

# CHRISTIAN ANSWERS

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## The Origins of Muhammad's Religion



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### Arabia Before Islam

#### Pagan Arabia in Pre-Islamic Times

Very little is known about the land of Arabia before the rise of Islam. Historians took little notice of it and nothing came out of it to draw the attention of the known world to the Arab people. Its principle town was known as Makkah (Mecca), a settlement in the desert region near the Red Sea in the middle of the Arabian peninsula. It was primarily a commercial centre and numerous caravans went back and forth from the town to trade with other regions to the north.

The Arabs were split up into various tribes often in conflict with one another. At Mecca the Quraysh tribe was Dominant, being divided into smaller groups such as the Banu Hashim (into which Muhammad was born) and the Banu Umayya (from which many of his fiercest enemies arose). There was no central rule in Arabia and, if one tribe was attacked by another, a custom prevailed that the injured tribe could accept a ransom for the loss of any member or attempt to take the life of a member of the offending tribe in retaliation. Daughters were regarded as a misfortune and many infant females were buried alive. If a son was born to a family there would be great celebrations but if the child was a girl its parents would conceal its birth as much as they could.

For four months of the year hostili-

ties were traditionally suspended as pilgrims visited Mecca for various fairs held annually to commemorate different idols worshipped by the Arabs and to give local poets (shu'ara) an opportunity to compete with one another. Poetry was a very popular art and many examples of pre-Islamic poetry have survived. A number of poets, however, were regarded as mentally imbalanced (majnun) and it was an insult to call a poet a kahin (soothsayer).

The Arabs were steeped in pagan idolatry and the adoration of stones, whether shapen into the form of idols or merely setup as they were, was common. Many were brought by tribesmen visiting the fairs to Mecca and occasionally were left in the Ka'aba, a cube-like structure in the center of the town and the principal shrine of pagan Arab idolatry. Long before the advent of Islam, Diodorus Siculus, a Roman historian, commented that there was in Arabia a temple greatly revered by the Arabs and it is probable that he had the Ka'aba in mind. Very few other records of Arabian religion exist, however, and it is from later Islamic sources that most of our knowledge today derives.

#### Jahiliyya-The Times of Ignorance

Our limited knowledge of Arabia perhaps is indicative of a prevailing Arab ignorance about the outside world at the time. Christian and Jewish influences were found in many areas but on the whole pagan superstition and all the typical practices associated with idolatry were prevalent. Islam found a fertile soil into which it could establish its message of monotheism and its own unique character and it is not surprising to find Muslim historians speaking of those days as Jahiliyya, the "Times of Ignorance."

The Ka'aba was the great focal point and shrine of Arab paganism. Islamic tradition holds that it was originally built by Adam although the Qur'an states that its foundations were raised by Abraham and his son Ishmael (Surah 2.127). In the generations before Muhammad's prophetic career, however, it was the focal point of all Arabian idolatry. Of particular prominence was a black stone (al-hajarul-aswad) built into its north-east corner. Whether it was worshipped as an idol is not certain but its fame as the most significant part of the shrine has survived in the Islamic era and to this day Muslim pilgrims attempt to kiss it while walking around the Ka'aba.

Very near the Ka'aba were two small hills known as as-Safa and al-Marwa. On the first was a small idol known as Isaf and on the second was a similar deity known as Na'ila. Pagan Arabs used to touch these images during their pilgrimage rites and the legend behind them was that they were originally a man and woman from Jurhum who had cohabited in the Ka'aba and were turned into stones for their impudence. The ceremony of running between these two hills has prevailed in the Islamic pilgrimage despite its apparent pagan origin. The Qur'an justifies this practice, saying the two hills are among the "symbols of Allah" and that there is no sin in encompassing them (Surah 2.158). Today they are incorporated into the huge complex of the Great Mosque of Mecca which is built around the Ka'aba, the shrine now standing in an open courtyard.

#### Pagan Arab Idolatry

(continued on page 3)

*"exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9)*

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## CHRISTIAN DEBATER GUIDE

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## THE GOSPEL IN BRIEF

There is one, and only one, eternal, true, holy God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Matt 28:19). He created everything by His word. God has told us the truth about Himself in the word He has given us, the Bible, which He commands us to obey. God is compassionate and just to all. God is pure and Holy; sin is destroyed in His presence (Numbers 14:18). However, we have all sinned, falling short in the evil we do, and the good we fail to do. Yet our problem is not just what we do, but also who we are; we are selfish, corrupt, and estranged from God. Because God is just, He will punish sin impartially, yet God still bestows his love to all men. So our Savior, Jesus, the only begotten Son of God (the God-man, John 1:1,14), was graciously sent to suffer and die on the cross for our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness by the sacrifice of His body and blood. He was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and was physically raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. Jesus will physically return to judge the world. God commands everyone to repent and to believe in Him. God's Spirit lives in each of us who believe in Him to guide us into truth, convict us of our sins, and to work in us to sanctify us to live a more holy life, pleasing our Lord. God's children will dwell forever with God, and those who reject Jesus will suffer eternal torment. There is no other way for anyone to come to God except through Jesus (Jn. 14:6). Please do not depend on anyone else, your own efforts, your religion, but simply put your faith in Christ our Master. So as Rom. 10:9 says, "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart the God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." You are urged not to despise God's mercy but call out to the Lord and trust ONLY in Him.

(See also Acts 10:36-43)

## THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR



Larry Wessels

Greetings to all. Just as in the last newsletter, I am still excited about this on-going internet outreach for our ministry. As an evangelist my mission has always been to reach as many people as possible with the resources at my disposal and, praise God, the Lord has been allowing me to do just that with the limited resources we do have.

By God's mercy we are going to keep uploading as many Christian Answers videos onto the internet as we can, but you, dear readers, can play a major part in this effort as well. Now that these detailed Christian Answers videos are available on anyone's computer that is hooked up to the internet, you as a Christian believer, can mention this fact to friends, relatives and co-workers who have computers (preferably high-speed, DSL) as an evangelism opportunity. Within the pages of this newsletter is the terrific story of one of our long time readers (see page 9) Patrick Cusak, who did exactly this. Patrick utilized his knowledge of our past newsletters along with this new computer technology and combined it with good old preaching and witnessing (empowered by the Holy Spirit) and thus you have an end result that evangelists dream of!

Another interesting phenomenon I've noticed using the availability of our videos on the internet is the fact that the people (including the heathen) I talk to seem to be fascinated with the short little video, "Satan in Your Nose and Other Muslim Teachings." I have already gotten quite a few people (Christian and non-Christian) to actually watch the video at home on their computers. People just can't believe the Muslims actually believe the wacky stuff that is captured in this campus debate. As an evangelism tool, I now bring that video up as a conversation piece and invite people I speak to to watch it when they get a chance, (and they do!).

Within the last two weeks we uploaded our three hour series entitled, "What Islam Really Says About Women" onto *Google Video* and *Yahoo Video*. The programs in this series are entitled, "Islam is a Man's Religion," "Islamic Sex and Violence," and "Wife Beating and Islamic Rules," and as such are slowly becoming Christian Answers' most popularly viewed posted videos on *Google Video*. Blessings to all.

## WHAT IS CHRISTIAN ANSWERS ?

Our ministry name is derived in part from Peter 3:15 which states, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (KJV). This is the goal of **Christian Answers** in an increasingly anti-Christian society here in America and throughout the world; giving answers and reasons why the Christian faith can be trusted and believed.

The Biblical commands to "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:12), to be "set for the defense of the gospel" (Phil. 1:17), to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3), to "be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9), to "put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not" (Rev. 2:2), to "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matt. 7:15), to "examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:21), "with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 2:25), to follow the example of Paul and Apollos who "vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was Christ." (Acts 18:28). These are but a few of the marching orders for the call to ministry, discernment and evangelism.

The inerrant Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17) whereby the gospel is preached, which is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth" (Rom. 1:16), is the weapon of our evangelism. As Hebrews 4:12 states, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow: it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." This is the evangelical missionary methodology of **Christian Answers**— to bring the Biblical perspective to a culture that is almost completely ignorant of it; to bring Christian truth, Christian answers to those who, as the prophet Isaiah said, have made "lies...and falsehood" their refuge (Isa. 28:15); to smash lies and falsehoods with the "hammer" of God's word (Jer. 23:29); see also Proverbs 30:5-6, Psalm 138:2b, Isaiah 40:8, John 5:39-47, 1 Cor. 14:37, and Acts 17:11.

**Christian Answers** utilizes all outreach that God allows us including television, radio, audio CDs, video DVDs, speaking engagements, and the printed page. The materials we have been able to produce have been used by churches, Bible teachers, Christian apologists, laymen and others as well as those seeking life in Christ.

We are not afraid to stand up for Jesus Christ in public forums or wherever the Lord leads. Of course this type of ministry is not for the faint of heart and very often leads to the same type of suffering and persecution that we find in the book of Acts. But as the old saying goes, "one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last," and as Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:14), knowing this mortal life is short and God's eternity is only a moment away for all.

Our ministry is "exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501 (c) (3) by the Internal Revenue Service". Donations to our ministry are tax deductible, therefore those who contribute will receive a donation receipt good on your US income tax. This applies to donations only, not sales. We are legally registered in the state of Texas.

The Qur'an mentions a number of the idols revered by the Arabs but interestingly makes no mention of Hubal, said to have been the chief deity in the Ka'aba. The Quraysh attributed victory to Hubal when overcoming Muhammad's warriors at the Battle of Uhud of which more will be said later. His identity probably derives from Baal, the pagan deity to whom the Israelites were so often distracted and whose existence was challenged by Elijah on Mount Carmel. Hubal's image stood over a well in the hollow of the Ka'aba and was destroyed by Muhammad when he conquered Mecca towards the end of his life. A Nabatean inscription predating Islam still exists on which his name is inscribed and it is said that an image of the idol existed in carnelian with a golden hand attached after the original had broken off. The pagan Arabs are said to have consulted Hubal by divination with arrows.

Three feminine deities mentioned by name in the Qur'an were al-Lat, al-Uzza and Manat (Surah 53.19). Al-Lat belonged principally to the Taqif tribe at at-Ta'if, a settlement to the east of Mecca, and a massive statue of the goddess was venerated in the town. When Muhammad set about destroying all the idols around Mecca the demise of this one alone brought cries of grief from her worshippers.

A certain 'Amr b. Lu'ayy was said to have set up the image of al-Uzza at Nakhla, a village nearby, and her devotees did not consider themselves discharged from their pilgrimage to Mecca until they had made a circuit of her shrine as well. Manat was worshipped by the Aus and Khazraj tribes to the north of Mecca at a town called Yathrib, later to be known as al-Madina (Medina) when Muhammad became the leader of the people there and converted these tribes to Islam. The same 'Amr set up an image of Manat at Qudayd on the shore of the Red Sea and pilgrims to Mecca who revered her would not shave their heads until they had paid their respects to her shrine as well. 'Amr b. Lu'ayy is also said to have erected an image of Hubal in the Ka'aba, having obtained it during one of his journeys to Syria.

These three feminine deities were apparently believed to be the "daughters of Allah," the Supreme Being to whom

the Ka'aba is today dedicated (being known as baitullah, the "House of Alla"). The Qur'an ridicules the idea that Allah should have daughters while the pagan Arabs preferred to have sons as offspring (Surahs 16.57, 52.39). They were also believed to be intercessors with Allah.

The Qur'an recognizes Allah alone as the Supreme Deity, the one and only Lord of all the worlds. The worship of Allah was known before the advent of Islam as the Qur'an itself shows. It speaks of the pagans as calling on Allah exclusively to protect them when they set sail in a boat but as being ungrateful to him when he delivers them safely to dry land, giving a share of their worship to other gods as well (Surah 29.65). On another occasion it states that they swear their strongest oaths by him (Surah 6.109). No record of an image of Allah exists and, although some writers have tried to identify Allah with other Arabian gods, no real evidence exists to support this.

It appears that the acknowledgment of one Supreme Being, the unseen ruler of the universe, arose out of a contact with Jews and Christians who settled in or passed through Arabia. It is known that the Christian Syriac name for God was Alaha and it is thought that it may have been derived from the Hebrew Elohim. It is quite possible that the name Allah came from this Syriac title, especially as Christian Arabs have also always used the name Allah for God and still do to this day.

Others have suggested that the name derives from al-ilah meaning "the god." There is nothing in pre-Islamic history to give credence to this idea, however. Whatever the origin of the Arabic word it is used in the Qur'an as an actual name for God and not as a neutral title for a single deity. It is thus the equivalent of Yahweh in Old Testament times. The absolute unity of Allah is the central theme of the Qur'an and is summed up in the fundamental declaration of Islamic faith, *La ilaha illallah* - "there is no god but Allah" (cf. Surah 9.31).

Arabia was a land of warring tribes who nevertheless had certain unwritten laws determining their interactions with one another. One's prime loyalty was to one's family or tribe and the honor of each had to be preserved at all

costs. Islam was destined to shatter many of the traditions held dear for generations before it and the loyalty of a Muslim to Allah and the Islamic faith over and above family loyalties became one of these changes to the consternation of the pagan Arabs. Nonetheless the major characteristic of pre-Islamic Arabia that Muhammad's course was destined to challenge most severely was the veneration of countless idols and images representing the gods of the common people.

## **2. Christian and Jewish Influences**

### **\*Jewish Communities in Arabia**

Although idolatry was prevalent in Arabia the two major monotheistic religions, Judaism and Christianity, had penetrated the peninsula and their influence was destined to have a considerable effect on the development of Islam.

The Qur'an pays more attention to Judaism than to Christianity. There were a number of Jewish tribes scattered in the regions north of Mecca. Around Yathrib three Jewish communities were settled in their own quarters, namely the Banu Qaynuqa, Banu Nadhir and the banu Quraydhah. Muhammad was destined to confront each of these in turn once he had become the leader of the Muslims in the city. Although the Arabs at Mecca had probably had some contact with Jews there are not reliable records of any Jews settled there. Most of them appear to have been resident in the northern regions and, as many trading caravans from Mecca passed through their territories, it is probable that a familiarity with Judaism arose through such contacts.

It is not known whether these Jews were direct descendants of communities scattered throughout the region at the time of the diaspora or whether they were predominantly Arab converts to Judaism but it is generally presumed that the latter was the case. In southern Arabia, however, historical records indicate that a remarkable assertion of Judaism over Christianity took place not long before the time of Muhammad.

A Yemenite ruler had adopted the Jewish faith and set about severely persecuting the Christians in the region. Known as Dhu Nuwas ("the one with the curly hair"), he attacked the Christian community at Najran and, finding no way to subdue the settlement forcefully, he promised its inhabitants that they

would be spared and would be free to profess their faith if they surrendered peacefully. On gaining control, however, his army plundered the area and large pits were dug and filled with burning fuel. All who refused to convert to Judaism were condemned to be consumed by the flames and Arab historians confirm that many thousands perished. Soon however, he was overthrown by an expeditionary force led by a certain Aryat from Christian Abyssinia. The incident is a unique example of Jewish aggression and supremacy in the Arabian peninsula.

### **Christianity in Pre-Islamic Arabia**

For many centuries Christianity had been established in Egypt and Syria and, although it had never really had the same success in Arabia except for the community of Christians at Najran in the south, its presence was also destined to influence the development of Islam. It was not traditional Christianity that prevailed in the region, however, but two sectarian forms that for many generations had bitterly opposed each other.

A Christian known as Nestorius had some centuries earlier taught that Christ had had two distinct natures, one human and the other divine. The human Christ was an ordinary human being upon whom the divine Christ had been imposed at the time of his baptism. It was only the human Christ who had died at Calvary, the divine Christ having left his person and returned to heaven. At the First Council of Ephesus in 431 AD Nestorius was denounced as a heretic but his teachings took root among the Christians settled in the regions dominated by the Persians and the Nestorian Church was established there during Muhammad's time.

A certain Famiyun, a Nestorian Christian from Syria, is credited with establishing the Christian community at Najran. He converted the people of the region during a sojourn in which he is said to have effectively cursed a palm-tree which had previously been worshipped by the people. They had an annual festival in which a whole day was devoted to veneration of the tree with jewels and fine garments being placed on it. At Famiyun's command in the name of the Christian God the tree

was suddenly torn from its roots and the onlookers, amazed at the sight, adopted Christianity. (Ibn Ishaq, Sirat Rasulullah, Pg. 16).

Another oriental Christian named Eutyches is credited with asserting the other sectarian conviction in the region. In 488 AD he boldly attacked Nestorian beliefs, declaring that there was only one nature in the person of Christ, namely the divine. Christ was God bearing a human form on earth but not made of flesh and blood as other humans are. The monophysite sect was established on this doctrine and it gradually became the dominant form of Arabian Christianity. It was prevalent in Egypt and, by the time of Muhammad, it was entrenched at Hira and in the Syrian regions immediately to the north of the Arabian peninsula. Despite the Nestorian origin of the Christian community at Najran it was decidedly Monophysite in conviction by the time Muhammad began to preach in Mecca. Abyssinia was by this time also one of the strongholds of the Christian faith in the region and here too we find the Monophysite faith.

The Christianity Muhammad was destined to encounter was not to be the established catholic faith but a somewhat confused sectarian group of differing beliefs whose adherents were often strongly opposed to one another. Numerous other sects were scattered throughout the region, all holding a succession of differing beliefs about the nature of God and the composition of the divine Trinity. All these were destined to affect the development of Islam and it is interesting to find that the Christianity assessed in the Qur'an is not the pristine faith of the New Testament rather the distorted versions of it found in the churches around Arabia.

### **Christian Influences Upon Early Islam**

Muhammad claimed that the Qur'an was a revelation given to him from heaven but many of its teachings show a somewhat obvious dependence on the Christianity of pre-Islamic Arabia. In fact there is nothing in the Qur'an which is genuinely original or which cannot be shown to have parallels in the varying religious convictions found throughout the region. He was exposed on an annual basis to the hordes of pil-

grims who came to the fairs at Mecca which made the town a receptacle for all kinds of floating knowledge. Muhammad appears to have absorbed and retained within his memory as much of this as he could. A study of the teaching of the Qur'an shows the Prophet of Islam to have been more familiar with Jewish rabbinical works and apocryphal Christian writings than the contents of the Old and new Testaments.

A little-known book titled *The Arabic Gospel of the Infancy* (because the only manuscripts of the book are in Arabic) makes Jesus speak from the cradle, a phenomenon repeated in the Qur'an (Surah 19. 29-30), while *The Gospel of Thomas*, another apocryphal composition of which a Syriac version was known to exist prior to Muhammad's time, records other miraculous works of Jesus repeated in the Qur'an, such as the creation of clay birds which came to life (Surah 3.49).

Although the common Christian Arabic name for Jesus has always been Yasu', derived from the original Hebrew Yashua, the Qur'an uses the name 'Isa, obtained most probably from the Nestorian Isho. There are no other records anywhere in Christian history to possibly suggest the strange name for Jesus in the Qur'an. As Arabic is a Semitic language closely allied to Hebrew one would have expected his name to have been the same Yasu' as the Christians used. In fact the full Nestorian Syriac title for Jesus was Isho Mshiha, "Jesus Messiah", and it is interesting to find that the most common Qur'anic title for him is very similar, namely al-Masih 'Isa (Surah 3.45).

Muhammad was well acquainted with the Christians of Najran. A delegation is said to have come on one occasion from the settlement to meet him and question him on certain points of his teaching about the Christian faith which perplexed them. Even before his prophetic mission, however, we find that he joined the Christians who visited 'Okadh, a meeting-point between Mecca and at-Ta'if, and listened to the Bishop of Najran, Al-Qass ibn Sa'ida, whose eloquent preaching against wealth is recorded in poetic forms very similar to Qur'anic passages on the same subject. In later years Muhammad remembered Qass preaching from his

brown camel and used to ask Abu Bakr, his close companion, to recite some of his lyrics.

Some centuries before Muhammad's time a certain Mani had proclaimed himself to be divinely inspired and claimed that he was the Comforter foretold by Jesus (John 14:16), a claim paralleled in the Qur'an for Muhammad (Surah 7.157, 61.6) and by his followers to this day. Mani also claimed that Jesus himself was not crucified but only a semblance of him being in fact the Antichrist, another teaching which has parallels in the Qur'an (Surah 4.157).

One of Muhammad's early contacts was a man named Waraqa, a relative of his first wife Khadija and a Christian. He is said to have translated a portion of one of the Gospels into Syriac and it must be presumed that he too would have introduced Muhammad to much of the local Christian heritage.

Although pre-Islamic Arabia was mainly pagan with only a limited Christian influence, there is much evidence that this influence grew as Muhammad's mission developed. It is probable that there was very little Christian influence upon Muhammad in the earlier years as the initial chapters of the Qur'an make no specific mention of the Christian faith, yet a study of the later surahs shows that, as his contacts with Christians increased, in particular with those in southern Syria, so the Qur'an's dependence on local Christian characteristics grew as well.

### **3. Abraha and the Year of the Elephant**

#### **\*The Christian King of Abyssinia**

An event that took place near Mecca not long before the rise of Islam has to be included in any assessment of the environment in which Muhammad founded the new faith. After the demise of Dhu Nuwas the king of Abyssinia, Abraha, decided to make the Christian faith dominant in southern Arabia and he had a fine cathedral built at San'a to which he hoped to draw all the Arabs as pilgrims. The city survives to this day in what is now Yemen, though the church he built has vanished.

Abraha, although a determined warrior, had a good reputation in the region. He was known to be a Christian of sincere conviction, indeed a very zealous one, and he was renowned for

his keen sense of justice, his charitable nature and the manner in which he championed the cause of the poor and the unfortunate.

Nonetheless he was determined to make San'a the commercial center of the Arabian peninsula and soon after the completion of his cathedral he issued a proclamation obliging all Arabs to visit it annually. He was well aware of the popularity of the Ka'aba in Mecca and he was fixed in his purpose to displace it as the commercial and religious center of Arabia. His decree generally went unheeded, however, and the Christian King of Himyar watched with grief as the hordes of pilgrims set out each year for Mecca instead.

An independent record of his contests with the resident tribes in the area of Yemen is introduced with an inscription introducing the name of the Triune of God of the Christians in terms that show that the exact essence of the Trinity was well-known to the Christians of Arabia, notwithstanding a misrepresentation of it in the Qur'an. A record of his management of the repairs to the dam of Marib in southern Arabia begins with these words: "By the power of the Merciful One (Rhmmn), and His Messiah (w-Mshhw), and of the Holy Spirit (rh quds)". The Qur'an acknowledges Allah as ar-Rahman (Surah 17.110) and recognizes Jesus as al-Masih (Surah 4.171), but it regards the Trinity as representing Allah, Jesus and his mother Mary (Surah 5.78, 5.119) while the holy spirit (ruhul-quddus) is identified as the medium of revelation (Surah 16.102), elsewhere said to be Jibril, the Angel Gabriel (Surah 2.97). The use of the correct Trinitarian formula in an Arabian inscription not long before the rise of Islam, however, shows that the Qur'an is not treating an error among the local Christians and its own misconception does tend to give the impression that the founder of Islam himself was in some confusion at this point.

#### **Abraha's March on the Ka'aba at Mecca**

News came to the Christian king one day that a member of the tribe of Kenanah had entered his cathedral and had desecrated it by strewing animal dung all over its interior. Abraha was infuriated, more so when he heard that the tribes in the vicinity had revolted

against his rule and had assassinated his ally Muhammad ibn Khuza'a, the king of Modar. So he decided to lead an expedition to Mecca with the sole purpose of destroying the Ka'aba.

A large contingent set out with numerous soldiers and horsemen. A unique feature of the army was the inclusion of an elephant among the other animals taken along, a circumstance which was later to give the year in which the march took place its name, the *Year of the Elephant* (the actual year was 570 AD). When it reached Mughammis near Mecca, Abraha sent a contingent to the outskirts of the city and the soldiers plundered what they could including two hundred camels belonging to 'Abd al-Muttalib who was to become Muhammad's grandfather.

The Quraysh meanwhile decided it was useless to try to resist the large army and Abraha, sensing their unwillingness to engage him, sent a messenger to Mecca telling them he did not wish to fight anyone but sought only to destroy the Ka'aba. He summoned a representative to come out and 'Abd al-Muttalib went out. When he arrived he demanded that his camels be returned to him. Abraha was surprised that he should only be concerned about his animals when the center of his religious faith was about to be eliminated but the Arab retorted that, while the camels were his concern, the Lord of the Ka'aba would look after his own house and would defend against him.

Abraha returned the camels and set out for the Ka'aba. The Quraysh decided to withdraw to the hills around the town after 'Abd al-Muttalib had first taken hold of the metal ring in the door of the shrine and had prayed to Allah to protect it. Meanwhile the elephant was brought to the front of the army and was decked in festive apparel. The guide of the procession marching on Mecca, one Nufayl, was very reluctant to proceed with the journey and in a whispered but emphatic voice he commanded the elephant to kneel. He had learned the words of command which the beast had been trained to understand and caused it to go down on its knees and refuse to march any further. Abraha was annoyed but no matter how hard he tried to persuade it to rise and press on with his army the elephant would not march on the city.

### **The Destruction of Abraha's Army**

It is not known exactly how the army came to grief but something dramatic appears to have happened to it to cause it to be decimated and give up the march of Mecca. A logical explanation can be given in that, as the Quraysh were occupying the hills, they may have rained down stones and rocks on the exposed force and obliged it to withdraw. An outbreak of smallpox or some other plague could likewise have caused Abraha to pull back without accomplishing his goal. A legend soon grew, however, that the army had been beaten back miraculously by a flock of birds which hurled down rocks and stones upon the soldiers. A record of this is found in the Qur'an itself in the following chapter:

*In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Have you not seen how your Lord dealt with the companions of the elephant? Did he not make their guile go astray? And he sent against them flights of birds, hurling against them stones of baked clay, and he made them like green stalks that have been consumed. Surah 105.1-5*

The traditional story of this even describes these unique birds as about the size of a swallow with green plumage and yellow beaks. Each one is said to have had three pebbles, one in its beak and one each in its claws, and as they pelted the army hundreds perished as the pebbles, hurled with an unbelievable ferocity, pierced the soldier's coats of mail and found their mark. The rest of the army returned to Yemen and many others died on the way (giving the impression that it was most probably an outbreak of a disease such as smallpox that caused the catastrophe). Abraha himself died not long after returning to San'a and no further excursions from the city were undertaken.

The Qur'an, however, takes the legend at face value. The deliverance of the Ka'aba was obviously regarded by the Arabs as a miracle and a sign that the shrine had a divinely sanctioned significance. The Qur'an elsewhere describes the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in much the same way, saying that they too were assailed with "stones of baked clay" (hijaratam-min sijjil - Surah 15.74).

The sanctity of the Ka'aba, both prior to Islam and within its realm, is in no

small measure the result of this incident. During his lifetime Muhammad always regarded it as a genuinely holy shrine despite the fact that it was surrounded by idols. The very sequel of an Arabian prophet may well have had some connection with this even, creating as it did a sense of divine protection upon the city of Mecca.

Two other factors may also assist in determining why that claimant to universal prophethood should have been Muhammad himself. Firstly, it was his own grandfather who took the lead and initiative in opposing the Abyssinian ruler and in assuring him that the Lord of the Ka'aba would look after his own house just as the Arab chieftain had seen to his. Secondly it has always been believed by Muslim historians that Muhammad himself was born in 570 AD, the very Year of the Elephant, and it has been customary for Muslims throughout the history of Islam to regard the destruction of Abraha's army as a sign of the imminent rise of a final messenger who would withstand all the attempts of pagans and unbelievers to destroy the ultimate revelation of God which would be given to him through the mediation of a divinely-inspired scripture.

It is not known for certain when Muhammad was actually born but there can be no doubt of his lineage and the place of his birth. He was born in Mecca of two members of the Banu Hashim, 'Abdallah and his wife Amina. His father died shortly before he was born though his grandfather 'Abda al-Muttalib lived on for some years and was the young boy's official protector. Amina died six years after his birth, leaving the young Muhammad an orphan but one who was destined to transform the religious and social characteristics of his people and to eventually become the founder of the only major world religion to succeed the Christian faith.

### **4. Muhammad's First Forty Years** **\*Early Years of the Prophet**

As Muhammad's father 'Abdullah had died before he was born his grandfather 'Abd al-Muttalib became his guardian according to Arab custom. His mother Amina decided to send him away to be nursed by a woman from one of the local nomadic tribes of the Hawazin

known as the Banu Sa'd. A number of possible maids turned down the opportunity as they did not expect a reasonable remuneration from the widow but one of them, Halima, eventually took the infant Muhammad over. The woman arranged for the child to be weaned over a period of two years but, when Halima endeavored to return him after this period, Amina remarked that she did not think the climate of Mecca would be good for him and she accordingly arranged for a further two-year period during which Halima was to remain responsible for him.

Shortly before the end of this period a strange experience took place which greatly disturbed Halima and her husband. Muhammad was playing with their children among the cattle close to their settlement. He suddenly had an unusual fit and for a time went into an apparent trance. They were greatly troubled as it was commonly believed that such behavior was a sign of the influence of an evil spirit and they decided to return the child to his mother immediately. With some difficulty Amina managed to get a report of what had happened and, after persuading them that the experience was nothing to be concerned about, they took the child back and kept him for one more year.

Islamic legend has invested this story with marvelous details. It is said that two angels actually visited the young Muhammad and, after cutting open his chest, they took out his heart and removed a black clot which they promptly threw away. After washing his heart and the inside of his chest, they sealed them both up again and left, saying that if he was to be weighted against the whole of his people, he would most certainly outweigh them all.

Ignoring the legendary narrative that has embellished the incident it appears that the young boy indeed suffered from strange physical experiences that were later to manifest themselves again when he believed he was the recipient of a divine revelation. They may well have been epileptic fits though nothing certain can be said about them.

### **The Rebuilding of the Ka'aba in Mecca**

At the age of thirty-five Muhammad one day walked into the Ka'aba precincts and was suddenly apprehended by large numbers of the Quraysh who

were busy rebuilding the structure. They had not been willing to demolish the former shrine completely for fear of some reaction from the Arabian gods and goddesses and were keen to put a roof on it to protect its interior. The old structure was decrepit but the people withdrew from it in awe. One of them, al-Walid ibn al-Mughira, plucked up enough courage for the task, however, and plucked up an axe with which he demolished a part of it pleading with Allah all the while to recognize that the act was not intended to be sacrilegious but was necessary to improve the shrine. When the bystanders saw no evil befall him they joined in the task and, after the demolition work was complete, they set about rebuilding its walls without further ado.

The central feature of the Ka'aba was the black stone built into its north-east corner. Legend has it that the stone was originally pure white and that it was brought down from heaven by angels upon a cloth to Adam (or, as other traditions have it, to Abraham) to be inserted in the shrine. By Muhammad's time it was pitch black and it is said it turned this color through bearing the sins of those who had kissed it (It was likely a meteorite and was held in sacred awe solely because it had fallen from the sky. A similar stone held to be sacred in Paul's time at Ephesus also gained its sanctity through having fallen out of the sky —Acts 19:35). The Quraysh got to the point where the stone had to be replaced in its original position in the shrine.

The sub-tribes soon began to argue about who was to have the privilege of actually taking the stone and sealing it again in the walls. The dissension became so serious that one of the sub-tribes, the Banu 'Abdud-Dar, brought a bowl full of blood and washed their hands in it with one of the other groups present, pledging a battle to the death to resolve the matter. The rest saw the issue was getting out of hand and, to solve the conflict, persuaded them to let the next person who came into the precincts have the honor of replacing the stone. Muhammad unwittingly became the very next person to show up. *The first person to enter through the gate of Banu Shaybah was the Apostle Of Allah, may Allah bless him. When they saw him they said "This is Al-*

*Amin (the Trusted). We agree to what we have decided". Then they informed him of the affair. Thereupon the Apostle of Allah, may Allah bless him, took his mantle and spread it on the earth, then he put the black stone on it. He then said, "Let a person from every quarter of the Quraysh come....let every one of you hold a corner of the cloth".*

*Then all of them raised it and the Apostle of Allah, may Allah bless him, put it in its place with his own hand. (Ibn Sa'd, Kitab al-Tabaqat al-Kabir, Vol. 1, pg. 166).*

This story is almost certainly true in its essential details. It goes a long way to explaining why, shortly after this, Muhammad began to retire to the hill outside Mecca known as Hira where he meditated for long periods about the religious beliefs of his countrymen, the place of the Ka'aba in divine history, and his own personal role and destiny as a possible leader of his people.

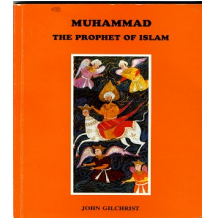
Within seven years the otherwise ordinary citizen of Mecca was to boldly proclaim that he had been commissioned as a divine messenger by Allah, the Lord of the Ka'aba, to call the Arab peoples of the regions about Mecca to forsake the worship of idols and to revere Allah alone. There can be little doubt that the incident where he was elected to be the arbiter between the sub-tribes of Mecca in the matter of replacing the most sacred object in the Ka'aba had much to do with his later conviction and may well have been the express cause of his belief that he had been singled out as the divinely appointed warner and messenger to the very same people between whom he had mediated only a few years earlier.

*This material was taken from Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam written by John Gilchrist, published by Life Challenge Africa, Claremont, South Africa.*

See other articles by John Gilchrist  
posted on our website:

**[www.muslimhope.com](http://www.muslimhope.com)**

**Islam Information Pack**  
Contains useful tracts on Islam  
PACK-20, \$5.00 + S&H



### **Muhammad, The Prophet of Islam** (By John Gilchrist)

It took a man of unique character and conviction to found a religion which today has almost a billion adherents. This book endeavors to evaluate Muhammad objectively with the purpose of getting as close to the original as possible. In addition to a biographical record there are chapters analyzing his personality and the nature of his prophetic experience. A final chapter looks at his image in popular Islam. It is the author's conviction that Christians seeking to witness to Muslims will need to know just how deeply the love of Muhammad is entrenched in their hearts if they wish to communicate effectively with them.

**DT 64 \$16.00 (140 pages)**

### **CHRISTIAN ANSWERS VIDEOS** **ON ISLAM FREELY AVAILABLE** **ON THE GLOBAL INTERNET!!**

Dozens of detailed Christian Answers videos dealing with Islam are currently posted on **Yahoo Video** and **Google Video** on the global internet. Nothing to purchase, nothing to join, just solid free information from a Christian perspective to help Christians better understand Islam and what various Muslims actually believe. These videos will help the individual Christian become a better witness for Christ when dealing with their Muslim friends, neighbors and co-workers. To access these videos and others by Christian Answers simply follow the steps below:

1. Search **Yahoo Video** or **Google Video**.
2. Then click on **Yahoo Video** or **Google Video** on next page .
3. Once on **Yahoo Video** or **Google Video** homepage, search "Larry Wessels."
4. Over 90 of our videos on different subjects will come up.

## LETTERS FROM THE FRONTLINE



Dear Larry,

Thank you for what you do. I would have to be in the opinion that when you started this ministry many years ago, your aim was not directed to prisons. However, because of your love to reach EVERYONE with the truth, your ministry has reached many inmates, including myself. Your willingness to provide us with free material has helped to slow down the prison disease known to the prison world as Word-Faith-ist. The mountains of free material that the Word-Faith people provide the prisons is unbelievable. However, the true and pure loving help that your ministry has been has helped (in bigger ways than you can imagine) to slow down the growing brainwashing of the Word-Faith movement within the walls.

Thank you. As an inmate, and an inmate preacher/leader, ministries like yours and people that back ministries like yours, have been my pillar to lean on when the Word-Faith gorillas attack. If anyone of your backers wish to become more of a personal pillar to me and the ministry within the walls, I invite anyone to correspond with me. Blessings to all who will hear the call. And blessings to those who already support the call. In Christ Jesus.

-Adrian G. Torres (Corcoran, CA)

*Those wishing to correspond with Adrian can mail to Christian Answers and we'll send it on to him!*

Dear Larry,

Thank you for the recent publication of Christian Answers and for the work that you do. I hope that the enclosed check will in some small way help your ministry. Sincerely,

R.O. (Round Rock, TX)

Larry, Steve,

Enclosed is a check to help with the website translation expenses. I thank God for your faithfulness to Him, His Word & Truth, & your desire to make Him known. May He get all the Glory. In Christ,

A.C. (Austin, TX)

Dear Larry,

Another inmate at Monroe Correctional Complex loaned me several issues of your Christian Answers Newsletter. I enjoyed reading each issue. The articles are very well written and provide sound doctrine. From the cover page to the letters on the back, I felt your newsletter is a special blessing to Christian readers.

My friend also said you may be able to

provide me with copies of several prior issues, just as you did him, if I specifically requested. So, yes, I would request to be added to your mailing list, and to be provided several back issues, if possible.

Also, please provide any other free information concerning your ministry, including such charts and/or Christian publications you may like me to share with our Bible study group. We have access to an overhead projector and reasonably unlimited copy ability for charts and Christian material of general interest. Thank you in advance. Your friend and brother in Christ,

J.S. (Monroe, WA)

Hello,

I am from Indonesia. Your site is great, it was answering many questions from me about the truth of the Bible. Thanks a lot. Best regards,

-(Jakarta, Indonesia, from the web)

Larry,

I have a friend who got a CD on your witnessing to the Mormons. I noticed on the CD the Mormons say they don't pray to Jesus. Thank God for the work you do. It's equipping me, I'm a street evangelist in NYC. I just wanted to let you know you guys are doing an awesome job, thank God for you guys for equipping us. We watch your DVDs and hit the street. We are also starting to go to colleges now as well and preaching the good news, so thank you and the rest of the guys on your staff. God bless.

N.J. (New York, NY)

Hey Larry,

I've communicated with you via email and lost your email since my computer crashed. You've sent us out a CD; thank you. If you want to communicate with me you can email me from the link in the website. Hope to hear from you soon. God bless, have a good day, actually it's nice over there isn't it? God bless.

C.D. (Australia, from the web)

Hello Larry,

It's me from Canada again. I just saw from James White's website that you have posted on *Yahoo Video* and *Google Video* the show "Evidence that Jesus is God." I saw from the online catalogue on [www.biblequery.org](http://www.biblequery.org), that it is DVD-36 and costs \$6.00 plus shipping. I just wanted to confirm that price because I don't know how old that listing is, and then I can combine that order with the one I spoke to you about earlier, with Dr. Darrell Bock on CD. And thank you for

sending me that newsmagazine with the Darrell Bock ad in it. By the way, I have watched and re-watched the video series that you did way back with Rob Zins, on Roman Catholicism. I really, really appreciate how well done it is, and I wanted to tell you how much I appreciate your ministry. Thanks for your time and have a great day.

R.S. (Alberta, Canada)

Larry,

Do you remember me from the early 90's, late 80s days from the Probe Center with John Ratliff? We had some marathon sessions with Jehovah's Witnesses, but it appears you have had many more since then. Your persistence with this is inspiring, and in the future I will support financially. In the meantime, please change my address. Thanks and God Bless!

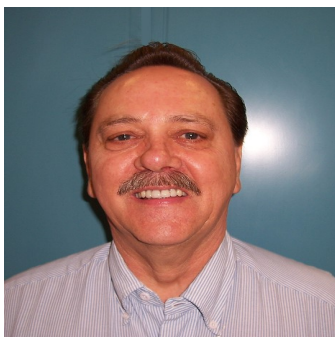
C.B. (Amarillo, TX)

### INTERNET EVANGELISM

Christian Answers wants to thank the following brothers and sisters in Christ for helping financially with our internet evangelism efforts:

D.P. (Lemoore, CA), K.L. (Gonzales, TX), D.P. (Sebastian, FL), A.C. (Austin, TX), H.R. (Austin, TX), T.W. (Chicago, IL), K.J. (Austin, TX), P.V. (Austin, TX) and J.N. (Whittier, CA).

Since each Christian Answers video upload to the internet costs the ministry \$25, these wonderful saints allowed the following videos to be posted: Evidence that Jesus is God, Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God, Hairs on Your Head Numbered, Witnessing to the Muslims #1 and #2, C.H. Spurgeon: A Man of God, Comparative Religions Overview #1 and #2 (in Spanish), The Nation of Islam #1 and #2, Understanding Muslims and the Islamic Faith (the entire series), Can Believing the Muslim Religion Send Someone to Hell? (half of the entire series), Satan in Your Nose and Other Muslim Teachings, and What Islam Really Says About Women (part 1). Thank You!



**Patrick Cusack**

**Christian Believer in Austin, Texas.**

This is a testimony of the work that the Lord had done in my family, in my sister's life. Revelation 12:11 says *"and they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the Word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death."* I have this testimony of my sister's salvation which happened a couple of months ago, and how Christian Answers of Austin, Texas was involved in that entire situation. The enemy was trying to bring a false doctrine by false religion and sent his messengers to try to lead my sister astray when here she, at the age of 65, was just now seeking the Lord. But God intervened in her behalf, and cut the enemy off, so that she would not be led down the wrong path, but she instead would be led down the path of righteousness for His Name's sake.

It all started with my continual talking with her on the telephone since she lives in Wisconsin. As I would preach the word to her on a regular basis, at least once a week, she finally started letting that seed that was being planted get cultivated by the Holy Spirit. So she started questioning in her mind her salvation and wondered if she were to die today would she go to heaven, so she started to seek the Lord in different ways. At this time here came these people from the Seventh-day Adventist religion, and they tried to lure her into going to church with them. They spent time with her preaching their false doctrine to her. After they had left, she thought it was real good and wonderful because they had delivered a smooth message.

So she called me and asked me about the Seventh-day Adventists and their religious doctrine. I said do not go anywhere near that false religion, because it is a doctrine of men. And she was so

# Testimony To God's Grace

thankful that she had called me, and I said I don't have all the answers but I know someone who does. His name is Larry Wessels and he has a newsletter called Christian Answers and I remember reading one of their past newsletters that had talked about the false doctrine of Seventh-day Adventism. I asked Larry if he could give me a back copy so I could send it to my sister, so she could see that I was telling the truth, that it would line up with the things that I had said to her. So Larry went ahead and got me a copy of that and recommended that my sister watch the posted videos free of charge by Christian Answers on **Yahoo Video** and **Google Video** on Seventh-day Adventism via the internet.

I sent the newsletter off to my sister Maryanne, and she from that point forward was so thankful. She said to me in her own words "she knew at that point that the devil was trying to steal her soul" and she was very thankful for the information from Christian Answers. I then prayed the prayer of faith with her, the sinner's prayer, and she received the Lord Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior, and she received the Holy Spirit. Romans 10:13 says, *"for 'Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.'"*

So I just thank God because she now has found a church and she's reading her Bible, and she's on fire for Jesus, and she's so thankful now that her name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. She has that assurance that she's going to heaven and that the Lord is her all in all Savior. And I thank God that he used Christian Answers to help lead her in the right path and that they were there at the right time, because of all the research and hard work that Larry Wessels and his team have done. I know all these answers come from hard work and dedication to educate all those who would read these newsletters and watch all the many Christian Answers television shows on many different subjects. And so I just praise God for all that they

have done, I praise God for that ministry, and I give God all the praise, glory and honor for the salvation of my sister.

Because we don't have all the answers, none of us, that's why we are a body. We are the body of Christ, and we're not all evangelists, teachers, preachers, and everyone has within the body his different calling, his different gifting. And I praise God for the gifting that God has put upon Larry Wessels and his team, as they send forth the truth. And I thank God that He's expanded the Christian Answers of Austin, Texas ministry to the internet, and now people can view and download for free all the different answers that they need about all the different religions, doctrines, and false teachings coming out trying to deceive people away from Biblical truth. And to Jesus we give all the praise, the honor and the glory. Amen!



## Posted Christian Answers videos on the Internet



**-Seventh-day Adventism  
Topical Video #1**



**-Seventh-day Adventism  
Topical Video #2**

Larry Wessels interviews Wallace & Carole Slattery (former members of the SDA for 44 years) in these 28-minute shows.

# MINISTRY NEWS

## 55,000 HITS ON THE INTERNET AND COUNTING!



Yes, brothers and sisters in Christ, within the last six months, with only about 25% of all our available videos posted on the internet, we have crossed the 50,000 plateau. Viewers from around the world can now tune into our videos which were heretofore restricted to the confines of the Austin public access cable company's outreach yea these many years.

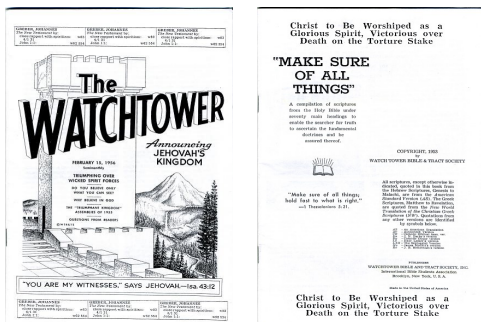
Remember, the videos can be accessed and viewed at no charge. There's nothing to join, there's no hidden catches, no guilt trips about sending money, there's nothing to worry about, just sit back and watch freely from your computer chair. Everyday people spend countless hours in front of their computers. Why not spend a little time on your computer investigating the things of God?

Another exciting aspect to this great opportunity to reach untold thousands (and maybe soon, hundreds of thousands) with the Christian Gospel is the fact that our videos seem to be spreading like a cancer across the internet. Although it is still early in the game with this internet outreach, an incomplete and cursory Google search revealed that over 10 other websites were either advertising our videos or actually posting them for viewing. For example, notice the above World News Network website posting. In their section discussing the recent death of Mormon church president Gordon B. Hinckley, they actually began their pages covering this story with our Christian Answers topical video on Mormonism. The Mormonism topical video features Larry Wessels interviewing former Mormon Robert McKay of Utah Missions about this cultic movement. Anyone who wanted to could simply click on the video right there and then and watch the video.

Another site entitled SellingA.com listed the Christian Answer video, "Did Mohammad Marry a 9 Year Old Girl?" in their "Authoritative Answer Videos" section. Once again the video was posted right there where the viewer could click on it and start watching it if they so desired. Examples such as this could go on and on.

At the time of this writing we now have four posted internet videos in Spanish to go along with all of our English shows. David Jaimes, our hard working

### Useful Pamphlets as Witnessing Tools for Dealing With Jehovah's Witnesses



"The Watchtower" pamphlet is 24 pages of photocopied material from actual Jehovah's Witness publications showing how the Watchtower organization purposely used a spirit medium (who are cursed by God in Deut. 18) to support their doctrine. Likewise the "Make Sure of All Things" pamphlet documents from their publications that Christ is "to be worshipped," a doctrine which causes great distress to a false prophet organization such as this.

Get both for one price  
PAM-40, \$7.00 (66 pages)

Spanish translator, converted Comparative Religions Overview #1 & #2 as well as the entire Spiritual Warfare series (of which parts #1 & #2 are posted). As time goes on we will be posting more and more Spanish shows, but for now we have these four so tell your Spanish speaking friends to tune in and watch.

Also at the time of this writing we have over 90 videos alive and running loose on the internet. The following is a list of our top 10 most viewed videos so far (the viewing numbers reflect the combined totals of *YahooVideo*, *Google Video* and *YouTube*):

1. Answering Islamic Apologists #7: Islamic Denial of the Trinity & Christ's Blood -4639
2. Word-Faith: Health & Wealth Gospel Topical Video #1 -1353
3. Evidence that Jesus is God (this also gets more downloads than any other video) -1290
4. Nation of Islam Topical Video -1289
5. Comparative Religions Overview #2 -1246
6. Jehovah's Witnesses Topical Video -1233
7. Word-Faith: Health & Wealth Gospel Topical Video #2 -1194
8. Bukhari Hadiths of Islam (Episode 3) -1127
9. Islamic Holy War-Jihad -1047
10. Comparative Religions Overview #1 -1005

The following is a list of the videos we have been able to put on the internet so far:

The Agony of the Health and Wealth Gospel series #1-#5, Answering Islamic Apologists #1-#10, The Biblical Doctrine of Hell #1-#4, Can Believing the Muslim Religion Send Someone to Hell? #1-#8, C.H. Spurgeon-Hairs on Your Head Numbered, Roman Catholicism Video Series #1-#2, Debate With the Atheists #1-#2, Comparative Religions Overview #1-#2 (Spanish versions also), Demon Possession Topical Video, Did Muhammad Marry a 9 Year-Old Girl?, Charles Haddon Spurgeon Country, Charles H. Spurgeon-A Man of God, Evangelism and Apologetics #1-#3, Evidence that Jesus is God, Guerra Espiritual Serie de Video #1-#2, Hinduism-Paths to the Cosmic Fire #1-#2, History & Teachings of the Nation of Islam #1-#2, Islamic Holy War-Jihad, Jehovah's Witnesses Topical Videos #1-#2, Understanding Muslims and the Islamic Faith #1-#4, Jonathan Edwards-Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God, Liberalism Topical Videos #1-#2, Mormonism Topical Video, Nation of Islam Topical Video, Roman Catholicism is Not Biblical Topical Videos #1-#2, The Biblical Doctrine of Predestination #1-#3, The C.H. Spurgeon Library #1-#2, The Da Vinci Code-Popular Fiction, The Daughters of Allah-Satanic Verses, The Eternal Sonship of Christ, The Roman Catholic Inquisition, Trapped in the Jehovah's Witnesses, United Pentecostal Church Topical Video, What Islam Really Says About Women #1-#3 (this series has been getting a lot of hits on Google), Why Did Muhammad Have so Many Wives?, Witnessing to the Muslims #1-#2, Word-Faith: Health & Wealth Gospel Topical Videos #1-#2, Sects of Islam #1-#5, Buddhism Topical Video, Darwin's Evolution Religion, Reincarnation, "Church of Christ," Bahaism, and Islam. 75% of our videos are yet to come!

Back issues of the Christian Answers newsletter on various topics now available on our website: [www.biblequery.org](http://www.biblequery.org)

## TOPICAL VIDEOS

Hear experts and apologists analyze these topics (perfect for study groups or as a witnessing tool to share with others). You may choose any four of the 30 minute videos below for the single price of \$6.00. Catalog identification is CATV. For example, if you wish to order Bahaism, "Church of Christ", Mormonism, and Islam; list on order form as CATV- 1, 13, 8, and 2. Four videos on one VHS tape for one low price of \$6.00. DVD copies of these topics are only available in increments of 4: #1-#4, #5-#8, #9-#12, #13-#16, #17-#20, #21-#24 only, with no variation, \$6.00 each.

1. Bahaism (Dr. Frank Beckwith)
2. Islam (Dr. Samuel Shahid)
3. Buddhism (Dr. Steve Morrison)
4. Hinduism/Reincarnation (Mark Cass)
5. Roman Catholicism (Richard Bennett)
6. Jehovah's Witnesses #1 (Larry Wessels)
7. Jehovah's Witnesses #2 (Larry Wessels)
8. Mormonism (Robert McKay, former Mormon)
9. Word-Faith Heresy #1 (Dr. Michael Horton)
10. Word-Faith Heresy #2 (Dr. Michael Horton)
11. Seventh-day Adventism #1 (Wallace Slattery)
12. Seventh-day Adventism #2 (Wallace Slattery)
13. The "Church of Christ" (Bob L. Ross)
14. Liberal Christianity #1 (Morrison & Wessels)
15. Liberal Christianity #2 (Morrison & Wessels)
16. Atheism (Larry Wessels)
17. Nation of Islam (Wilford Darden)
18. United Pentecostals (Dr. Steve Morrison)
19. Unification (Moonies) (Morrison & Wessels)
20. Demon Possession (Dr. Thomas Ice)
21. Roman Catholicism #1 (Rob Zins, Th.M.)
22. Roman Catholicism #2 (Rob Zins, Th.M.)
23. The Da Vinci Code (Morrison & Wessels)
24. Darwin's Evolution Religion (Dr. M. Girouard)

## Dialoging With Muslims



Material from www.MuslimHope.com



Steve Morrison

Author of four books on Islam,  
creator of [www.muslimhope.com](http://www.muslimhope.com)  
and [www.biblequery.org](http://www.biblequery.org).

## Christian Dialoging With Muslims

This outstanding reference work by Steve Morrison, Director of Research for Christian Answers, has 58 real dialogues with Muslims, many of which are quite extensive, as well as 12 dialogues with non-Muslims on Islam. This is an excellent study for those preparing to witness to Muslim friends, neighbors, or others. Steve has been a regular speaker in Boulder, Colorado at Horizons International's annual summer training seminars for missionaries to Muslims.

**Special Offer: BK-113, 200 pages, \$17 + S&H**

These two audio tapes (or CDs) are free with \$25 order or donation:

☐ Romans 1— Donald Barnhouse (RP-80)

☐ Astrology— Steve Morrison & Larry Wessels (RP-63)

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\*Free copies of our new video catalogue are available upon request.

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- 4) Please make check or money order payable to CHRISTIAN ANSWERS OF AUSTIN, TX (we can only accept US funds).
- 5) Mail to: Christian Answers, P.O. Box 144441, Austin, TX 78714.
- 6) Foreign orders must be paid with an international money order (US funds only). Charges are extra for foreign air mail.

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*"exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9)*



**“Satan in Your Nose and Other  
Muslim Teachings” Video**

See it now on your DSL (high speed) computer hooked up to the internet by going to Yahoo Video, Google Video or YouTube. Simply search “Larry Wessels” once you are on their respective home pages and then look for it.

This short 10-minute clip from the “Witnessing to the Muslims” two hour video series features a dramatic debate between Muslim students and Christians on a major university campus. In short order the viewer will learn that Sunni Muslims really do believe that the Devil gets in their nose at night and in order to get rid of him they must suck water up their nose in the morning to wash him out. It only gets more interesting from here as the Muslims confirm that Adam was 90 feet tall and that the majority of the dwellers of hell are women because of their low intelligence. This is a great video to share with friends and neighbors (via e-mail or download).

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