

Review: MUSLIM: What You Need to Know About the World's Fastest Growing Religion Kindle Edition (Hanegraaff, Hank)

QUOTE: "Jesus is born of a virgin, called the Word of God, speaks from the cradle, performs miracles as a child, is sinless, and will return at the end of the world. None of this is said of Muhammad, yet Muhammad is held to be the greater prophet, indeed, the "seal of the prophets."

COMMENT: By implication, Muhammad is more the word of God than Jesus. This Jesus is not the Jesus of Christian history but Moses's nephew Issa.

QUOTE: Islam [l-is'lāmu] (submission to His Will)" (3:19).¹⁰ Thus, when Muhammad instructed devotees to fight "the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued" (Q 9:29),¹¹ he was clearly communicating that submission to Allah meant fighting Christians and Jews to the point of surrender or death. And as Allah makes plain in the very next ayah (verse), waging war against "People of the Book" was not necessitated by self-defense but by what he perceived as the falsity of their Judeo-Christian traditions. Therefore, it is fair to note that Islam is not a religion in the sanitized Western sense. It is an all-encompassing sociopolitical legal matrix that has bred a worldview antagonistic to anything but itself. Again, there may be millions of peaceful and tolerant Muslims, but that hardly means that Islam is a peaceful and tolerant religion. To determine whether it is or is not requires an objective, open-minded look at Islamic history. This includes unbiased consideration ...

COMMENT: Good. Even the fact that Allah could have made such commands but not have them enshrined in a scripture proves that the religion revels in the violence it's God commands. The book gives us a quote from Allah. "Fighting is prescribed upon you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knoweth, and ye know not" (Q 2:216). This is clearly saying that necessary evil exists and only God might know that it is necessary and why.

Too many lacklustre religionists don't understand people taking their faith seriously enough to do harm. That is at the root of the problem and the irrational insane posturing by Hilary Clinton and Barack Obama that Islam is a religion of peace. They think that if they whitewash religion enough then it will not take itself seriously enough to violate liberal "values."

QUOTE ABOUT CONCEPTION WHEN "considered at all, it was considered quite simple—for all practical purposes, little more than what the Qur'an describes as reproduction via an unsophisticated clot of blood. Moreover, no seventh-century man could have possibly imagined subatomic particles—much less the atomic energy that can be generated by splitting atoms. Indeed, the negotiation of complex treaties to ensure that humanity does not vaporize itself in a nuclear holocaust facilitated by the splitting of atoms would have been considered laughable fourteen centuries ago. In similar fashion an ineffable God who created the universe ex nihilo would have been incomprehensible to Muhammad. It has always been the Christian contention that genuine revelation is the necessary precondition for understanding. Reason alone is simply insufficient. No matter how keen a man's eyesight, he can see nothing if confined to pitch-black darkness. As light is axiomatic to seeing, so revelation is needed for knowing."

COMMENT: Excellent. The Islamic God is not the creator God of Christianity who produces all things and does not use anything to produce the universe. The creation doctrine is cherished for it means that God is not part of nature but being - what nature depends on. Muhammad's god is an idol.

QUOTE: The fundamentalist Muslim organization Submission.org correctly notes, "The Holy Spirit in the Quran is clearly defined as the angel Gabriel who has been the angel-messenger between The Almighty God and the human beings." As this web entry goes on to explain, the "Arabic Quran calls him; 'Ruhhil-Qudus' (Holy Spirit), 'Ruuhanaa' (Our Spirit), 'Ruuhul-'Amiin' (The Honest Spirit) and 'Al-Ruh' (The Spirit). Thus, when reading the verses in the Quran, the whole Quran, we see that Gabriel is the Holy and Honest Bearer of Revelations. We learn from 2:97 that these references are indeed talking about Gabriel." The Submission Muslims conclude their article with these words: "The 'Holy Spirit' in the Quran refers to the angel Gabriel and has nothing to do with Trinity or part of a Trinity. Trinity is denounced in the strongest language in the Quran."

COMMENT: This is major! The Spirit is God in Christianity and here he is just an angel. And since Gabriel did not authorise the Bible or the New Testament or dictate them it follows they cannot be trusted like the Qur'an can.

QUOTE: The Qur'an contends that human beings are "created from an ejected fluid, that issues from between the spine and the ribs" (Q 86:6–7 Majestic). This is plain wrong. Sperm cells originate in the testes. For Muhammad to have gotten this wrong is one thing; for Allah, quite another. Muslim protestations in this regard are at best humorous. Another example

involves Alexander the Great. Alexander, who died one month shy of his thirty-third birthday, is rendered an elderly Muslim a thousand years before Islam was even invented (see Q 18:83–98). In like fashion, Pharaoh threatens his magicians with crucifixion long before crucifixion was invented by the Persians and later popularized by the Romans (see Q 7:124). Clearly, factual errors render the Qur'an a thoroughly human concoction.

COMMENT: Good! If it cannot get the past right then it cannot get the future right either. Interestingly the mention of crucifixion fits how the Qur'an states that Issa - allegedly Jesus - escaped crucifixion despite living in Moses' day!

QUOTE: Qur'an 30. Another prophecy frequently cited in feigned evidence for Qur'anic eloquence is 30:1–5. Not only is this prophecy singularly unspectacular, but the language used by Allah is pedestrian at best: Alif Lam Mim. The Roman Empire has been defeated—in a land close by: But they, (even) after (this) defeat of theirs, will soon be victorious—within a few years. With Allah is the Decision, in the Past and in the Future: On that day shall the Believers rejoice—with the help of Allah. He helps whom He will, and He is Exalted in Might, Most Merciful.

COMMENT: One of the vaguest most useless prophecies ever. Anybody predicting that way is clearly a fraud. Readers who still believe in the Qur'an after reading that are either unthinking or blind. Blindness is a marked feature of Islam and Christianity.

QUOTE: Jesus demonstrated omnipotence not only by resurrecting Lazarus (John 11:43) but also by raising himself from the dead (John 2:19); and he alluded to his omnipresence by promising he would be with his disciples “to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

COMMENT: The doctrine that Jesus is God and raised himself from the dead to prove his power over death and eternal life is of huge importance so why is only one gospel teaching it? This principle matters more than any evidence for the resurrection. Its absence from the other gospels renders the resurrection tale dubious.

QUOTE: They say: “(Allah) Most Gracious has begotten a son!” Indeed ye have put forth a thing most monstrous! As if the skies are ready to burst, the earth to split asunder, and the mountains to fall down in utter ruin. That they should invoke a son for (Allah) Most Gracious. For it is not consonant with the majesty of (Allah) Most Gracious that He should beget a son. (Q 19:88–92) Allah rejects the notion that God could have a son on the basis that he does not have a consort.

COMMENT: It says nothing about a consort being the main or only reason. The essential problem is that Allah cannot share his glory with anybody and thus will not tolerate a child. The Trinity is being attacked as saying God can beget God the Son.

QUOTE REGARDING HOW JOHN 1:14 SAYS JESUS IS GOD'S DIVINE SON:.. To the Allah of Islam, this is nothing short of blasphemous. God “begetteth not, nor is He begotten” (Q 112:3). The very notion is offensive. To Allah's way of thinking, calling God “Father” and Jesus Christ “Son” suggests sexual procreation. “It is not befitting to (the majesty of) Allah that He should beget a son” (Q 19:35). “How can He have a son when He hath no consort?” (Q 6:101). “And exalted is the majesty of our Lord: He has taken neither a wife nor a son” (Q 72:3). What Allah fails to understand, of course, is that the Bible does not use the term begotten with respect to the Father and the Son in the sense of sexual reproduction but rather in the sense of special relationship.

COMMENT: The mention of the consort is only talking about the how. The book is saying that calling Issa the son of God is mad for God has no wife to get a son. Do not forget that some think that the doctrine of the Christians Muhammad would have known would have been the notion that Jesus is God's son but proceeds from the Father and the Holy Spirit. This is enough to suggest father and consort.

The main point is not the how but that that God is too great to have a wife or son. The book says OR. So even if there is no consort there cannot be any right to degrade God by saying anybody is his son. So Issa is the son of God in no sense - the consort sense or otherwise.

QUOTE: To begin with, in the Qur'anic account, Allah confuses the Tree of Life with the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Satan whispered evil to him: he said, “O Adam! Shall I lead thee to the Tree of Eternity and to a kingdom that never decays?” In the result, they both ate of the tree, and so their nakedness appeared to them: they began to sew together, for their covering, leaves from the Garden: thus did Adam disobey his Lord, and allow himself to be seduced. (Q 20:120–121).

Furthermore, in the Islamic account, there is no original sin—just an original act of heedlessness. Thus, while the biblical worldview highlights the severity of sin and its consequences, the Qur'anic worldview reduces the original sin to an original slip—a mere bout of forgetfulness. In short, the fall is reformulated a fall. In the words of Muslim scholars Jane Idleman Smith and Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, the common Christian conception has been that Adam was expelled from paradise because of his sin, and due to this original act of disobedience the succession of humanity is tainted. While the

Qur'an contains the narrative of Adam's expulsion from the Garden [Q 2:35–39], the expulsion is the result of satanic deception, immediately pardoned, rather than a progenitive act of disobedience with ramifications for the rest of humanity. Finally, according to Islam, every newborn child is born in a state of fitrah—or a state of original Muslim purity. As Muhammad purportedly put it, “No babe is born but upon Fitra [as a Muslim]. It is his parents who make him a Jew or a Christian or a Polytheist.”

COMMENT: Original sin is a core teaching of Christianity and it is denied here and original righteousness is asserted. There is no need for a saviour in such a scheme.

Will it be considered Islamophobic one day to say a child is baptised a Catholic?

QUOTE FROM THE BIBLE GOD: “I told you these things long ago; before they happened I announced them to you so that you could not say, ‘My images brought them about; my wooden image and metal god ordained them’” (Isaiah 48:5). Or in the words of Jesus, “I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe” (John 14:29).

COMMENT: Being able to predict the future, is a sign that there is a real God and other gods are fake. Isaiah warns that you can recite prayers that do not work and still think they work. As for Jesus, his prediction and its completion are recorded after the event proving he had no ability to read the future at all. Not a single "fulfilled" Bible prophecy can be proven to have been written before the event.

QUOTE: It should also be noted that while crucifixion is a major Qur'anic theme—as in Qur'an 5:33, where the penalty for disbelief in this life is “execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from the land” —Allah can't so much as get the origin of crucifixion straight. Instead, he rips it out of its historical context and anachronistically places it in ancient Egypt at the time of Moses and Joseph. As Muslims must surely know, this is historical revisionism at its worst. Crucifixion was invented by the Persians and later perfected by the Romans long after the time of Moses. The Study Quran adds to this inexplicable historical blunder indicating that in accord with Muslim commentators “the first person to execute the punishment of ‘cutting off hands and feet on alternate sides’ and crucifixion was Pharaoh.”

COMMENT: An example again of how religions that do retcons on history like Islam and Mormonism are to be opposed. They care only about what they want to think of history not about history. Matters that should be about evidence not belief should be respected as such. They are accusing those who know better of lying.

If crucifixion is interpreted as cutting off hands and feet that is another divergence from Christianity which says it is nailing the hands and feet.

QUOTE: The unitarian Allah of Islam, by definition, lacks the moral perfection of love and, thus, on the basis of logic, is morally defective.

COMMENT: A morally faulty god will not be good for his worshippers. He is a flawed or even bad example. For Christians, God is Father and Son and Holy Spirit - three persons in one being. It is not three Gods in God or three persons in one person. They love each other perfectly so essentially the Christian definition of God is relationship. The Christian assertion that God is Father and loves the Son and the Holy Spirit cannot be understood for we cannot know what it is like for one being to have three "persons" who love each other. So that cannot give us a God we truly can relate to so again we end up with a morally defective objection of adoration. The real god worshipped is not love but moral imperfection and perhaps evil.

QUOTE: One cannot be in Christ, for Christ is not God. Nor is there any need or room for the atonement of the cross. All one can hope for is that our good deeds outweigh the bad. Once the records of the deeds are distributed among the resurrected, the weighing of actions on the scales takes place: We shall set the just scales for the Day of Resurrection, and no soul shall be wronged in aught. Even if it be the weight of a mustard seed, We shall bring it. And We suffice as Reckoner ([Q] 21:47; see also 7:8; 23:102–3; 101:6–11).¹⁹³ In other words, for those whose good works outweighs their bad, paradise awaits. Conversely, for those whose bad deeds outweigh their good, the fires of hell await. “The Fire will burn their faces, and they will therein grin, with their lips displaced” (Q 23:104).

COMMENT: It is not strictly speaking good works but obediently good works. So it is good to obey Allah and have a number of wives though this is definitely not a true good work. What about jihad? What about persecuting Christians for their faith? So if the obedient works are bigger in number or value than the bad ones it follows that a Muslim can drink and go to the brothel and if he fights for Allah and dies that big work tips the scales so he will go to Heaven. Even if Islam says Islamist terrorism is a sin that matters not if it is one sin among many. And even if it is wrong but down to a mistaken conscience it will not be counted a sin.

To have salvation if you do 1000 bad works and 1001 good ones, is totally different from the gospel teaching of divine grace and that it is that which saves not good works as such for you cannot be so arrogant to presume you can earn Heaven from God.

QUOTE FROM ISLAMIC TRADITION ABOUT JESUS WHO IS "a man of medium height, reddish fair, wearing two light yellow garments, looking as if drops were falling down from his head though it will not be wet. He will fight the people for the cause of Islam. He will break the cross, kill swine, and abolish jizya. Allah will perish all religions except Islam. He will destroy the Antichrist and will live on the earth for forty years and then he will die. The Muslims will pray over him."

COMMENT: This contradicts the Christian doctrine that Jesus has already died and will never die again. This Jesus in Christian terms is antichrist - the substitute Christ who opposes the real one.

QUOTE FROM AISHA THE PROPHET'S WIFE: 'I said to 'Aisha, "O Mother! Did Prophet Muhammad see his Lord?" 'Aisha said, "What you have said makes my hair stand on end! Know that if somebody tells you one of the following three things, he is a liar: Whoever tells you that Muhammad saw his Lord, is a liar." Then 'Aisha recited the Verse: "No vision can grasp Him, but His grasp is over all vision. He is the Most Courteous Well-Acquainted with all things." [Q 6:103] "

COMMENT: Denies the core Christian teaching that Jesus was able to communicate God to us for he seen him.

QUOTE: Sahih al-Bukhari records, "Narrated 'Aisha: that the Prophet married her when she was six years old and he consummated his marriage when she was nine years old, and then she remained with him for nine years (i.e., till his death)" (Volume 7, Book 62, Number 64 [see also Numbers 65 and 88], www.usc.edu/org/cmje/religious-texts/hadith/bukhari/062-sbt.php). See also Sahih al-Bukhari, Volume 5, Book 58, Number 2346; Sahih al-Bukhari, Volume 9, Book 87, Number 140 (see also Number 139); Sahih Muslim, Book 008, Number 3309. See also Sahih Muslim, Book 8, Numbers 3309 and 3310 (cf. 3311). See also Sam Shamoun, "Muhammad and Aisha Revisited: An Examination of Muhammad's Marriage to a Prepubescent Girl and Its Moral Implications," Answering Islam, n.d., accessed September 22, 2016, www.answering-islam.org/Shamoun/prepubescent.htm.

COMMENT: Interesting! Jesus whose teachings were mined by Muhammad banned young girls from divorcing their husbands on the basis that it was making the men sin. Yet these girls were underage in many cases. It is indeed Islamophobic for Christians to say Muhammad was a danger to female children for they should look at their own religion first.

QUOTE: The Qur'an refers to Jesus as "faultless" (19:19) and "blessed" (19:31) and never implies that Jesus sinned (whereas the Qur'an requires Muhammad to seek forgiveness for his sin; see 40:55; 47:19; cf. 48:2).

COMMENT: It might be said that as Muhammad is superior to Jesus despite being a sinner that this shows just how extremely important to God Muhammad was. Despite his freedom from sin Jesus cannot compare.

Anywhere here is Qur'an 47:19 where Muhammad begs for forgiveness for himself as well as his disciples: "Know that there is no deity but God. Implore Him to forgive your sins and to forgive the true believers, men and women. God knows your busy haunts and resting places." Dawood translation.

Here is the Pickthall translation: "So know (O Muhammad) that there is no God save Allah, and ask forgiveness for thy sin and for believing men and believing women. Allah knoweth (both) your place of turmoil and your place of rest."

QUOTE: In Romans 10:13, Paul equates calling on Christ with calling on Yahweh (Joel 2:32); and in Philippians 2:9–11, he equates bowing to and confessing the name of Jesus with bowing to and confessing the name of Yahweh (Isaiah 45:22–25), further demonstrating that Jesus is himself almighty God.

COMMENT: If it is true that the first Christian writings, these letters, say Jesus is God then that is historic evidence that Islam has the wrong Jesus.