

answering islam blog

Answering Islam Blog: Your Comprehensive Guide to Understanding Islamic Teachings

Introduction:

Are you curious about Islam? Do you have questions about its beliefs, practices, or history? Perhaps you've encountered misconceptions and want to explore the faith from a reliable source. This comprehensive guide, "Answering Islam Blog," serves as your gateway to understanding Islamic teachings and dispelling common myths. We'll explore key aspects of the faith, providing clear, concise, and evidence-based answers to common questions. Whether you're a complete beginner or seeking to deepen your existing knowledge, this blog post will provide valuable insights into the rich and diverse world of Islam. We will delve into core beliefs, daily practices, historical context, and contemporary challenges, all while maintaining a respectful and informative tone. Prepare to embark on a journey of understanding and discovery.

I. Core Beliefs of Islam: The Six Articles of Faith

Islam is built upon six core pillars of faith, often referred to as the Arkan al-Islam. Understanding these principles is crucial for grasping the foundation of Islamic belief:

Tawhid (Oneness of God): This is the most fundamental tenet of Islam, emphasizing the absolute oneness of God (Allah) and rejecting any form of polytheism or idolatry. It stresses the unique and indivisible nature of God's being and attributes.

Belief in Angels: Islam affirms the existence of angels, created by God to carry out His commands. These include Gabriel (Jibril), who revealed the Quran to Prophet Muhammad, and Michael (Mika'il), responsible for providing sustenance.

Belief in Divine Books: Muslims believe in the divine origin of various scriptures, including the Torah, Psalms, Gospels, and most importantly, the Quran, which they believe to be the final and unaltered word of God.

Belief in Prophets: Islam acknowledges a long line of prophets sent by God throughout history, including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and finally, Muhammad, whom Muslims believe to be the last prophet.

Belief in the Day of Judgment: Muslims believe in a final day of judgment, where individuals will be held accountable for their actions in this life. This belief underscores the importance of righteous living and adherence to God's commands.

Belief in Divine Decree (Qadar): This refers to the belief that God has ordained all events, past, present, and future. This does not imply a lack of free will but rather emphasizes God's overarching plan and knowledge.

II. Five Pillars of Islam: The Practical Expression of Faith

The five pillars of Islam represent the practical application of faith in daily life:

Shahada (Declaration of Faith): The declaration of faith, "There is no god but God (Allah), and Muhammad is his messenger," is the cornerstone of Islam. It signifies a commitment to the oneness of God and acceptance of Muhammad as His final prophet.

Salat (Prayer): Muslims perform five daily prayers, facing the Kaaba in Mecca. These prayers are a form of direct communication with God and a reminder of His presence.

Zakat (Charity): Zakat is a mandatory form of charity, requiring Muslims to give a portion of their wealth to the poor and needy. This promotes social justice and economic equality.

Sawm (Fasting): During the month of Ramadan, Muslims abstain from food and drink from dawn till dusk. This act of self-discipline fosters spiritual growth and empathy for those less fortunate.

Hajj (Pilgrimage): If physically and financially able, Muslims are expected to undertake a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lifetime. This journey represents a spiritual renewal and a demonstration of unity within the Muslim community.

III. Understanding the Quran and Sunnah: Sources of Islamic Law

Islamic jurisprudence relies on two primary sources:

The Quran: The holy book of Islam, believed to be the literal word of God revealed to Prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel. It serves as the ultimate guide for Muslims in all aspects of life.

The Sunnah: The Sunnah comprises the sayings, actions, and tacit approvals of Prophet Muhammad. It provides practical examples and interpretations of the Quranic teachings, clarifying ambiguities and offering guidance on various matters.

IV. Diverse Schools of Thought within Islam: A Spectrum of Interpretation

Islam is not monolithic; diverse schools of thought exist, each with its unique interpretations of Islamic law and practice. These differences, however, rarely affect the core beliefs shared by all Muslims. Some of the major schools of thought include Sunni, Shia, and Sufi, each with its specific theological and legal perspectives. Understanding this diversity is key to appreciating the richness and complexity of the Islamic world.

V. Islam in the Modern World: Challenges and Adaptations

Islam today faces numerous challenges, including misconceptions, extremism, and the need to reconcile traditional teachings with modern realities. Understanding these challenges and the various responses within the Muslim community is crucial for a nuanced perspective on the faith in the 21st century. This section could delve into topics like interfaith dialogue, Islamic feminism, and the role of Islam in promoting social justice and peace.

VI. Conclusion: Embracing Knowledge and Fostering Understanding

This "Answering Islam Blog" provides a foundational understanding of Islam. It's crucial to remember that this is just an introduction; further exploration is essential for a deeper appreciation of this rich and complex faith. By engaging with diverse perspectives and reliable sources, we can foster greater understanding and break down barriers based on misinformation and prejudice. We encourage readers to continue their learning journey and engage in respectful dialogue to promote peace and harmony.

Book Outline: "Understanding Islam: A Comprehensive Guide"

Introduction: Brief overview of Islam and the book's purpose.

Chapter 1: Core Beliefs: Detailed exploration of the six articles of faith.

Chapter 2: Five Pillars of Islam: In-depth examination of the practical expressions of faith.

Chapter 3: The Quran and Sunnah: Analysis of the primary sources of Islamic law.

Chapter 4: Diverse Schools of Thought: Exploration of the different interpretations within Islam.

Chapter 5: Islam in History: A chronological overview of the historical development of Islam.

Chapter 6: Islam in the Modern World: Addressing contemporary challenges and adaptations.

Conclusion: Summary of key points and call to action for further learning.

(Note: The above is a skeletal outline; each chapter would require substantial expansion to create a full-length book.)

(Detailed explanations of each chapter point would necessitate expanding each bullet point into a substantial section, similar in length and detail to the sections already provided in the blog post. Due to length constraints, these detailed explanations are omitted here.)

FAQs:

1. What is the difference between Sunni and Shia Islam? The Sunni and Shia branches differ primarily in their understanding of succession to the Prophet Muhammad.

1. Is Islam a peaceful religion? The vast majority of Muslims are peaceful and condemn violence. However, like any large group, some individuals misinterpret teachings to justify extremism.

1. What is the significance of the Kaaba? The Kaaba is a cube-shaped building in Mecca, considered the holiest site in Islam, and the direction Muslims face during prayer.

1. What are the major Islamic holidays? Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan) and Eid al-Adha (pilgrimage) are two of the most important holidays.

1. How is Islamic law determined? Islamic law (Sharia) is derived from the Quran, Sunnah, and scholarly interpretations.

1. What is the role of women in Islam? The role of women in Islam is a complex issue with varying interpretations, but the Quran emphasizes their equality and dignity.

1. What is Jihad? Jihad has two main meanings: the greater jihad (struggle against inner sin) and the lesser jihad (military struggle in self-defense).

1. What is halal and haram? Halal refers to permissible acts or foods, while haram refers to forbidden acts or foods according to Islamic law.
1. How can I learn more about Islam? Engage with reputable sources, attend lectures, read books, and participate in interfaith dialogue.

Related Articles:

1. Understanding Islamic History: A chronological overview of the major events and figures in Islamic history.
2. The Life of Prophet Muhammad: A detailed biography of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him.
3. Key Concepts in Islamic Theology: An exploration of core theological concepts and their significance.
4. Islamic Art and Architecture: An appreciation of the beauty and diversity of Islamic art and architecture.
5. Islamic Philosophy and Sufism: An exploration of the mystical and philosophical dimensions of Islam.
6. Islam and Modern Science: A discussion of the relationship between Islamic teachings and scientific advancements.
7. Challenges Facing Muslims in the West: An analysis of the challenges faced by Muslims living in Western societies.
8. Interfaith Dialogue and Understanding: Promoting mutual respect and understanding between different religions.
9. Islam and Social Justice: An examination of Islamic teachings on social justice and their application in the modern world.

This comprehensive approach ensures broad keyword coverage ("answering islam blog") and addresses multiple search intents, increasing the chances of ranking highly on search engine results pages (SERPs). Remember to optimize the meta description, title tag, and use internal and external links for improved SEO performance.

answering islam blog: Answering Islam Norman L. Geisler, Abdul Saleeb, 2002-08 Apologetic guide compares the major tenets of Islam with Christianity.

answering islam blog: Answering Jihad Nabeel Qureshi, 2016-03-08 From New York Times bestselling author of *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus* Nabeel Qureshi—a former Muslim—comes his deeply personal, challenging, and respectful answer book to the many questions surrounding jihad, the rise of ISIS, and Islamic terrorism. San Bernardino was the most lethal terror attack on American soil since 9/11, and it came on the heels of a coordinated assault on Paris. There is no question that innocents were slaughtered in the name of Allah and in the way of jihad (meaning warfare against the enemies of Islam, in this case). But do the terrorists' actions actually reflect the broader religion of Islam? The answer to this question is more pressing than ever, as many Muslim refugees are still migrating to the West, seeking shelter from the violent ideologies of ISIS, Al-Qaida, and other radical Islamic groups. Setting aside speculations and competing voices, Qureshi explores the answers to difficult questions like: What is Islam, and is it a religion of peace or violence? Is there a clear definition and doctrine of jihad? How are we to understand jihad and radical expressions of Islam in relation to our Muslim neighbors and friends? Why is there such a surge of Islamist terrorism in the world today, and how should we respond? How does jihad compare with Old Testament calls to warfare? In *Answering Jihad*, bestselling author Nabeel Qureshi answers these urgent questions from the perspective of a former Muslim who is deeply concerned for both his Muslim family and his American homeland.

answering islam blog: How God Became Jesus Michael F. Bird, Craig A. Evans, Simon Gathercole, Charles E. Hill, Chris Tilling, 2014-03-25 In his recent book *How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher From Galilee* historian Bart Ehrman explores a claim that resides at the heart of the Christian faith— that Jesus of Nazareth was, and is, God. According to Ehrman, though, this is not what the earliest disciples believed, nor what Jesus claimed about himself. The first response book to this latest challenge to Christianity from Ehrman, *How God Became Jesus* features the work of five internationally recognized biblical scholars. While subjecting his claims to critical scrutiny, they offer a better, historically informed account of why the Galilean preacher from Nazareth came to be hailed as “the Lord Jesus Christ.” Namely, they contend, the exalted place of Jesus in belief and worship is clearly evident in the earliest Christian sources, shortly following his death, and was not simply the invention of the church centuries later.

answering islam blog: No God but One: Allah or Jesus? (with Bonus Content) Nabeel Qureshi, 2016-08-30 BONUS: This eBook includes downloadable videos and a Q&A with Nabeel Qureshi that are not found in the print edition. Having shared his journey of faith in the New York Times bestselling *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, Nabeel Qureshi now examines Islam and Christianity in detail, exploring areas of crucial conflict and unpacking the relevant evidence. In this anticipated follow-up book, Nabeel reveals what he discovered in the decade following his conversion, providing a thorough and careful comparison of the evidence for Islam and Christianity—evidence that wrenched his heart and transformed his life. In *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, Nabeel Qureshi recounted his dramatic journey, describing his departure from Islam and his decision to follow Christ. In the years that followed, he realized that the world’s two largest religions are far more different than they initially appeared. *No God but One: Allah or Jesus?* addresses the most important questions at the interface of Islam and Christianity: How do the two religions differ? Are the differences significant? Can we be confident that either Christianity or Islam is true? And most important, is it worth sacrificing everything for the truth? Nabeel shares stories from his life and

ministry, casts new light on current events, and explores pivotal incidents in the histories of both religions, providing a resource that is gripping and thought-provoking, respectful and challenging. Both Islam and Christianity teach that there is No God but One, but who deserves to be worshiped, Allah or Jesus? This eBook includes the full text of the book plus bonus content not found in the softcover! Bonuses include a Q&A with Nabeel Qureshi and downloadable videos that answer important questions about Islam and Christianity. Please note that some e-reader devices do not accommodate video play. You can still access the bonus videos by copying the web address provided into an internet browser on a device or computer that accommodates video content.

answering islam blog: Gospel-Centered Discipleship Jonathan K. Dodson, 2012-03-31

Reflecting on the practice of disciple making in young adult, college, graduate, and local church contexts, Jonathan Dodson has discerned some common pitfalls. For many, discipleship is reduced to a form of religious performance before God. For others, it devolves into spiritual license and a loose adherence to spiritual facts. Both approaches distort biblical motivations for Christian obedience and are in need of reform. By explaining various motivations for discipleship, Dodson charts a biblically faithful, grace-driven alternative. Additionally, he provides a practical model for creating gospel-centered discipleship groups—small, reproducible, missional, gender-specific groups of believers that fight for faith together. This book blends both theology and practice to inspire and equip Christians to effectively fight sin, keep Jesus central, and make gospel-centered discipleship a way of life. Both new and growing Christians will learn to trust the gospel in community as they fight together for holiness as well as how to start gospel-centered community groups in any local church.

answering islam blog: God Is Not Great Christopher Hitchens, 2008-11-19 Christopher Hitchens, described in the London Observer as “one of the most prolific, as well as brilliant, journalists of our time” takes on his biggest subject yet—the increasingly dangerous role of religion in the world. In the tradition of Bertrand Russell’s *Why I Am Not a Christian* and Sam Harris’s recent bestseller, *The End Of Faith*, Christopher Hitchens makes the ultimate case against religion. With a close and erudite reading of the major religious texts, he documents the ways in which religion is a man-made wish, a cause of dangerous sexual repression, and a distortion of our origins in the cosmos. With eloquent clarity, Hitchens frames the argument for a more secular life based on science and reason, in which hell is replaced by the Hubble Telescope’s awesome view of the universe, and Moses and the burning bush give way to the beauty and symmetry of the double helix.

answering islam blog: Tertullian Against Praxeas Tertullian, Alexander Souter, 1920

answering islam blog: Against Hermogenes Tertullian, 2018-08-19 The doctrine of Hermogenes has this taint of novelty. He is, in short, a man living in the world at the present time; by his very nature a heretic, and turbulent withal, who mistakes loquacity for eloquence, and supposes impudence to be firmness, and judges it to be the duty of a good conscience to speak ill of individuals. Moreover, he despises God's law in his painting, maintaining repeated marriages, alleges the law of God in defense of lust, and yet despises it in respect of his art. He falsifies by a twofold process—with his cauterium and his pen. He is a thorough adulterer, both doctrinally and carnally, since he is rank indeed with the contagion of your marriage hacks, and has also failed in cleaving to the rule of faith as much as the apostle's own Hermogenes. However, never mind the man, when it is his doctrine which I question. He does not appear to acknowledge any other Christ as Lord, though he holds Him in a different way; but by this difference in his faith he really makes Him another being, --nay, he takes from Him everything which is God, since he will not have it that He made all things of nothing. For, turning away from Christians to the philosophers, from the Church to the Academy and the Porch, he learned there from the Stoics how to place Matter (on the same level) with the Lord, just as if it too had existed ever both unborn and unmade, having no beginning at all nor end, out of which, according to him, the Lord afterwards created all things.

answering islam blog: The Case Against Miracles John W. Loftus, 2019-11-22 For as long as the idea of miracles has been in the public sphere, the conversation about them has been shaped exclusively by religious apologists and Christian leaders. The definitions for what a miracles are have been forged by the same men who fought hard to promote their own beliefs as fitting under

that umbrella. It's time for a change. Enter John W. Loftus, an atheist author who has earned three master's degrees from Lincoln Christian Seminary and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Loftus, a former student of noted Christian apologist William Lane Craig, got some of the biggest names in the field to contribute to this book, which represents a critical analysis of the very idea of miracles. Incorporating his own thoughts along with those of noted academics, philosophers, and theologians, Loftus is able to properly define miracle and then show why there's no reason to believe such a thing even exists. Addressing every single issue that touches on miracles in a thorough and academic manner, this compilation represents the most extensive look at the phenomenon ever displayed through the lens of an ardent nonbeliever. If you've ever wondered exactly what a miracle is, or doubted whether they exist, then this book is for you.

answering islam blog: The Islamic Inversion Robert Sievers, 2018-06-22 Any endeavor to lead Muslims to Christ comes with its own unique frustrations. Attempts to get Muslims into God's Word often seem to go nowhere. Islam generates a steady stream of barricades and firewalls that systematically thwart efforts to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Ironically enough, the hidden opportunities to lead Muslims to Christ may actually be found in the very assaults Muslims make on core Christian doctrines. Islamic theology conforms to a certain pattern of spiritual reversal when contrasted against sound Christian doctrine. By recognizing these patterns, Christians can find new ways to interact with Muslims in a manner that is nonconfrontational without denying the exclusivity and power of the gospel. With prayer and love, the follower of Christ may use these antiparallels, or inversions, to find a unique and peculiar avenue to share the good news with Muslims.

answering islam blog: THE GUIDE TO ANSWERING ISLAM Daniel Janosik, 2019-01-26 The average Christian knows somewhat how dangerous radical Islam is because of the regular media coverage of beheadings of Christians, Jews, and even young little children, not to mention Muslims with which they disagree. However, the average Christian does not know their true beliefs, just how many there are, to the extent they will go to carry out these beliefs. Daily we find Islamic commentators on the TV and radio, offering up misleading information, quoting certain portions of the Quran while leaving other parts out. When considering Islamic beliefs, other Islamic writings must be considered, like the Hadith or Sunnah, and the Shariah, or canon law. While Islam, in general, does not support radical Islam, the vast majority do support radical beliefs. For example, beheadings, stoning for adultery or homosexuality, suicide bombings, turning the world into an Islamic state, and far too many other heinous things. THE GUIDE TO ANSWERING ISLAM provides Christians with an overview of Islamic terminology. The reader will learn about Muhammad's calling, the history of the Quran, how Islam expanded, the death of Muhammad and the splinter groups that followed. In addition, the three sources of their teaching, six pillars of belief, five pillars of Islam, the twelfth Imam, and much more will be discussed. While there are several books on Islam and radical Islam, this will be the first that will prepare its readers to communicate effectively with Muslims in an effort toward sharing biblical truths. THE GUIDE TO ISLAM will be an effective evangelism tool. In addition, each chapter will end with review questions, helping the reader recall the main points of the chapter. Therefore, it can be studied alone or in a church Bible study setting. THE GUIDE TO ANSWERING ISLAM has the contents constructed in a way that will greatly serve the Christian Church. There are many recent books written by Christians about Islam, and there are many books written recently about radical Islam. However, none of these recent books attempts to do what has been done, which is to give an adequate portrayal of Islam, critiqued by history and Christian doctrine, and then culminating in an extensive evaluation of the rise of Radical Islam from a Christian's perspective.

answering islam blog: God Has a Name John Mark Comer, 2024-10-15 What you believe about God sets the foundation of the person you will become. In *God Has a Name*, pastor and New York Times bestselling author John Mark Comer invites you to rethink many of the prevalent myths and misconceptions about God and weigh them against what God actually tells us about himself. After all, what you believe about God will ultimately shape the type of person you become. We all live at the mercy of our ideas, and nowhere is this more true than our ideas about God. The problem is

many of our ideas about God are wrong. Not all wrong, but wrong enough to form our souls in detrimental and disheartening ways. *God Has a Name* is a simple yet profound guide to understanding God in a new light--focusing on what God says about himself in the Bible. This one shift has the potential to radically alter how you relate to God, not as a doctrine, but as a relational being who responds to you in an elastic, back-and-forth way. John Mark Comer takes you line by line through Exodus 34:6-8--Yahweh's self-revelation on Mount Sinai, one of the most quoted passages in the Bible. Along the way, Comer addresses some of the most profound questions he came across as he studied these noted lines in Exodus, including: Why do we feel this gap between us and God? Could it be that a lot of what we think about God is wrong? Not all wrong, but wrong enough to mess up how we relate to him? What if our God is really a projection of our own identity, ideas, and desires? What if the real God is different, but far better than we could ever imagine? No matter where you are in your spiritual journey, *God Has a Name* invites you to step into a fresh and biblically rooted vision of who God is that has the potential to alter your life with God and shape who you become.

answering islam blog: *The Definitive Guide for Solving Biblical Questions About Mary* Christiaan W. Kappes, William Albrect, 2020-10-08 Some books hope to persuade the reader by reasoned arguments that might stand up to scrutiny. Conversely, this work simply reveals the meaning of Scripture to its lover and provides every Christian with a straightforward and irrefutable key to understand Mary's role and dignity in salvation history according to the Evangelists in their Gospels. After seeing the evidence organized in an easy-to-read way, arcane arguments, long dividing Christians, simply become irrelevant as the reader experiences the Scriptures revealing themselves in their fullness. Who are Jesus's brothers and sisters? Who are his family members who opposed his ministry? Does Scripture teach Mary's perpetual virginity? What is Joseph's family tree? Why do Jesus and Mary sometimes appear to be at odds in the New Testament? Each and every question does not require a torturously reasoned argument to some purportedly probable conclusion. Rather, each question is plainly answered by reading the Scriptures through their own dependence on prior Scripture as key to their meaning and interpretation.

answering islam blog: *Misquoting Jesus* Bart D. Ehrman, 2009-10-06 When world-class biblical scholar Bart Ehrman first began to study the texts of the Bible in their original languages he was startled to discover the multitude of mistakes and intentional alterations that had been made by earlier translators. In *Misquoting Jesus*, Ehrman tells the story behind the mistakes and changes that ancient scribes made to the New Testament and shows the great impact they had upon the Bible we use today. He frames his account with personal reflections on how his study of the Greek manuscripts made him abandon his once ultraconservative views of the Bible. Since the advent of the printing press and the accurate reproduction of texts, most people have assumed that when they read the New Testament they are reading an exact copy of Jesus's words or Saint Paul's writings. And yet, for almost fifteen hundred years these manuscripts were hand copied by scribes who were deeply influenced by the cultural, theological, and political disputes of their day. Both mistakes and intentional changes abound in the surviving manuscripts, making the original words difficult to reconstruct. For the first time, Ehrman reveals where and why these changes were made and how scholars go about reconstructing the original words of the New Testament as closely as possible. Ehrman makes the provocative case that many of our cherished biblical stories and widely held beliefs concerning the divinity of Jesus, the Trinity, and the divine origins of the Bible itself stem from both intentional and accidental alterations by scribes -- alterations that dramatically affected all subsequent versions of the Bible.

answering islam blog: [101 Questions to Ask Visiting Jehovah's Witnesses](#) Shabir Ally, 2001

answering islam blog: *Was Jesus a Muslim?* Robert F. Shedinger, An intriguing question - Do Muslims understand Jesus in some ways more historically appropriate than Christians do? - leads Robert F. Shedinger into a series of provocative challenges to the disciplines of religious studies and comparative religions. Questioning the convenient distinction between politics and religion and the isolation of religion from wider social and cultural questions, Shedinger offers a proposal for a more

accurate and respectful understanding of faith that he argues will improve possibilities for mutual understanding among Christians, Muslims - and others.

answering islam blog: Jesus Before the Gospels Bart D. Ehrman, 2016-03-01 The bestselling author of *Misquoting Jesus*, one of the most renowned and controversial Bible scholars in the world today examines oral tradition and its role in shaping the stories about Jesus we encounter in the New Testament—and ultimately in our understanding of Christianity. Throughout much of human history, our most important stories were passed down orally—including the stories about Jesus before they became written down in the Gospels. In this fascinating and deeply researched work, leading Bible scholar Bart D. Ehrman investigates the role oral history has played in the New Testament—how the telling of these stories not only spread Jesus' message but helped shape it. A master explainer of Christian history, texts, and traditions, Ehrman draws on a range of disciplines, including psychology and anthropology, to examine the role of memory in the creation of the Gospels. Explaining how oral tradition evolves based on the latest scientific research, he demonstrates how the act of telling and retelling impacts the story, the storyteller, and the listener—crucial insights that challenge our typical historical understanding of the silent period between when Jesus lived and died and when his stories began to be written down. As he did in his previous books on religious scholarship, debates on New Testament authorship, and the existence of Jesus of Nazareth, Ehrman combines his deep knowledge and meticulous scholarship in a compelling and eye-opening narrative that will change the way we read and think about these sacred texts.

answering islam blog: Is the Bible God's Word? Ahmad Deedat, 1981-06-01 A brief rebuttal to several points of Biblical theology by this well known debater is the subject of this booklet which is one of the authors most popular books.

answering islam blog: Understanding the Koran Mateen Ellass, 2009-08-19 Find out how the Koran resembles the Bible—and the drastic ways in which it differs. Understanding the Koran gives you an essential grasp of Islam's holy book: where it came from, what it teaches, how Muslims view it, and how the Allah of the Koran compares with the God of the Bible. Cherished as the final, perfect revelation of God's will by 1.2 billion Muslims worldwide, the Koran has become a part of American life. What do you know about the holy book that shapes the lives and views of your neighbors and a fifth of the world's population? Written by a pastor who was born to a Muslim father and raised in Saudi Arabia, *Understanding the Koran* gives you a fascinating, easy-to-understand overview that will show you: Why the background behind the Koran is important to understanding it. How the Koran came into existence. A summary of the main teachings of the Koran, including what it says about Jesus and the crucifixion. Similarities and differences between Muslim and Christian views of God. What the Koran teaches about Jihad and holy war. What the Koran teaches about heaven and hell and the final destinies of the human soul. Giving you an essential grasp of Islam's holy book, *Understanding the Koran* points you to the one thing that can draw your Muslim friends to Jesus—his love, demonstrated to them through you. Discussion questions make it possible to use this book in group studies.

answering islam blog: The History of al-Ṭabarī Vol. 2 Abū Ja'far Muḥammad ibn Jarīr al-Ṭabarī, 1987-01-01 This volume records the lives and efforts of some of the prophets preceeding the birth of Mohammad. It devotes most of its message to two towering figures--Abraham, the Friend of God, and his great-grandson, Joseph. The story is not, however simply a repetition of Biblical tales in a slightly altered form, for Ṭabarī sees the ancient pre-Islamic Near East as an area in which the histories of three different peoples are acted out, occasionally meeting and intertwining. Thus ancient Iran, Israel, and Arabia serve as the stages on which actors such as Biwarasb, the semi-legendary Iranian king, Noah and his progeny, and the otherwise unknown Arabian prophets Hud and Salih appear and act. In the pages of this volume we read of the miraculous birth and early life of Abraham, and of his struggle against his father's idolatry. God grants him sons--Ishmael from Hagar and Isaac from Sarah--and the conflicts between the two mothers, the subsequent expulsion of Hagar, and her settling in the vicinity of Mecca, all lead to the story of Abraham's being commanded to build God's sanctuary there. Abraham is tested by God, both by being commanded to

sacrifice his son (and here Ṭabarī shows his fairness by presenting the arguments of Muslim scholars as to whether that son was Ishmael or Isaac) and by being given commandments to follow both in personal behavior and in ritual practice. The account of Abraham is interlaced with tales of the cruel tyrant Nimrod, who tried in vain both to burn Abraham in fire and to reach the heavens to fight with God. The story of Abraham's nephew Lot and the wicked people of Sodom also appears here, with the scholars once again arguing--this time over what the exact crimes were for which the Sodomites were destroyed. Before proceeding to the story of Joseph, which is recounted in great detail, we linger over the accounts of two figures associated with ancient Arabia in Muslim tradition: the Biblical Job, who despite his trials and sufferings does not rail against God, and Shu'ayb, usually associated with the Biblical Jethro, the priest of Midian and father-in-law of Moses. Finally we meet Joseph, whose handsome appearance, paternal preference, and subsequent boasting to his brothers lead to his being cast into a pit and ending up as a slave in Egypt. His career is traced in some detail: the attempted seduction by Potiphar's wife, his imprisonment and eventual release after becoming able to interpret dreams, and his rise to power as ruler of Egypt. The volume ends with the moving story of Joseph's reunion with his brothers, the tragi-comic story of how he reveals himself to them, and the final reunion with his aged father who is brought to Egypt to see his son's power and glory. This is proto-history told in fascinating detail, of us in different contexts, as well as of others completely unknown to Western readers.

answering islam blog: Someone Has to Die Jim Batton, 2012 In the midst of a global clash between international terrorism and an American congressman's peacemaking effort, a poor Muslim-majority neighborhood in Indonesia holds the keys to victory. While some in the neighborhood are making efforts to understand the truth behind the Muslim-Christian divide and build new bridges across it, others are determined to perpetuate and intensify the hatred that has plagued the region for years. When a tragedy reveals an unexpected villain, it will be up to two unlikely heroes to set aside their differences and save the day. What will it take to keep hope alive? And who will be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for the sake of peace? This intense thriller will encourage you to reexamine your understanding of love and forgiveness, and reconsider what it means to be a true hero

answering islam blog: The Book of Arda Viraf Martin Haug, Edward William West, 1872 Edition bilingue palhavi-anglais.

answering islam blog: Echoes of Jesus Jonathan Peter Clerke, 2019-05-08 New York Times bestselling books have taken the view that the oldest New Testament documents paint a very different picture to later copies. Others are of the opinion that the original gospel accounts were never intended to be historically accurate. Many people assume that the bias of the original New Testament authors distorted their recollections of Jesus, and Jesus' words were not put into written form for several decades, allowing distortion to occur. What would you say? What do you believe and why? Were Jesus' words recorded accurately by the gospel writers during Jesus' life & the making & copying of the New Testament? This highly readable journey of discovery considers gospel textual criticism, Christian historiography, archaeology, literacy & more. See evidence for the reliability of the recounting of Jesus as found in the Bible. This Christian apologetic book provides evidence in an engaging manner, following along a logical journey of discovery. When you've purchased and read this book you will: - understand how literate and historically aware the ancient civilisations were - appreciate how it was possible for the first disciples to accurately record Jesus' life and teachings - have a highly readable explanation of early Greek New Testament documents and know what they have to say about accuracy in copying - know the content and credibility of non-Christian ancient literature that comment on Jesus and the first Christians.

answering islam blog: The Apostolic Fathers Michael W. Holmes, 2007-11 A contemporary version of important early Christian texts that are not included in the New Testament. The translation, Greek texts, introduction, notes, and bibliographies are freshly revised.

answering islam blog: Paul Meets Muhammad Michael R. Licona, Mike Licona, 2006-02 A creative, out of the box approach to examining the validity of Christ's resurrection from the virtual

perspectives of two religious heavyweights.

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Islamic law to explain shariah in an accessible, engaging narrative style—its various meanings, how it developed, and how the shariah-based legal system operated for over a thousand years. She explains what shariah means not only in the abstract but in the daily lives of Muslims. She discusses modern calls for shariah, what they mean, and whether shariah is the law of the land anywhere in the world. She also describes the key lies and misunderstandings about shariah circulating in our public discourse, and why so many of them are nonsensical. This engaging guide is intended to introduce you to the basic principles, goals, and general development of shariah and to answer questions like: How do Muslims engage with shariah? What does shariah have to do with our Constitution? What does shariah have to do with the way the world looks like today? And why do we all—Muslims or not—need to care?

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answering islam blog: *The Myth of Islamic Tolerance* Robert Spencer, 2005 This collection of essays by some of the world's leading authorities on Islamic social history focuses on the juridical and cultural oppression of non-Muslims in Islamic societies. The authors of these in-depth but accessible articles explode the widely diffused myth, promulgated by Muslim advocacy groups, of a largely tolerant, pluralistic Islam. In fact, the contributors lay bare the oppressive legal superstructure that has treated non-Muslims in Muslim societies as oppressed and humiliated tributaries, and they show the devastating effects of these discriminatory attitudes and practices in both past and contemporary global conflicts. Besides original articles, primary source documents here presented also elucidate how the legally mandated subjugation of non-Muslims under Islamic law stems from the Muslim concept of jihad - the spread of Islam through conquest. Historically, the Arab-Muslim conquerors overran vast territories containing diverse non-Muslim populations. Many of these conquered people surrendered to Muslim domination under a special treaty called *dhimma* in Arabic. As such these non-Muslim indigenous populations, mainly Christians and Jews, were then classified under Islamic law as *dhimmi*s (meaning protected). Although protected status may sound benign, this classification in fact referred to protection from the resumption of the jihad against non-Muslims, pending their adherence to a system of legal and financial oppression, as well as social isolation. The authors maintain that underlying this religious caste system is a culturally ingrained contempt for outsiders that still characterizes much of the Islamic world today and is a primary impetus for jihad terrorism. Also discussed is the poll tax (Arabic *jizya*) levied on non-Muslims; the Islamic critique of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the use of jihad ideology by twentieth-century radical Muslim theorists; and other provocative topics usually ignored by Muslim apologists. This hard-hitting and absorbing critique of Islamic teachings and practices regarding non-Muslim minorities exposes a significant human rights scandal that rarely receives any mention either in academic circles or in the mainstream press.

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the truth about the fastest growing religion in the world.

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technical interrogation and field research methods.

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