

BIBLE & QUR'AN

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2. PRACTICES TO LEARN FROM MUSLIMS

- A. Become a more lay-led community;
- B. Prayer 5 X per day; (cf. 3 X per day among early Christians);
- C. Familiarity with sacred texts;
- D. Concern for Muslims globally and in MENA region;
- E. Solidarity with immigrants and refugees;
- F. Home as a place of prayer, study, formation, & care;
- G. Despite Christian evangelists, Muslims are faithful.

Comparative Aspects of Bible & Qur'an

- A. Presupposition: we all have some non-negotiables;
- B. Bible: arranged in narrative order from origins to fulfillment;
- C. Qur'an: arranged like the Psalms (stories, praise, commands);
- D. Qur'an: about length of N.T. with eschatological orientation;
- E. Qur'an: retells biblical stories framed by ethical monotheism;
- F. Christians read the Bible focused on Jesus Christ;
 - Christology (Christian-focus) compared to Prophetology (Qur'an).
 - Christians follow a Person (risen Christ); Muslims encounter Allah via Qur'an.

Comparative Aspects of Bible & Qur'an

- G. Christians have read OT as promise, NT as fulfillment, resulting in supercessionism (replacement theology), Christians replacing Jews in God's covenant. This view rejected by ecumenical Protestants & R. Catholics since 1960s.
 - Does claim that Muhammad, pbuh, is the final prophet contradict the Christian focus on Jesus Christ as God's final revelation?
 - How can Jews, Christians, and Muslims relate positively without competing over who has the final revelation?
 - Qur'anic alternative to supercessionism: Surah 5:48ff., 'The Feast,' Allah says, <Within your own revelation> "Strive to excel in good things."

Challenge of historical-critical readings

- Since the Reformation, Protestants have applied humanist methods of reading ancient texts to the Bible.
- Discovery: Mary, Jesus, Apostles were all Second Temple Jews, not Christians in the later sense of our term.
 - Undermined notion that Christians replaced Jews in God's covenant.
 - Christian teachings about God, Jesus, Church, sacraments result of 500 years on development and controversy in ancient Christianity.
 - Discover of historical relativity of Bible in regard to cosmology, gender, sexuality, divine / human relations (e.g., notion of eternal hell).

Challenge of historical-critical readings

- Challenge: many Muslims don't study Qur'an using these same methods. For Muslims, Qur'an is a recitation of Allah's words. For Christians, Jesus Christ is God's Word in person.
- Historical criticism & the historical Jesus: biblical scholars agree Jesus was a first century Jew executed by the Romans. Qur'an: Allah took Jesus to heaven & someone else was crucified in his place.
- Historical criticism calls attention to "myths of origin": 72 Jewish Elders individually translated Torah into Greek (all translations the same); ancient claim that the Twelve Apostles wrote the N.T.

Challenge of historical-critical readings

- Q: What are Christians to make of the claim that Allah's words were recited to an illiterate merchant who recited them to other that wrote them down in one version handed down to us?
- Q: was Muhammad the last (in time) of the holy prophets?
 - What about sixteenth century Reformers (Zwingli, Luther, Calvin, Knox)?
 - What about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?
 - What about Guru Nanak of the Sikh tradition (1469-1539 CE)?

SEE HANDOUT FOR RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY