

Understanding Islam
The Religion of the Muslim
By Will Cunningham

What is Islam

1. Islam is a religion of Muslim-background people groups who follow Mohammad.
 - a. There are two schools of thought:
 - i. Began with Abraham sleeping with Hagar – The Ishmael & Isaac thought
 1. Gen. 16:1-16
 2. Gen. 17:20
 3. Gen. 21:8-18
 4. Gen. 25:12-18
 5. Gal. 4:21-31
 - ii. The scripture point to the time when Abraham did not follow God's plan for a promised child and instead slept with Hagar his maidservant, after listening to his wife Sarah. This is the more biblical view as it can be followed out by lineage.
 - b. The second school of thought is that of Esau and Jacob.
 - i. Gen. 25 – Twins of Rebekah
 - ii. Gen. 25:27-34, Esau forfeited the blessing of his birth rite
 - iii. Gen. 27, Jacob takes the birth rite
 - iv. Jacob became the chosen line and Esau became the Islam line

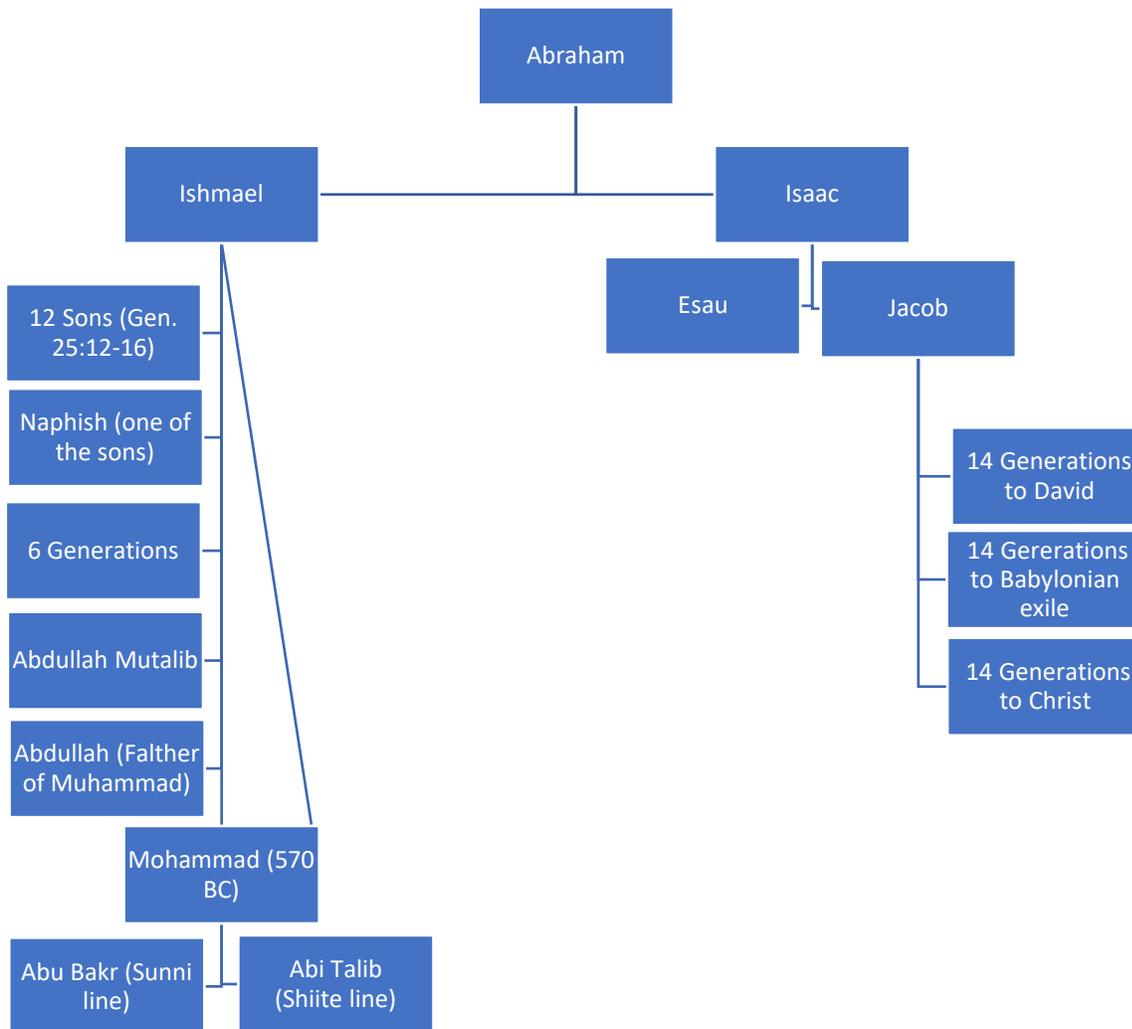
Islam Beliefs

1. Muslims believe in one God – called Allah.
 - a. Allah is eternal, Omniscient, and Omnipotent (All knowing & all powerful)
 - b. All Muslims believe God is alone, that is, He has no children and no equal.
2. In Islam, they believe in Angels – Mohmand (their leader) was visited by Gabriel in a cave.
3. They believe in the Quran (the Islamic Bible).
 - a. Some parts are from the Torah, the first 5 books of the Bible.
 - b. They claim that the Quran is intended to correct the Old & New Testament
4. They believe in Prophets:
 - a. Abraham
 - b. Moses
 - c. David
 - d. Jesus (as a Prophet, not as the son of God)
 - e. Mohammad is the final profit and they consider him to be the voice of God
5. They believe in a day of Judgement; the determination of Heaven and Hell for a person.
6. In Islam, there is the belief in Predestination – God can elect, and Man has free will.
7. Islamists believe in Spiritual disciplines known to them as the 5 pillars of Islam:
 - a. S'hahadah – the testimony of Allah and Mohammad's prophethood
 - b. S'alat – Pray to Allah
 - i. 5 times a day, facing Mecca. Start with standing, bowing, prostrate, then sitting.
 - ii. This is repeated 5 times.
 - iii. You have to be ritually pure in body, mind, and soul to pray.
 - c. Z'akat – Alms. Being charitable and hospitable.
 - d. S'awm – Fasting for Ramadan.
 - i. Between Dawn & Night
 - ii. Abstain from food, drink, smoking & sex
 - e. Hajj – Pilgrimage to Mecca.
 - i. This is mostly replaced by visiting Imam's grave sites.

Contrast between God of Islam and God of the Bible

The God of Islam	The God of the Bible
Monotheistic	Monotheistic
Omni-Potent	Omni-Potent
Merciful	Merciful
Sent Prophets	Sent Prophets
Capriciousness (Uncontrollable)	God is certain
Non-Relational	Very Relational
His power overrides his attributes	A triune God – His attributes stem from His nature of Love
Allah is not welcoming or easy to get to know	God draws you in, doesn't stiff arm you away
Allah is way too powerful	God promotes trust, you can come near to Him
Allah looks at you based on your keeping of the 5 pillars	God bases your relationship on the sacrifice of Jesus
Allah is one, there is no other	God is one – A triunity (Father Son, Holy Spirit)
Muslims deny Jesus died and resurrected	Christianity proved the crucifixion and witness the resurrection
Gabriel appears to Mohammad in cave	God appeared to Moses in the burning bush
Allah is too Holy to have a relationship with man.	God steps out of heaven to have a relationship – He stated: "I AM" – Everything you need.
Allah – termed "The God"	God – Yahweh: It can not be interpreted based on Jewish thoughts only "He is and brings into existence whatever exist."

The Origins of Islam



- This graphic outlines the biblical evidence and the use of other archaeological manuscripts. It shows that Mohammad came from the Ishmael line.
- Abu Bakr and Abi Talib were not sons of Muhammad but chosen electors based on those following Islam in the days of his death.
- There is much debate in the Islam faith of who the actual successor is and this has caused regional and national conflicts with the two religious' groups.
- Sunni Muslim's make up the majority of Islam.