

Culture and Theology

Islam

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Schedule

Welcome and Introduction

History of Islam

What Muslims Believe

[Break]

Islam vs. Christianity

Cultural Challenges of Islam

Q&A

Welcome

The purpose of Culture and Theology Events

- *... who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...* (1 Chronicles 12:32)
- *But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.* (Hebrews 5:14)
- Theological minimalism?

Why is Islam of particular cultural importance?

- Population and immigration
- “For Muslims, the mere act of building a mosque, especially in non-Muslim lands, is a theological statement of Islam's superiority. The structure itself serves for these Muslims as a sign of Islam's hegemony, victory, and advance in the land.” (Ayman Ibrahim, Concise Guide to Islam)

History of Islam

- Understanding 6-7th century Arabia
- “One key factor [in the expansion of Islam] is that the middle of the seventh century proved itself to be a unique moment in history for a united community of Arabs to make their mark on the world’s stage. For many years the territory to the north of the Arabian Peninsula had been the bloody and contested battleground where the Byzantine and Persian empires collided. With the strength of both empires waning from long years spent fighting each other, the Arab armies seized the opportunity to expand northward, marching to victory after victory in the wake of Byzantine and Persian exhaustion. The success they enjoyed in their military exploits was credited to the favor of the God whose message they carried everywhere they went.” (Matthew Aaron Bennett, 40 Questions about Islam)
- Muḥammad ibn ‘Abd Allāh ibn ‘Abd al-Muṭṭalib ibn Hāshim
- “In every role, he performed to perfection.”
- Will the real Muhammad please stand up?
- Early life
- The Night of Power and Excellence (610 A.D.)
- Recite
- Q29:51 “Is it not enough of a miracle that we sent down to you this book?”
- Years in Mecca
- The Satanic Verses
- “The transmission of the text of the Quran in early manuscripts shows evidence of editing, control, correction, and preservation.” (Keith Small)

- Muhammad's *hijra* (migration), to Yathrid (later renamed Medina – “the city of the prophet”) marks year one of the Islamic calendar and the creation of the *umma* (the Islamic community) on September 27, 622.
- Medina years
- The Charter or Constitution of Medina
 - “I will expel the Jews and Christians from the Arabian Peninsula and will not leave any but Muslim.” (Sahih Muslim, 19.4366)
 - “You will fight against the Jews and you will kill them until even a stone would say, Come here, Muslim, there is a Jew hiding behind me, kill him.” (Sahih Muslim, 41.6981)
- Strategy of insincere alliances
 - Q3:28 “Let not believers take infidels as their friends in preference to the faithful – he that does that has nothing to hope for from God – except in self-defense.”
 - Q5:51 “Believers, take neither the Jews nor the Christians for your friends. They are friends to each other. Whoever of you seeks their friendship shall become one of their number. God does not guide the wrongdoing people.”
 - Q5:57 “Believers, do not seek the friendship of those who have mocked and derided your religion, among those who were given the Book before you; nor of the infidels.”
- A totalitarian ideology
- Back to Mecca
- “Not because they had all suddenly become monotheists in belief, but because they recognized in his message something they could finally accept: political and economic empowerment, and the preservation of cultural continuity.” (Danny Burmawi, “Islam, Israel, and the West)

- A religion that goes with the grain
 - “Muhammad triumphed because he created a god in Arabia's image: sovereign, jealous, tribal, merciful to the loyal, and merciless to the enemy.” (Danny Burmawi; Islam, Israel, and the West)
- Early expansion: convert to Islam, submit to Islamic authority & pay tribute, or die by the sword
 - “I have been commanded to wage war against mankind until they testify that there is no God but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah...If they do so, their blood and property are protected.” (Muhammad, Sahih Muslim 9:1:31)
- Death of Muhammad
- Schism
 - Sunni vs. Shi'ite or Shia
 - Why are they called Sunni and Shia?
 - "Sunni" is derived from "Ahl al-Sunnah", or "People of the Tradition"
 - Shia is derived from "Shiat Ali" or the "Party of Ali"
- More conquest by jihad
- Spread of Islam
 - By 634, Muslims had invaded Syria, Israel and Jordan, which were profoundly Christian, slaughtering and pillaging anyone in their way.
 - By late that year, the Greek emperor had assembled and dispatched a large army to dispel the invaders, but the Muslims prevailed.
 - By 635, they had advanced to Damascus.
 - By 637 they had conquered Jerusalem. By 639, they had taken Egypt, home of Christian saints like Clement and Athanasius of Alexandria. By 642, Islam had spread to North Africa, home to guys like Augustine of Hippo.
 - By 711, Islam had taken root and controlled most of Spain. By 717, they sieged Constantinople, though they were defeated. By 732, they were knocking on the doors of France, though the tide was turned at a place called Tours.

- The Crusades
 - The Crusades are greatly misunderstood.
 - "...the Holy War itself was nothing more than a long act of intolerance in the name of God, which is the sin against the Holy Ghost." (Steven Runciman)
 - "during the Crusades, an expansionist, imperialistic Christendom brutalized, looted, and colonized a tolerant and peaceful Islam."
 - The Crusades were multifaceted.
 - In general, the Crusades were a series of military expeditions to recover the Holy Lands from the Muslims from about 1096 - 1291 though sporadic Crusading activity continued through the 15th century.
 - There were five main crusades.
 - They were defensive.
 - "The first battlefield is the rewriting of history." (Karl Marx)
 - "We shall not build in our cities or in their vicinities any new monasteries or churches...we shall not restore, by night or by day, any of them that have fallen into ruin or which are located in the Muslim quarters. We shall keep our gates wide open for the passerby and travelers. We shall provide three days' food and lodging to any Muslims who pass our way...We shall not hold public religious ceremonies. We shall not seek to proselytize anyone. We shall not prevent any of our kin from embracing Islam if they so desire. We shall show deference to the Muslims and shall rise from our seats when they wish to sit down... we shall not wear swords or bear weapons of any kind, or ever carry them with us. We shall not sell wines...We shall not display our crosses or our books anywhere in the Muslim's thoroughfares or in their marketplaces....We shall not raise our voices when reciting the service in our churches, nor when in the presence of Muslims...We shall not build our houses higher than theirs." (The Pact of Umar)
 - "We have had enough of our men enslaved, our women raped, wagons loaded with the severed heads of our people, the sale of chained captives, the mockery of our religion...We shall not stop until we succeed in expelling the enemy from Europe." (Defenders of the West)

- “The crusades were in every way a defensive war. They were the West's belated response to the Muslim conquest of fully two-thirds of the Christian world.” (Nabeel Qureshi)
- Some of the Crusades were excessive.
 - “It is easy enough for modern people to dismiss the Crusades as morally repugnant or cynically evil. Such judgments, however, tell us more about the observer than the observed. They are based on uniquely modern (and, therefore, Western) values. If, from the safety of our modern world, we are quick to condemn the medieval Crusader, we should be mindful that he would be just as quick to condemn us. Our infinitely more destructive wars waged for the sake of political and social ideologies would, in his opinion, be lamentable wastes of human life. In both societies, the medieval and the modern, people fight for what is most dear to them. That is a fact of human nature that is not so changeable.” (Raymond Ibrahim, Defenders of the West)
- Almost all of the offense surrounding the Crusades is from within the past 100 years.
 - “A more realistic view of history requires less retrospective fantasy and more brain work. It means forcing your head around to see what motivated men and women centuries ago. Try to think the unthinkable - that the Crusaders were right, and that we should be grateful to them.” (The London Telegraph)

What Muslims Believe

- Orthopraxy > orthodoxy
- “the heart of Islam is not to know God but to obey him.” (Norman Geisler and Abdul Saleeb)

About Muhammad

- Marriages
- A special exception for the prophet: the great stands above the law
- “Either I could trust the historical sources of Muhammad's life and find a man I would never want to follow as a prophet, or I could question the sources and have no reason to consider him a prophet.”
- “Love of the Prophet runs like blood in the veins of his community...You can deny God, but you cannot deny the Prophet.” (Iqbal, 20th century Indian Muslim philosopher)

What's the Quran?

- The Quran: “the recitation
- corresponds with an eternal word that is in heaven – literally letter for letter
- “the Qur'an is not the kind of Book that could have been forged apart from God.”
- Q2.23 “And if you are in doubt concerning that We have sent down on Our servant, then bring a sura like it, and call your witnesses, apart from Allah, if you are truthful.”
 - Uthman's purging of manuscripts
 - 1924 Egyptian edition
 - X: “Not one letter of the Quran has been changed over the centuries”

- Reverence for the book
 - The importance of Arabic
 - “Many Muslims – and Orientalists – will tell you otherwise, of course, but the fact is that a fifth of the Koranic text is just incomprehensible.” (Gerd Puin, Arabic orthography expert)
 - "A wearisome jumble, crude, incoherent (with) endless iterations ... long-windedness ... nothing but a sense of duty could carry any European through the Quran." (Thomas Carlyle)
- “I have not yet come across a western man who understands what the Qu’ran is. It is not a book in the ordinary sense, nor it is comparable to the Bible, either the Old or New Testaments. It is an expression of Divine Will. If you want to compare it with anything in Christianity, you must compare it with Christ Himself.” (Yusuf K. Ibish)
- "The Qur'an is no treatise about God and His nature: His existence, for the Qur'an, is strictly functional." (Norman Geisler and Abdul Saleeb, Answering Islam)
- Chapters and verses: suras and ayahs
- Relationship to OT/NT
 - *We did not send before you (O Muhammad) any messenger but We revealed to him: ‘none has the right to be worshipped except I, therefore worship Me.’* (Quran 21:25)
 - *people of the book* (Christians and Jews), *now there has come to you Our messenger making clear to you many things you have been concealing of the Book, and effacing many things* (5:16)
- God's word cannot be corrupted or perverted and Allah himself has promised to preserve it.
 - *We have, without doubt, sent down the Reminder and we will assuredly preserve it.* (Q 15:9)
 - *No man can change the words of Allah* (Q 6:34)
- Questioning the validity or authenticity of the Quran?
- Q5.101 “O you who believe! Do not ask about things that would trouble you if disclosed to you.”
- Islamic tradition
- “Next to the Holy Qu’ran the [hadith] is the second source of the Islamic Law of social and personal behavior, because the commandments of the Holy Prophet are as binding on the believers as the commands of Allah.” (Introduction to Salih Muslim)

Who is Allah?

- The word Allah is just the Arabic word for God.
- Monotheism
 - "And your god is one god. There is no god but he" (Q2.163)
 - "In Islam, tawhid (strict monotheism), or Allah's unicity, is the deity's most important distinction. It describes his singularly and oneness, denying any plurality in his character." (Ayman Ibrahim)
 - Q4.171 "Do not say 'three.' (It would be) better for you (if you) stop. Only Allah is God. One"
 - Q5.73 "Certainly they are infidels who say, 'truly, God is the third of three.'"
 - Q5.1116 "Did you say to the people, 'Take me and my mother as two gods in addition to Allah.'"
 - Q51.56 "I have only created the jinn and mankind that they may serve me."
 - "The purpose of man is not to know God and become more conformed to his character, but to understand his will and become more obedient to his commands." (Norman Geisler and Abdul Saleeb)
- Theological tension
 - Arbitrary and capricious
- Allahu akbar: God is great(er/est)
- Merciful?

What makes someone a Muslim?

- Muslim vs. Arab
- Islam means surrender or submission and a Muslim is anyone or anything that surrenders to the true will of Allah.
- Believing in: the oneness of God, the prophecy of Muhammad, and life after death.

- So how do you become a Muslim?
 - The shahadah: *la ilaha illa Allah, wa Muhammad ar-rasul Allah.*
 - “There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger.”
- Deeds over doctrine.
- Sharia law
- Sharia classifies all behavior into the following types or grades: obligatory, recommended, neutral, discouraged, and forbidden.

What are The Five Pillars of Islam?

1. *Shahadah*: The Confession

- “There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger.”

2. *Salat*: Ritual Prayer

- "All praise belongs to Allah, Lord of the Universe, the Beneficent, the Merciful and Master of the Day of Judgment, You alone We do worship and from You alone we do seek assistance, guide us to the right path, the path of those to whom You have granted blessings, those who are neither subject to Your anger nor have gone astray." (Q1)

3. *Hajj*: The Pilgrimage to Mecca

- What's the kaaba?
- the al-Hajar al-Aswad: the sacred black stone

4. *Sawm*: Fasting

5. *Zakat*: The Giving of Alms

6. Jihad

Islam vs. Christianity

- Religious pluralism
 - "Our relationship with the followers of Islam has taken on great importance, since they adore the one God, living and subsisting in himself, merciful and all-powerful, the Creator of heaven and earth." (Pope Francis)
 - "Christians and Muslims worship the same God." (Larycia Hawkins, Wheaton College professor)
- Similarities between Christianity and Islam
 - reverence for the OT
 - ritualistic laws of the OT
 - claim to Abrahamic ancestry
 - prophets and angels and Satan
 - sacred texts
 - monotheistic
 - the importance of Jesus
 - importance of moral responsibility and prayer and the reality of life after death
- But, the differences are profound.
- *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.* (Galatians 1:8-9)
 - Galatians says that Isaac was the promised child of Abraham. Islam says Ishmael was.
 - Galatians says that God is Father. Islam says God neither begets nor is begotten.
 - Galatians has strong hints of the trinity. Islam explicitly denies that God is Trinitarian.
 - Galatians says that Jesus has died for our sins. Islam says that Jesus never died.
 - Galatians says that man is depraved. Islam has no doctrine of original sin.
 - Galatians says man is justified by faith. Islam teaches salvation by works.

- *Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband." Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. (Galatians 4:21-31)*
- *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:8-9)*
 - A gospel contrary?

Bibliology:

- "The first five books of the Old Testament do not constitute the original Torah, but parts of the Torah have been mingled up with other narratives written by human beings and the original guidance of the Lord is lost in that quagmire. Similarly the four Gospels of Christ are not the original Gospels as they came from Prophet Jesus...the original and the fictitious, the Divine and the human are so intermingled that the grain cannot be separated from the chaff. The fact is that the original Word of God is preserved neither with the Jews nor with the Christians. Qur'an, on the other hand, is fully preserved and not a jot or tittle has been changed or left out in it."
- Q5.48 "We have revealed the Book with the Truth. It confirms the Book which came before it and supersedes it."
- Theology proper:
 - Allah is decidedly not triune.
 - Q112.1-4 "Say: 'God is One, the Eternal God. He begot none, nor was He begotten. And none is equal to Him.'"
 - Q5.73 "They do blaspheme, that say: 'God is one of three.' There is but one God."

- Q5.116-7 “And Allah will say, ‘O Jesus son of Mary, did you say to the people, ‘Take me and my mother as gods apart from Allah?’” Jesus will say, ‘Glory be to You! It is not for me to say what I have no right to. Had I said it, You would have known it. You know what is in my soul, and I do not know what is in Your soul. You are the knower of the unseen. I only told them what You commanded me: You shall worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord.’”
 - Father, Son, and the Virgin Mary
 - Capricious and changing
- Christology
 - Not the Son of God
 - Q5.72 “They are unbelievers who say, Allah is the Christ, the son of Mary”
 - Never crucified
 - Q4.157-8 “And for [the Jews'] saying, "Surely we killed the Messiah, [Isa], son of Mary, the messenger of God" —yet they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, but it only seemed like (that) to them. Surely they have no knowledge about him, only the following of conjecture. Certainly they did not kill him. No! God raised him to Himself. God is mighty, wise.”
 - Similarity to gnostic gospels
 - Never died
 - "Jesus, son of Mary, will descend to the earth, will marry, have children, and live 45 years, after which he will die and be buried along with me [Mohammad] in my grave. Then Jesus, son of Mary, and I shall arise from the grave between Abu Bakr and Umar."
 - The Qur'an systematically strips Jesus of every identity that makes Him who He is in the Christian faith:
 - It denies His divinity: "The Messiah, son of Mary, was only a messenger" (Qur'an 5:75).
 - It denies His Sonship: "It is not befitting for Allah to take a son" (Qur'an 19:35).
 - It denies His crucifixion: "They did not kill him, nor crucify him, but it was made to appear so" (Qur'an 4:157).

- Q4.171 “People of the Book! Do not go beyond the limits in your religion, and do not say about God (anything) but the truth. The Messiah, [‘Isa], son of Mary, was only a messenger of God and His word, which He cast into Mary, and a spirit from Him. So believe in God and His messengers, but do not say, ‘Three.’ Stop! (It will be) better for you. God is only one God. Glory to Him! (Far be it) that He should have a son!..”
 - “The Qur’an radically diverges from the Bible on Jesus in two basic ways: it both dehistoricizes him and marginalizes him.” (Matthew Aaron Bennett, 40 Questions about Islam)
- Anthropology and hamartiology: doctrine of man and sin
 - man is not made in the image of God
 - no original sin
- Soteriology: The doctrine of salvation.
 - Q23.102-3 “Those whose good deeds weigh heavy in the scales shall triumph, but those whose good deeds are light shall forfeit their souls and abide in Hell for ever.”
 - a fundamental flaw of Islam
- Heresy bingo
- *For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (Galatians 3:10–14)*
- Muslims need the gospel to be freed from the curse
- “The central claims of Christianity are explicitly rejected by Islam. Islamic doctrine is antithetical to the core message of Christianity.” (Nabeel Qureshi)
- “It is not as if the texts of the Qur’an and the Bible differ on minor points of eschatology or the precise nature of the soul. They differ on central doctrines of identity such as the Trinity, the deity of Christ, the doctrine of the incarnation, the redemptive power of the cross, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. All of these doctrines are central to what we as Christians mean when we say, ‘We worship God.’ For the Christian, the doctrine of God cannot possibly be separated from Christology.” (Matthew Aaron Bennett, 40 Questions about Islam)

The Cultural Challenge of Islam

- *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.* (Ephesians 6:12)
- *As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.* (Romans 11:28)
- Hate and love

Civilization

- "To live in a Western country is to live in a society still utterly saturated by Christian concepts and assumptions." (Tom Holland, Dominion)
- In Islam, man is not created in the image of God.
 - Muslims are inherently better than unbelievers.
 - women oppressed
 - "Islam has given woman rights and privileges which she has never enjoyed under other religious or constitutional systems."
 - Q4.34 "Men have authority over women because God has made the one superior to the other, and because they spend their wealth to maintain them. Good women are obedient. They guard their unseen parts because God has guarded them. As for those from whom you fear disobedience, admonish them, and forsake them in beds apart, and beat them. Then if they obey you, take no further action against them. Surely God is high, supreme."
 - "men, never ever obey your women. Never let them advise you on any matter concerning your daily life" (Caliph Ali)
 - No theological balance on gender and sex

- “The tension between Islam and modern Western values cannot be explained merely as a problem of extremist misinterpretation. Rather, certain features of classical Islamic law—especially its treatment of religious identity, gender, apostasy, and political authority—stand in real tension with modern liberal commitments to equal citizenship, freedom of conscience, and democratic pluralism.” (Mina Yousef)
- The role of weakness in Christianity
 - *Know, therefore, that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people.* (Deuteronomy 9:6)
 - *For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.* (1 Corinthians 1:26–29)
 - Q3.110 “You are the best of all people.”
- Natural law and the harnessing of creation
 - “If these books agree with the Qur'an, they are unnecessary; if they disagree, they are harmful.”
 - “Two assumptions within much of classical Islamic thought create a significant tension between Islam and modern Western political values. The first is that Islam is not only a religion but also a social and political order. The second is that Islam’s teachings are valid for all times and places. For many Muslims, Islam is therefore not limited to personal devotion, worship, or private morality. It is understood as a comprehensive way of life that seeks to regulate the life of the individual, the family, and society as a whole.” (Mina Yousef)
- No freedom of religion.
- No freedom of speech or the press.
- No right to bear arms.
- No freedom from quartering others.
- Two-tiered society: Muslims and everyone else
- No individual rights
- Mamdani and an oath

- "Islam is a revolutionary ideology and programme which seeks to alter the social order of the whole world and rebuild it in conformity with its own tenets and ideals." (Robert Spencer, The Tragedy of Islam)
- "Islam wishes to destroy all States and Governments anywhere on the face of the earth which are opposed to the ideology and programme of Islam regardless of the country or the Nation which rules it." (Abdul A'la Maududi)
- "Islam isn't in America to be equal to any other faith, but to become dominant. The Koran should be the highest authority in America, and Islam the only accepted religion on earth." (Omar Ahmad, a co-founder and former chairman of the Council on American-Islamic Relations - CAIR)
- Believe what they say
- America under sharia
- soft jihad
- "In all of world history, there has never been a civilization that has so opened its doors to another civilization that is openly hostile to it." (Raymond Ibrahim)
- naivety isn't a virtue
- survive or thrive
- "Ultimately we can never be full citizens of this country, because there is no way we can be fully committed to the institutions and ideologies of this country."

The Practice of Jihad

- Jihad: struggle
- A religion of peace?

- “the historical salience of warfare against unbelievers ...was thus written into the foundational texts” of Islam. (Michael Cook)
- Q2:190-193 “Fight in the cause of God those who fight you ...And slay them wherever ye catch them...And fight them until there is no more tumult or oppression and there prevail justice and faith in God...”
- Q2:216 "Fighting is prescribed for 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 God knoweth and ye know not."
- Q3:157-158 "And if ye are slain or die in the way of God, forgiveness and mercy from God are far better than all they could amass. And if ye die, or are slain, Lo! It is unto God that ye are brought together."
- Q3:195 "Those who have...fought or been slain, verily I will blot out from them their iniquities and admit them into Gardens with rivers flowing beneath; a reward from the presence of God..."
- Q4:101 “For the Unbelievers are unto you open enemies."
- Q4:95 "Not equal are those believers who sit (at home) and receive no hurt and those who strive and fight in the cause of God with their goods and their persons. God hath granted a grade higher to those who strive and fight with their goods and persons than those who sit (at home)."
- Q5:36 "The punishment of those who wage war against God and His apostle and strive with might and main for mischief through the land is: execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from the land. That is their disgrace in this world and a heavy punishment is theirs in the Hereafter."
- Q8:12-17 "Remember thy Lord inspired the angels (with the message): I am with you. Give firmness to the believers. I will instill terror into the hearts of the unbelievers. Smite ye above their necks and smite all their fingertips off them. This because they contend against God and his apostle. If any contend against God and his apostle, God is strict in punishment... O ye who believe. When ye meet the unbelievers in hostile array, never turn your backs to them. If any do turn his back to them on such a day, unless it be a stratagem of war... he draws on himself the wrath of God and his abode is Hell, an evil refuge."
- Q8:59-60 "Let not the unbelievers think that they can get the better (of the godly). They will never frustrate (them). Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into (the hearts of the enemies of God and your enemies and others besides, whom ye may not know, but whom God doth know..."
- Q9:5 "fight and slay the pagans wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in ambush for them in every stratagem (of war)..."

- Q9.29 "Fight those who believe in neither God nor the Last Day, who do not forbid what God and His apostle have forbidden, and do not embrace the religion of Truth, from among those who were given the Book, until they render tribute, by hand, in abject submission."
- Q9.73 "O Prophet, Strive in jihad against the unbelievers and the hypocrites, and be firm against them. Their abode is hell – what a miserable destiny."
- Q25.52 "So obey not the infidels, but struggle in jihad mightily with them."
- Q47:4 "Therefore, when ye meet the unbelievers, smite at their necks, at length when ye have thoroughly subdued them, bind a bond firmly (on them)..... but if it had been God's will, he could certainly have exacted retribution from them (himself), but (he lets you fight) in order to test you, some with others. But those who are slain in the way of God, he will never let their deeds be lost."
- Q47.35 "Do not be weak and ask not for peace, while you are having the upper hand."
- Q49.15 "The believers are those who believe in Allah and His Messenger, then have not doubted, and have struggled in jihad with their possessions and their selves for Allah's cause."
- "Tell me of a deed equal to jihad."
- "The sword is the key of heaven and of hell; a drop of blood shed in the cause of God, a night spent in arms, is of more avail than two month's fasting and prayer." (Islamic tradition)
- Tolerant verses?
 - Q109.6 "To you your religion and to me mine."
 - Or Q2.256 "There is no compulsion in religion."
- Abrogation:
 - Q2.106 "None of Our revelations Do We abrogate Or cause to be forgotten. But We substitute Something better or similar." (see also 16:101; 13:39)
 - "The Qur'an is unique among sacred scriptures in teaching a doctrine of abrogation according to which later pronouncements of the Prophet abrogate, i.e., declare null and void, his earlier pronouncements."
 - Which direction is the abrogation?

- “The inner jihad is greater than the martial jihad.”
 - “‘O Messenger of Allah, which Jihad is best?’ He said: ‘(That of a man) whose blood is shed and his horse is wounded!’”
- "we return from the lesser jihad to the greater jihad."
- Q2.190 "fight in the way of Allah with those who fight you, but aggress not: Allah loves not the aggressors."
- “Not simply how Islam permits or commands violence, but how it sanctifies it in the Muslim imagination—how brutality is beautified by the sacred text, normalized by Muhammad's example, and exalted through the mythologizing of Islamic conquests. Islam does not merely allow violence. It consecrates it.” (Danny Burmawi)
- radicalization or conversion

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* Most highly recommended resources