The Beliefs and Practices of Islam

Phillip Mullins · Series: **Islam: Series by Phillip Mullins at North Courtenay**

INTRODUCTION

- I think it's very true when it comes to religious matters that you cannot help someone unless you first understand someone.
- This morning, what we're going to do here in the Bible class hour is actually talk about the nuts and bolts of the religion of Islam.
- The more we know about other people's beliefs, the more doors it will open to us, and they will respect the fact that we've cared enough about them to learn something about their perspective.

1 The Core Beliefs of Islam

- The Muslim religion is extremely monotheistic. They were a reaction to the polytheism of the day around them.
- But the last prophet and the ultimate prophet of God was Muhammad, and that after him there was no more revelation from God.
- They believe that there is a judgment. They are very much motivated by the afterlife, and that there is a heaven and a hell.
- Christianity and Islam, because of these two things, cannot be reconciled without compromising one or the other or both.

2 Sunni and Shi'i Muslims

- After Mohammed died, there was no appointed successor of Mohammed to lead the Muslim community in Arabia.
- There was a minority that pulled away from the rest of the Muslims, called the party of Ali or Shi'i, or the followers of Ali.
- Shi'i Muslims say that there are some people who are in the lineage of Muhammad who have an inner revelation, and they can tell you about the will of God.
- About 85% of Muslims in the world are Sunni, and about 15% are Shi'i Muslims.

3 Repeated Themes in the Quran

- The Quran is the holy book for the Muslim people. And there are some repeated themes in the book called the Quran.
- The one thing he pounded over and over was that there was only one God, and these many gods that they were worshiping were false.
- Over and over is this theme in the Quran, the condemnation of unbelievers, especially infidels who don't believe in the one true God.

- Mohammed saw as his principal role in the world as one who was sent to warn everyone about coming judgment. Much like an Old Testament prophet.

4 Additions to the Old Testament Stories

- The Quran is a book that also contains some references to Old Testament stories.
- There are things said about Noah and things said about Adam that you don't read about in the Old Testament. They are additions.
- When God created Adam, that he commanded, according to the Quran, he commanded the angels to fall down and worship Adam.

5 Little Direct Instruction and No Running Narrative

- One thing that strikes you if you're used to reading the Bible is that there's little direct instruction.
- There's an absence of a really connecting and running narrative.
- It lacks a cohesive direction. You have the same repeated themes over and over.
- It's probably more like the writings of the Old Testament prophets than any other thing in the Bible.

6 Other Sources of Authority for Muslim People

- There are other sources of authority for Muslim people.
- It lacks a lot of real specific instructions as to how to live.
- Not only is the Quran left for us, but also anything that we know that Muhammad taught, or any examples that he left.
- Any example he left, well, that must be authoritative for us.

MY NOTES