Rise and Growth of Islam

Phillip Mullins · Series: **A Christian's Guide To Islam**

INTRODUCTION

- Unfortunately, a lot of people, when it comes to the religion of Islam, only have a drive-by perspective.
- You really can't have the proper response to Islam unless you get to know it better.
- After about a hundred years following his death, the Arab Islamic culture had moved out of Arabia and spread across North Africa all the way to Spain and even eastward to the very threshold of India.

1 Arab Is Ethnic, Muslim Is Religious

- Arab is an ethnic distinction and it describes somebody who is from the Arabian Peninsula.
- But the expression Muslim is a religious distinction. It has nothing to do inherently with the person's race or ethnicity.
- It is true that most Arabs are Muslim. However, in the world, most Muslims are not Arab.

2 A Leadership Crisis: Shia and Sunni

- After Muhammad's death, there was a leadership crisis. Muhammad had never left instructions regarding who should take over his leadership.
- There was an element among the Muslims that said that the leadership of our community should be passed on through Muhammad's family.
- Those who had supported Ali were known as the party of Ali, or commonly the Shia.
- Eventually those who were not Shia Muslim were known as Sunni Muslims. Sunni means tradition.

3 The Expansion

- Now they're not just raiding to raid for plunder, they have a cause that they want to spread.
- What about Alexander the Great? His conquests were about as great and even quicker. Was God blessing his teachings?
- Understand that this is a political and military operation, not just a religious movement.
- Generally speaking, the Arab Islamic conquerors allowed Jews and Christians to live in peace.
- If you refuse to convert, or if you refuse to pay the tribute, the tax, then they would kill you.

4 The Golden Age

- From the 8th to the 12th century, the golden age of the Arab Islamic civilization.
- In China and Arabia, they were the most advanced on earth. It was not in Europe, believe you me.
- The Arab Islamic civilization makes advances. First of all, in algebra.
- Arabs do. And most Muslims do, are very aware of this glorious past, and they're very proud of it.

5 A Period of Decline

- There is a period of decline to the era of Islamic civilization beginning in around the 12th century. Part of it was internal.
- There is a huge invasion of the Mongols in the 13th century.
- The Ottoman Turkish Empire then becomes the face of Islam for the world.
- And then the thing that really weakened it was the rise of Europe.

6 The Reawakening of Islam

- This helps to usher in this last period, the reawakening of Islam and the Arab nationalism that we've seen, especially in the 20th century.
- Religious revival is also part of it. In the last half of the 20th century, especially, Islam has come alive.
- A minority, and I want to emphasize a minority, an extreme minority, began to act out violently toward the West and toward the United States.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **We're different now because we're in Christ. We're unique. And we've got to look at people and respond to them the way Christ would have us to do, regardless of the great differences, of the hard feelings, of emotions, of bloodshed, even.**

MY NOTES