

Words of Truth

Exposing Islam/ Muslims (Part 5)

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In four articles, we have already destroyed the false conclusions of Islam through the real Scriptures. There are more things I would like for us to know about and expose concerning Muslims. For one, I'd like to expose the Muslim view of Mecca. We will do that in this article.

There are five main points of Islam called the "Five Pillars Of Islam" (<http://www.islam-guide.com/ch3-16.htm>). They must confess Allah as the one God, pray five times per day facing Mecca, support the needy, fast during the month of Ramadan, and the once in a lifetime "pilgrimage" to Mecca. These are the core beliefs of Islamic fundamentalists. You'll notice that two of those five pillars surround the city of Mecca. So, let's find out why Mecca is so important and reveal their errors in the doctrine they propose on this matter.

The Islamic Holy City Called Mecca

The Quran says: "We have seen the turning of thy face to heaven (for guidance, O Muhammad). And now verily We shall make thee turn (in prayer) toward a qiblah [*This place is the "sacred mosque" in Mecca*; <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/485731/qiblah> - B.A.Y.] which is dear to thee. So turn thy face toward the Inviolable Place of Worship, and ye (O Muslims), wheresoever ye may be, turn your faces (when ye pray) toward it. Lo! Those who have received the Scripture know that (this revelation) is the Truth from their Lord. And Allah is not unaware of what they do... Perform the pilgrimage and the visit (to Mecca) for Allah. And if ye are prevented, then send such gifts as can be obtained with ease, and shave not your heads until the gifts have reached their destination. And whoever among you is sick or hath an ailment of the head must pay a ransom of fasting or almsgiving or offering. And if ye are in safety, then whosoever contenteth himself with the visit for the pilgrimage (shall give) such gifts as can be had with ease. And whosoever cannot find (such gifts), then a fast of three days while on the pilgrimage, and of seven when ye have returned; that is, ten in all. That is for him whoso folk are not present at the Inviolable Place of Worship. Observe your duty to Allah, and know that Allah is severe in punishment" (Quran 2:144; 196).

The real significance of Mecca was established because their false prophet was born there. Notice: "Muhammad was born in Mecca in 570, and thus Islam has been inextricably linked with the city ever since" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecca>). Another website declares: "The performance of Hajj (Pilgrimage) is incumbent on all Muslims, at least once in a life-time, if the circumstances permit. Hajj is obligatory only when an individual is in a position, both physically and materially, to undertake the journey to Mecca, and to make sufficient provision for their dependents during the period of their absence" (<http://home.pacific.net.sg/~makhdoom/pilgrim.html>).

Are Prayers To God Offered Facing Mecca Or Any Other Place On Earth?

Under the Law of Moses Jerusalem was established as the place where God's temple was to be built and His people were expected to worship there (I Kings 3:1, II Kings 21:4, and Psalms 68:29). Today, God's people are no longer under the Law of Moses (Matthew 5:17-18, Romans 7:1-6, Ephesians 2:11-17, Colossians 2:12-17, and Hebrews 9:15-17).

Under the Law of Christ, the physical location of Jerusalem no longer serves as the place of worship for God's people. Notice what Jesus said: *"The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth"* (John 4:19-24). Our worship today does not depend on a physical location. Our worship today is about our spiritual relationship with the Father (Philippians 3:3).

God's people are instructed in this manner: *"I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting"* (I Timothy 2:8). No Scripture says we are to pray everywhere, as long as we face towards Mecca. There is no place on earth of significance when it comes to our prayers or worship to God. Such can be seen by the many places and locations where service and worship to God was offered in the first century (Acts 2:42-46, Acts 20:6-7, Philemon v.2, etc.). God's people can assemble together and worship anywhere (provided the location is not one of sin – I Thessalonians 5:22 and I Peter 3:11-12). God's people realize that our relationship with God does not surround a physical location.

Does The Real God Expect Pilgrimages To Any Holy Land Of Today?

The kingdom of the Lord is now a spiritual kingdom that the saved are added to upon conversion into Christ (John 18:36 and Colossians 1:12-13). Jerusalem is a significant term to God's people of today, but only in a heavenly manner. Notice: *"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel"* (Hebrews 12:22-24).

God's people today are by nature pilgrims. We are not citizens of this world (Philippians 3:20-21). Our journey is spiritual and we are constantly engaged in that pilgrimage if we are faithful to the Lord (I Peter 2:9-12). Mecca means nothing to God's real people.

Conclusion

Our journey and prayers are toward Heaven, where our Father is (Matthew 6:9, Matthew 23:9, Acts 7:47-50, Acts 17:23-24, I Corinthians 8:5-6, Colossians 1:5, and I Peter 1:3-9). Sadly, the focus of Islam is on the temporary, rather than eternal (II Peter 3:10-14; cf. II Corinthians 4:11-5:1). Our next article will finish our series of articles on Islam, by exposing their errors about Abraham and his son Ishmael.