

Lesson 2 Islam and Muhammad

MAIN IDEAS

Belief Systems Muhammad taught that he was a messenger of God and spread the religion of Islam.

Culture The teachings of Islam provided laws and guidelines for religious practice and everyday life.

Belief Systems Judaism, Christianity, and Islam share some beliefs, and all have sacred scriptures believed to be God's revelation.

The Life and Teachings of Muhammad

ESSENTIAL QUESTION Why did Muhammad spread Islam?

Muhammad the Prophet

- Born into powerful Meccan family circa A.D. 570
- Orphaned as child, worked in caravan trade, became very successful
- At 40, angel Gabriel tells him: "You are the messenger of God."
- Muhammad began preaching that there is only God (Allah)
 - all other gods must be rejected
 - **Islam**—religion spread by the Prophet Muhammad
 - **Muslim**—one who believes in Islam

Muhammad Begins Preaching

- Little success at first; Meccans persecuted Muslims
- In 622, he fled north with supporters to Yathrib, renamed it Medina
 - **Hijrah**—Muhammad's migration to Medina ("city of the Prophet")
- Muhammad's leadership, simple message soon won many converts to Islam

Muhammad's Leadership

- He was a religious, political, and military leader
- In 630, Muhammad and 10,000 Muslims returned to conquer Mecca
 - Muhammad forgave Meccans, dedicated Ka'aba to Allah
- Muhammad united followers with other Arabs, Jews, Christians
- Treaties of alliance with nomadic tribes helped spread Islam
- By his death in 632, Muhammad had unified much of Arabia under Islam

REVIEW QUESTION

What was Muhammad's role in the development of Islam?

Islamic Beliefs, Practices, and Law

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How do the teachings of Islam provide laws and guidelines for religious practice and everyday life?

The Qur'an and the Sunnah

- Muslims believe in one God, Allah; Muslim law is Qur'an, Sunnah
 - believe the Angel Gabriel passed Allah's words on to Muhammad
- **Qur'an**—Islamic scripture, collection of Allah's revelations
- **Sunnah**—Muhammad's words, deeds to guide life

Muslim Daily Life

- Muslims connect personal, religious lives through Five Pillars of Islam
 - faith, prayer, fasting, pilgrimage, alms (giving to poor)
 - Muslims must perform these duties to show submission to Allah
- Forbidden to eat pork, drink alcohol
- Friday afternoons for prayer at **mosque**—building for Muslim worship
 - all mosques face Mecca so prayer is in proper direction

REVIEW QUESTION

What rules do Muslims use to guide their daily lives?

Connections to Judaism and Christianity

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What are the connections between Islam and Judaism and Christianity?

People of the Book

- Muslims, Jews, Christians believe Abraham was prophet of God
- Allah is same God Jews, Christians worship; Jesus seen only as a prophet
- All have holy books, believe in heaven, hell, and final judgement day
- Muslims believe Qur'an is “final” book, Muhammad is last prophet

Religious Toleration

- Muslim law required religious toleration for Jews, Christians
- Toleration played key role in expansion of Muslim Empire

REVIEW QUESTION

What do Judaism, Christianity, and Islam have in common?

Lesson Summary

- Muhammad established the religion of Islam and spread Islamic beliefs and way of life across the Arabian peninsula.
- The Qur'an and Sunnah are the main sources of Islamic beliefs and practices, and Muslims try to live by their teachings every day.
- Muslims, Christians, and Jews have some beliefs in common.

Why It Matters Now . . .

The relationship among Muslims, Christians, and Jews continues to be an important issue for the world in the 21st century.