

Islam vs. christianity assignment

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Despite the fact that there are many similarities and differences between Islam and Christianity, both religions are significant in today's society, which is reflected in the grand number of followers each has amassed. L.

Similarities between Islam and Christianity A. The “ messenger” angel Gabriel B. Message delivered of one God C. Creation and Judgment D.

Concept of Forgiveness E. Basic Rules of Guidance 1. Islam: Five Pillars 2.

Christianity: Ten Commandments F. “ Book” Religion 1. Islam: Koran 2.

Charlatany: Bible II.

Differences between Islam and Christianity A. Prayer B. Pilgrimage/ No Pilgrimage C. Giving of Money D. Interpretations of the Bible 1 . Abraham's

Sacrifice 3. Monotheism and the Trinity III. Conclusion A. Similarities 1 .

Messenger Angel Gabriel 2. God's role in creation and Judgment B.

Differences 1 . Jesus' role as divine savior 2. -rennin-y 3. Both religions

relevant in today's society Abstract Islam vs.. Christianity In this paper we will examine some relevant similarities and differences between two widely known and practiced religions: Islam and Christianity.

Although, these two religions have easily identifiable similarities and differences, they are both large players in the religious world today with an impressive number of followers. There are many similarities between the two religions, which stems from the fact that the prophet Mohammad based the basic framework on Christianity. Mohammad believed that the Christians had been right with some aspects of Christianity, but they had stopped hearing God's message. This is where he came in to correctly tell what God wanted the world to do.

Therefore, there are some significant similarities to be seen. For example, the angel Gabriel, found in both religions, is a messenger angel on both sides of the house. Also, the message was brought forth in both religions that there was only one true God, and both religions believed that this one God was the creator of the world, and would be the one to Judge all of mankind upon their death. Then, this God would decide if the person received heaven or hell. Also, each of these religions had been delivered with basic rules of guidance, although the rules in themselves were different.

Islam had, from Mohammad, the Five Pillars, while Christians had been given the Ten Commandments, delivered by Moses. Another aspect of each of these religions that is very similar is that each is a “ Book” religion. They each have their own book written down by disciples of their he Bible. Because Islam diverged from Christianity beliefs, there are also some notable differences between the two. For example, the way in which each religion is expected to pray. Muslims pray alone and in congregation. When congregational prayer is executed, there are many rules and strict adherences to which they abide.

They must pray this way a certain number of times each day and faces in a certain cardinal direction. For Christians, the prayer which is done alone is informal and at one’s own discretion, as it is for the Islamic religion.

However, congregational prayer for Christians is much less rigorous and strict, and can be done in a number of acceptable ways. Muslims are also expected to take a Journey, called a pilgrimage, to their Holy Land whereas, this is not expected of Christians. Another notable difference is the way in which money is given to the church.

In earlier days, and in some cases modern days, Muslims giving was in the form of a tax which was mandated. Christians give in the form of a tithe and are asked to give ten percent of their income. A very large and widely disputed part of these religions is the interpretation of the Bible. Some events that are disputed include which son Abraham sacrificed, the Virgin Birth and nature of Jesus, and the interpretation of monotheism and the Trinity. Islam and Christianity are religions based on many similar and different beliefs based on the fact that one was borne of the other.

For this reason, we can pick up on a number of things that ring true in each religion and a number of things that are completely different between the two of them. Aside from the similarities and differences, each of these religions is still recognized in today's society despite the fact that they are both centuries old. Despite the fact that there are many similarities and differences between Islam and Christianity, both religions are significant in today's society, which is apparent in the grand number of followers each has amassed.

Islam and Christianity are in themselves, complete religions with many followers. Islam was born of Christianity in that a large part of Salami's basic belief structure is based on that of Christianity and some portions of the Bible. Because of this fact, there are a number of similarities and a comparative number of differences between the two religions. The beginnings of Islam are actually deeply rooted in Christianity, based on the conviction by the prophet of Islam, Mohammed that Christians had departed from life in God's message as revealed in their scriptures (Pike, 67).

Approximately 610, the first of many revelations came to him and these visions were believed to have been delivered from God by the angel Gabriel (Pike, 17). Here we begin to see the similarities between the two religions as Gabriel is also the angel that brings news of Jesus' birth (Jesus being the founder of Christianity) in Luke 1: 26-32, of the Bible. The as the then present day Arabs believed. This God was the creator of the world (Lewis, 8). For Christians the message of a single God was given during the inception of the

Ten Commandments in Exodus 20: 3 of the Bible, " You shall have no other God before me. " The creation of the world by this singular God is documented in Genesis 1: 1. " In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. " In the Islamic faith it is believed that this God would Judge mankind, which also rings true in Christianity in Hebrews 10: 30, " The Lord will Judge his people. " For Muslims, followers of the Islamic faith, their single God (known as Allah) was considered Just because he would Judge every person according to his deeds (Octahedron, 99).

In both religions, the result of this Judgment day was either heaven or hell. Another similarity between both Islam and Christianity was the idea of forgiveness. Islam teaches that God is always ready to pardon the individual and restore him to the sinless state in which he started life. In Christianity, this same basic concept of forgiveness is accepted (Wiles, 561). After the death of Mohammed, certain essential principles were singled out from his teachings to serve as anchoring points for the Islamic community. These have come to be called the " five pillars of Islam" (Pike, 99-100).

Comparably for Christians, the Ten Commandments are considered daily, divine laws. Also, each of these religions is one that has a "book" by which believers follow. For Christians this is the Bible, which was recorded by prophets and disciples to Jesus including Abraham, Moses, Elijah, and many others. The Bible is for the most part, ordered chronologically and Jesus teaches in parables (Bowie, 66). Likewise for Muslims their book is the Koran, which was a collection of the sayings and deeds of Mohammad, who was believed to be inspired to teach these things by Allah (Lewis, 44-45).

However, because the Koran was assembled from remembrances of those who had learned it by heart, the chronological order is not used. The passages or surpases were arranged from longest to shortest. In the beginning, for both religions, these teachings were passed along orally, but were later captured via the written word. These books serve as an additional guide for believers and stress the one idea of one God (Pike, 62). Despite these many similarities between Islam and Christianity many differences exist as well. One of these differences is prayer.

Islam recognizes two forms of prayer, one being the personal and more informal form of prayer. The other is a ritual prayer which is often congregational with specific words and postures, to be offered five times a day: sunrise, midday, afternoon, sunset, and before bed. Before Muslims pray ablutions are performed by washing the hands, feet, and face. A person called the muezzin calls for prayer and chants from a raised platform or minaret tower at the mosque. This prayer is started with the imam, the prayer leader, standing at the front of the mosque facing Mecca, the holy city of Islam. This is the holy city because it was the death place of
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Mohammad). Each prayer consists of several units, during which the individual is standing, kneeling, or prostrate. At every change in posture, "God is great" is recited. The chief day of communal worship is Friday and believers gather at the mosque to pray, listen to portions of the Koran, and hear a sermon based on the text. The sermon may have moral, social, or political content. Islam has law (Peters, 126-129). For Christians prayer is done alone as well as in a congregation like Islam, but the rigors are far less painstaking.

Prayer alone is done at one's own discretion, but traditionally is done at night or in the morning. Congregational prayer is usually headed by the preacher, priest, or another prominent member of the church. The congregation is usually seated in pews, but this can be done standing as well. Christians have a clergy that have been trained in theology and matters of religion and possess a degree from a seminary. The chief days of gathering is on Sundays, and believers pray, sing, listen to sermons, and read from the Bible during their communal gathering (Morris, 218). As you can see, this is quite different from the Islamic religion.

Another large difference in the two religions is the pilgrimage. For Muslims, the pilgrimage, or hajj, is an annual Muslim rite that every believer is expected to take part in at least once in his lifetime. From the seventh to the tenth day in Duh al- Hajji, the last month of the Islamic calendar, thousands of Muslims converge on the city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia to visit the holy shrine of the Kebab in the Great Mosque, which tradition says was built by Abraham. The pilgrimage was intended to reenact the hegira, the flight of Mohammad from Mecca to Medina in 622 (Octahedron, 100).

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Christians do not have such a pilgrimage but many do visit the birth place of Jesus, the city of Jerusalem, and consider it an honor to do so. Fasting and the giving of money are two more distinct differences between the two religions. Because the Koran was first revealed to Mohammad in the month of Ramadan, the whole month was set aside as a period of fasting. During each day, from first light to darkness, all eating, drinking, and smoking are forbidden. Upon the end of the fasting period, the second major festival of the Islamic year ensues and lasts several days.

In contrast, Christians have the Lenten period, where Jesus was sent to the desert for forty days and forty nights, and was tempted by the devil. During this time, Christians usually give up something of importance, and although some fasting does happen, it is generally not as long as in the Islamic religion. The end of this forty day period is known as Ash Wednesday, which begins the holiest point on the Christian calendar (Good Friday and Easter) (Ware, 146-147). Also, the giving of money is somewhat different. For Muslims, the Katz is an obligatory tax, which is contributed to the state or community.

In the modern period, the Katz has become a voluntary charitable contribution (Pike, 100). For Christians, this is known as tithe. Believers are expected to contribute ten percent of their salary to the church for God's purposes (Morris, 197). Also, some of the differences between Islam and Christianity are clearly discerned in the holy books of the Bible and the Koran. One such example is the sacrifice of Abraham. This event is interpreted very differently in both religions. Both books make the acknowledgement that Abraham was willing to make a "tremendous sacrifice" (Shannon, 57).

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However, the difference between the interpretations lies in the name of Abraham's son. For example the bible says, " By faith, Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to Isaac who was offered up as the sacrifice. In Koran, however, Shame is the one who is purportedly offered up for sacrifice as Abraham's only son (Sure 1 1: 69-73). Another incident that is disputed between the two religions is the Virgin Birth and the Nature of Jesus. The Koran does support the virgin birth of Christ, but does not support the notion that Christ was resurrected.

The Koran suggests instead that the Virgin Mary gave birth to a prophet, who was free from innate sin because he was virgin born (Dew, 1). The Bible then, supports the notion that the virgin birth existed, and the Virgin Mary gave birth to the son of God, " In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him".