

Background of Islam

- Founder: Mohammad
- 610 A.D.: At age 40, believed he was visited by the angel Gabriel and anointed as the last great prophet.
- 620 A.D.: Had gathered perhaps a hundred followers in Mecca.
- 632 A.D.: Death of Mohammad
- 670 A.D.: The Caliph controlled territory from the Atlantic to the Pacific

Background of the Koran

- Author: Mohammad
- Written between 610 and 632 in 114 poems.
- The poems are not in chronological order.
- Arabic is the only official language of the Koran.
- Over 40,000 official commentaries have been published, various collections of which are accepted as law by various groups.

The Koran vs the Old Testament

- The Torah is praised in the Koran
 - But the version preserved by the Israelites has been corrupted and is corrected by the Koran (5.13)
 - The dietary laws are incorporated by reference.
- The Prophets are praised in the Koran
 - But the version preserved by the Israelites has been corrupted and is corrected by the Koran.

The Koran vs the New Testament

- The Gospel is praised in the Koran
 - But the version preserved by the Christians has been corrupted and is corrected by the Koran (5.14-15, 5.48)
- Jesus is praised in the Koran
 - He is the Messiah and a prophet
 - Jesus was not crucified
 - God does not have a Son.

Important Corrections

- Abraham sacrificed Ishmael, not Isaac.
- Abraham and Ishmael built the Ka'aba in Mecca.
- God is merciful and forgives, but there is no atonement.
- Those who disbelieve will never believe.
- Believers are promised many earthly rewards. (2.25, 2.122)
- Unbelievers will meet with disgrace in this life. (2.114)

Understanding Jihad

- Kill your enemies (2.191)
- Fight until there is no persecution (2.193)
- There is no compulsion in religion (2.256)
- Non-Moslem Jews and Christians are idolaters (4.51)
- Kill unbelievers (4.89)
- Unbelievers are your open enemy (4.101)