The Beliefs & Practices of Islam

Phillip Mullins · Series: **Islam**

INTRODUCTION

- I think it's very true when it comes to religious matters that you cannot help someone unless you first understand someone.
- 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.
- Talk about the nuts and bolts of the religion of Islam. What do Muslims believe and what do they practice?

1 The Core Beliefs of Islam

- The Muslim religion is extremely monotheistic. They were a reaction to the polytheism of the day around them.
- The last prophet and the ultimate prophet of God was Muhammad, and that after him there was no more revelation from God.
- His writings were in the Quran, which is the last message from God to mankind.
- 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, that there was no appointed successor of Mohammed to lead the Muslim community in Arabia.
- Caliph means lieutenant, and it became the name of the leader of the Muslim community.
- 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.
- Sunni means the idea of the established way or the way of tradition.
- 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 The Quran Is the Holy Book

- 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.
- The Quran is organized into surahs, which are sort of like books, but toward the end they're more like chapters.

- 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.
- There are additions to the Old Testament stories. There are things said about Noah and things said about Adam that you don't read about in the Old Testament.
- When it comes to reading the Quran, 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.

4 Other Sources of Authority for Muslims

- 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