  - • numerous deputations from all over Arabia arrive to declare allegiance to Islam
  - • Muhammad becomes, for all intents and purposes, the emperor of Arabia
- In the tenth year of the Hijrah, Muhammad dies
- It is in the caliphate of Othman that a definitive version of the written Koran is gathered