

Islam Fast Facts

History

The first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad was in the year 610 AD, when he was 40 years old. Islam's official start was in the year 622 AD, when Muhammad & his followers fled to Medina.



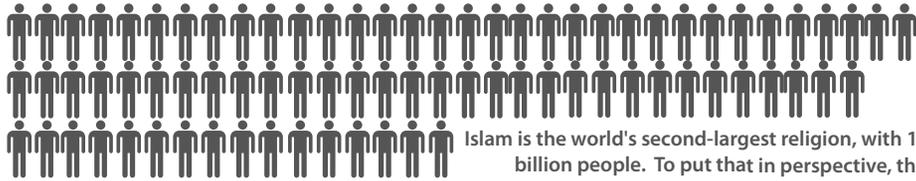
Primary Location

Islam is much more a "world religion" than Hinduism & Buddhism, being the majority religion in the Middle East, the North Africa, West Africa, & Oceania. The nation with the most Muslims is not in the Middle East, but is actually Indonesia.



Population

 = 200 million Muslims



Islam is the world's second-largest religion, with 1.6 billion people. To put that in perspective, that means that almost 1 in every 4 people in the world is a Muslim.

Holy Books

The Quran is considered to be the inspired word of Islam. Unlike the Bible, it is only considered to be the Quran when it is in Arabic.

Quran

The Quran recognizes that parts of the Bible (like the Torah and Gospels) are important for believers to read as well, although Islam believes that these books have been corrupted by Christians and Jews.

God

1 Islam prides itself in being a strictly monotheistic religion. To Muslims, the Christian doctrine of the Trinity is an abomination because it isn't the belief in one God but rather three.

The primary creed of Islam (basically what sums up the foundation of everything they believe) is "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet."

Human Condition

In Islam, sin isn't a part of who we are as people (Muslims don't believe in Original Sin). In Islam, sin is "acts" that we do against the will of Allah. Put another way, sin is merely "weakness." With this view of sin, there is no need for a redeemer to restore relationship between humanity and an offended God, because Islam doesn't believe that God will be offended by our sin—he is too far removed from us for that to happen.



Salvation & Afterlife

Muslims believe that the key to salvation is following the will of Allah. For Muslims, there is no guarantee or assurance of salvation, because humanity is completely at the mercy of Allah.

Islam truly is a religion based on works. The more good you do in this life, the better chance you have to earn salvation from Allah.

One day there will be a great judgment where all humanity will be judged for their deeds. The righteous will pass on to paradise, while those who are unrighteous will perish in hell.

But again, there's no way of knowing whether you will end up in heaven or hell as a Muslim.



Beliefs & Practices

Islam is a religion primarily about practices, not about works. With that being said, here are some of the specific beliefs (6 core beliefs) and practices (5 core practices) of Islam:

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| <p>Beliefs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Oneness of God 2) Angels & Spirits 3) Prophets 4) Qur'an as the Word of God 5) Coming Judgment 6) Authority of Allah | <p>Practices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Confession - "There is no God but Allah & Muhammad is his prophet." 2) Prayer - Muslims pray 5 times a day toward Mecca. 3) Almsgiving - Muslims give 2.5% income to the poor. 4) Fasting - Muslims fast for 30 days during Ramadan. 5) Pilgrimage - Muslims travel to Mecca, their holiest city. |
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