The History of Islam

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

INTRODUCTION

- Why is there such a bitter conflict between Jews and Palestinians? Who are the Palestinians and what is their connection to Islam?
- It's important to understand something about the past, something about the history of Judaism and Islam to understand what's going on today and the various conflicts.
- We must have a reason for that which we believe. And if we're going to have a reasonable belief, we have to make a reasonable investigation.

1 The Origins of Islam in Arabia

- It was a polytheistic world. They believed in many gods.
- The main thing that Muhammad taught was that, opposed to what most people in the Arabian Peninsula believed, there was not many gods, but there was only one God. Allah.
- These were collected after his death by his followers and formed into one book, which we know today as the Quran.
- In Medina, they forged a state. From this point on, to be a Muslim meant at once to adhere to a faith or a religion, and to be a member of a political community.
- Islam is something that affects not just people's religious beliefs, but also their economics and their politics.

2 The Period of Expansion

- After Muhammad died, there was some controversy about who was to take his place as leader.
- The Eastern Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire was weakening during these years, politically and militarily. The Persian Empire was weakening in these years.
- In 636, they pushed into Syria, which included Palestine then. And they began to plunder and invade and also to settle there. And this is the beginning of the Palestinian population that we see today.
- The people who live in Palestine, who are not Israelis, are Palestinians, but culturally they are Arabs and they are Muslims generally in their religion.
- Along with Mecca and Medina, Jerusalem is the third holy site to the Muslim people.

3 How Did Islam Spread? A Political Military Operation

- We understand that this is basically a political military operation. Just like the conquering forces of Alexander the Great for the Greeks.
- They would seize property by the leaders of these territories, but they respected personal property.
- They generally allow Jews and Christians to live among them in peace.
- It is not accurate to say that Muslims and Jews have always fought one another and never gotten along.

- You could convert to Islam. Or you could pay the higher tax.

4 A Form of Christianity Weak and Formalized

- There were people who were claiming to be Christians, but their form of Christianity was weak and it was formalized.
- They really didn't know the word of God. They really didn't know what they believed and why they believed it.
- And they were religiously easy pickings for the teachings of Mohammed.
- Even today, Islam is the dominant religion across North Africa in the Middle East to the doors of India.

5 The Golden Age of Islamic Civilization

- This ushered in the second period of Islamic era of Islamic civilization. That is, its golden age, which is dated from about the 8th century to the 11th century.
- There were a series of dynasties that began to exercise control over the Islamic Empire.

MY NOTES