

Understanding World Religions

A hand holding a small globe of the Earth, with the text 'Understanding World Religions' overlaid. The globe shows the Americas, with 'SOUTH AMERICA' and 'BRAZIL' visible. The hand is positioned in the lower center, holding the globe from below. The background is plain white.

2020

**This Power Point PDF is
sequenced with written
notes.**

Dr. Stan Fleming

A world map is centered on the slide, rendered in a light blue color. The background of the slide is a vertical rainbow gradient, transitioning from red at the top to blue at the bottom. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the map.

Lesson One:

**Biblical Christianity
and World View**

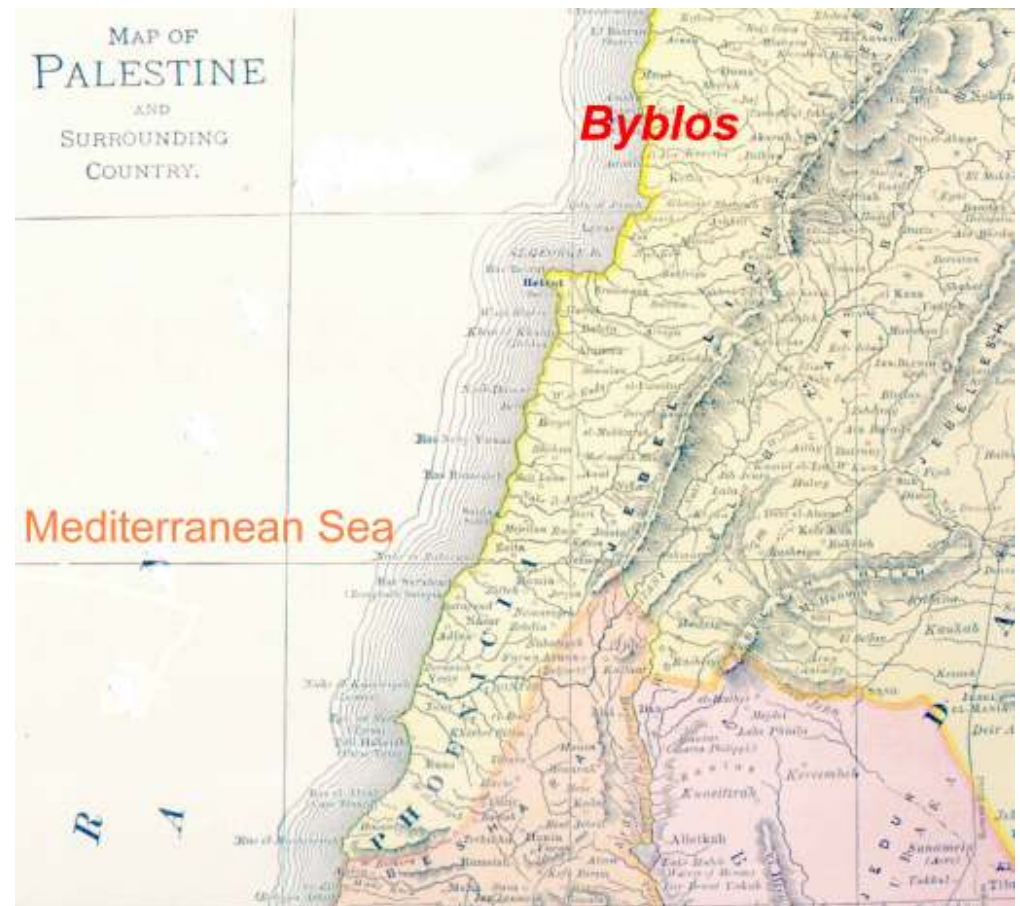
Introduction

The word *Christian/s*

- ◆ **Acts 11:26** “*And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.*”
- ◆ **Acts 26:28** [King Agrippa to Paul] “*You almost persuade me to become a Christian.*”
- ◆ **1 Peter 4:16** “*If anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.*”

Origin of the word *biblical*

- ◆ **Byblos** – Ancient Phoenician City.
- ◆ **Biblia** – 1st applied to bible by John Chrysostom

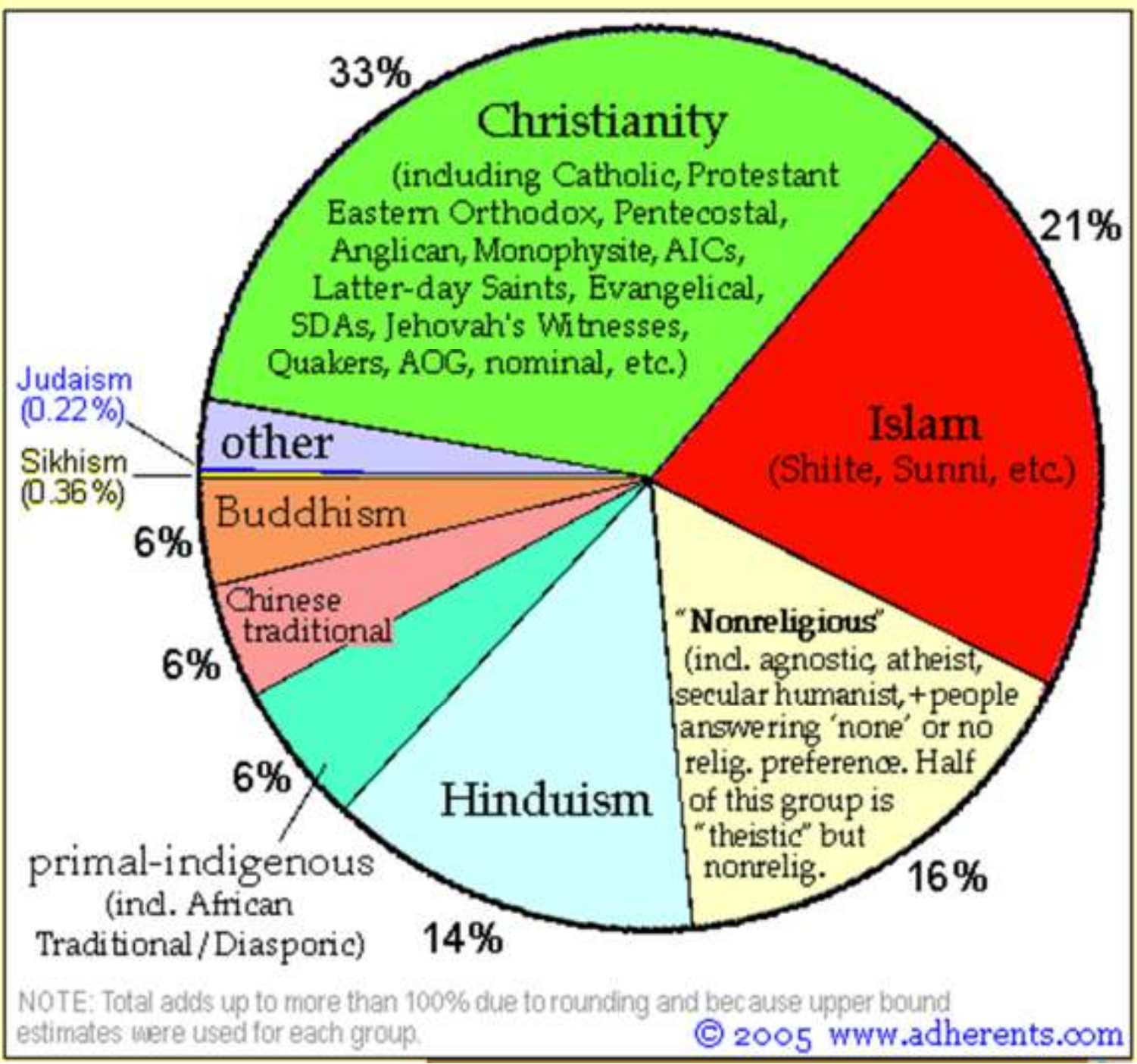


Christianity and World Religions

Sizes of Larger World Religions Current & 2025

Statistics from Status of Global Mission / Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary 2013

➤ Jews =	14.7 mil	15 mil
➤ Sikhs =	25.2	29.5
➤ Atheists =	136 mil	132 mil
➤ Agnostics =	684.2 mil	701 mil
➤ New =	63.4 mil	63.9 mil
➤ Ethnic religionists =	242.7 mil	238.6 mil
➤ Chinese folk religionists =	433.1 mil	418.6 mil
➤ Buddhism =	509.6 mil	561.4 mil
➤ Hinduism =	982.3 mil	1.1 bil
➤ Islam =	1.6 bil	1.9 bil
➤ Christian =	2.3 bil	2.7 bil



Influences of Religious Belief

- ◆ **Thinking / World View**
- ◆ **Rituals / Customs**
- ◆ **Education / Life Goals**
- ◆ **Science / Industry**
- ◆ **Laws / Social Action**
- ◆ **Art / Literature**

Example: Thinking / World View

Temple prostitution: At age 12 Duragamma was wed to the goddess Uligamma, whose spirit entered the girl. She became a Hindu *devadasi* (temple prostitute). Priests or others sleep with her to enjoy or appease the goddess Uligamma.



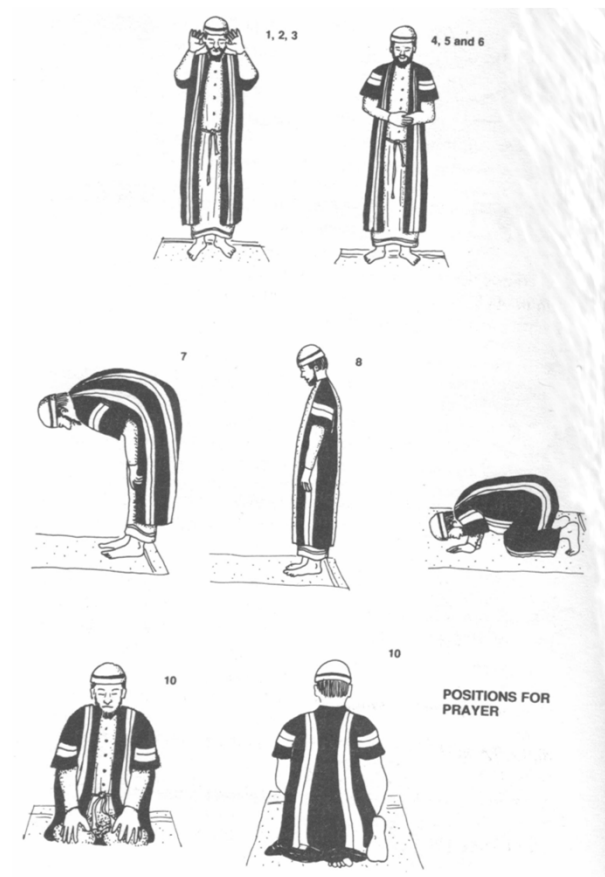
Example: Thinking / World View

Though India has outlawed temple prostitution, still 5,000 to 10,000 girls each year become temple prostitutes. Young devadasis are regarded by some as deities, and then discarded when they grow old.



Example: Rituals / Customs

Muslims pray five times a day symbolizing the steps of Muhammad on the night of his ascent into the seven heavens.



Example: Rituals / Customs

In Japanese Shintoism, people rid themselves of bad fortunes by tying them on trees, thus casting them away.



Example: Education / Life Goals

Postmodernism education teaches extreme tolerance: “The way our children are being taught to believe – says that what every individual believes or says is equally right, equally valid. So not only does every one have an equal right to his beliefs, but all beliefs are equal. All values are equal. All lifestyles are equal. All truth claims are equal.” — *The New Tolerance*, McDowell and Hostetler, 20.

Example: Science / Industry

Evolution is taught as a fact which supports the philosophy of naturalism. Naturalism's worldview (religious in form) is that nature is all there is; God is unimportant. Biologist William Provine put it this way: "No life after death; no ultimate foundation for ethics; no ultimate meaning for life; no free will." —

"Darwinism: Science or Naturalistic Philosophy?" 1994 Stanford debate, quoted in *How Now*, Colson and Pearcey, 92.

Example: Laws / Social Action

Baha'ism has a goal for the unity of all mankind. By unity they mean an international political empire where Baha'ism would be the state religion. Every human would be under the laws of Baha'u'llah, their founder, and under the system of the World Parliament of Baha'ism.

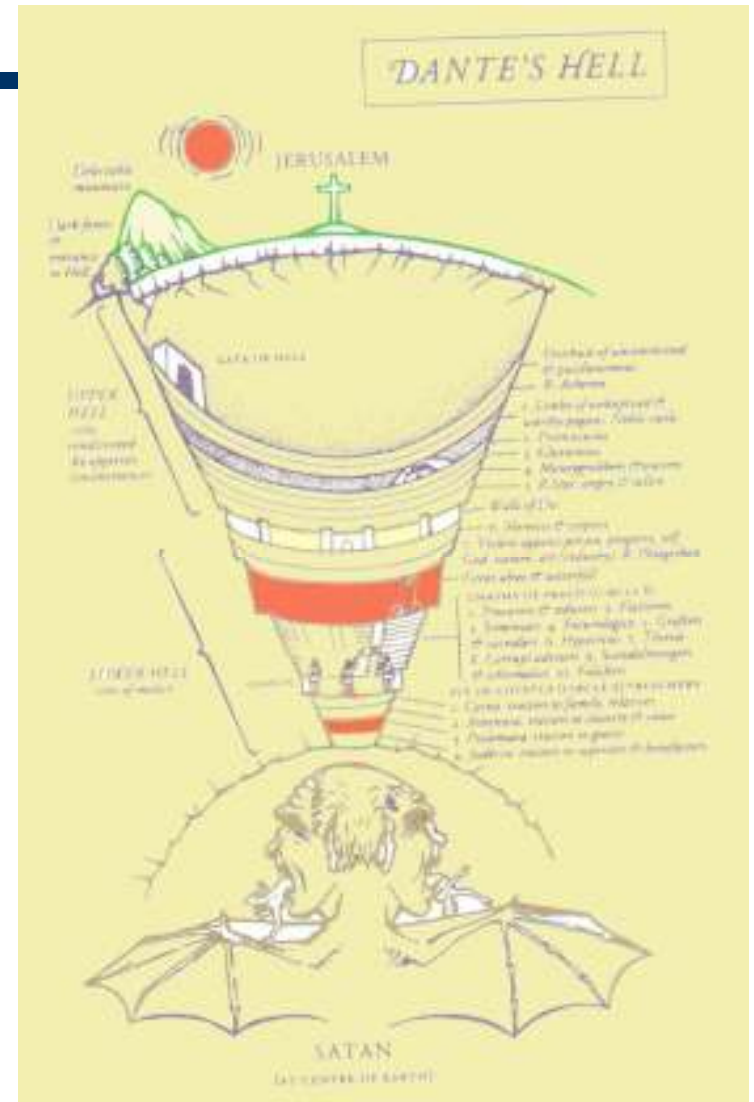
Example: Art / Literature

The Virgin of the Immaculate Conception with Donor, c. 1616, by Francisco Pacheco, in the Seville Cathedral.



Example: Art / Literature

The Divine Comedy
(c 1321) by Dante
takes the reader
through many levels
of hell, purgatory, and
heaven.





Truth Issues

- Basis for morality:**
- Basis for domestic living:**
- Basis for objective outlook:**



Moral Truth Issues



Example: Religions that embrace polygamy in contrast to those that embrace monogamy create different standards of cultural norms for morality which directly impact societal laws and family customs.

Domestic Truth Issues

Example: On the cow holiday (Gopastami), some Hindus wash and decorate cows in the temple. This source of life is honored with offerings in hopes that it will continue to give gifts of life. Killing a cow is equal to killing a Brahman.

Objective Truth Issues

Example: Animism or superstition tricks people's thinking so that they see objects (lucky charms) as having power. They look out for signs of bad luck: black cats running in front, walking under a ladder, broken mirrors, etc.

Essential Christian Doctrines

Christian Impact

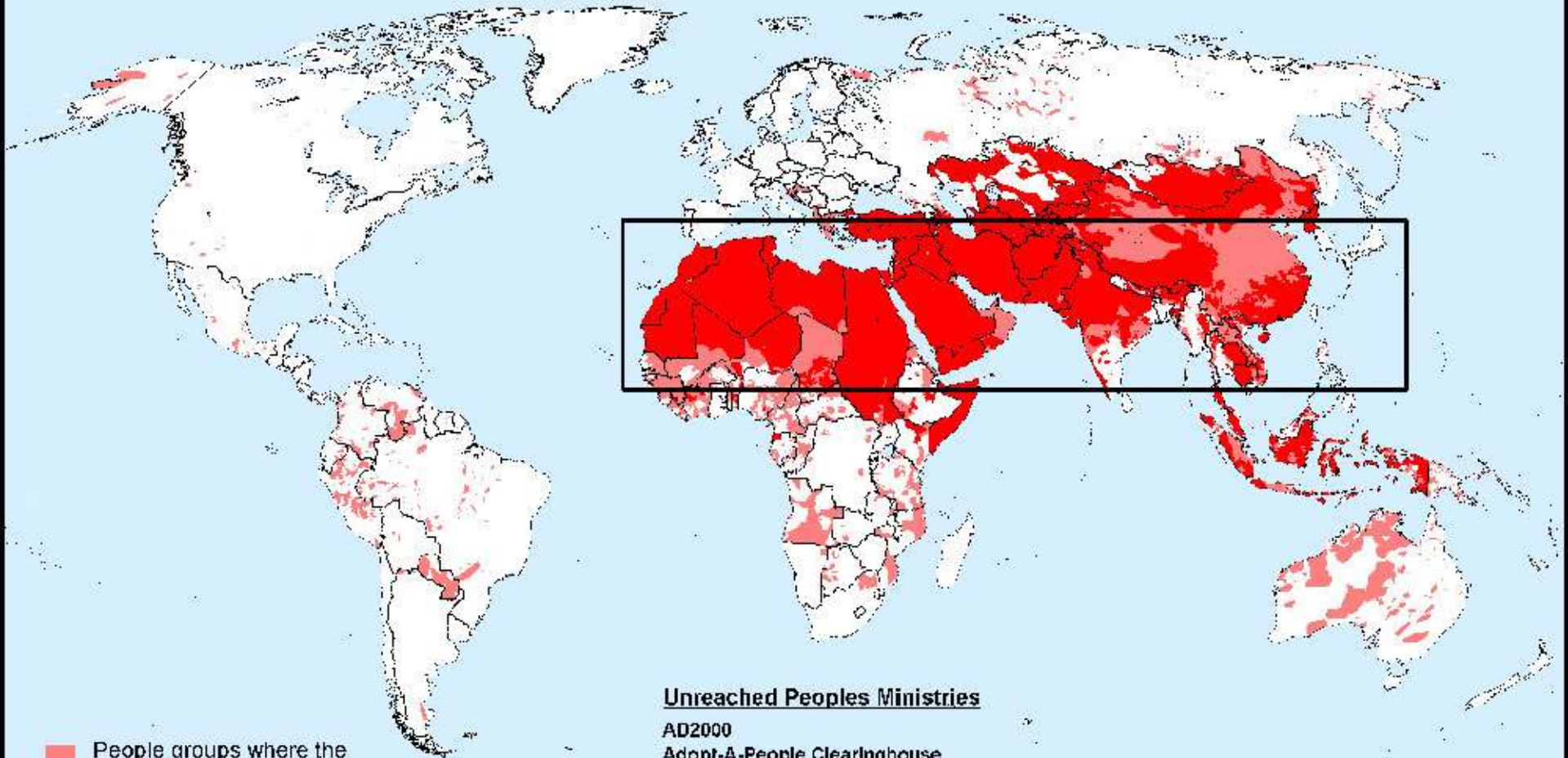
Christian Impact

- ❑ 44,000 denominations
- ❑ 4,629,000 congregations
- ❑ 29,000 Christian service agencies
- ❑ 4,900 foreign-mission sending agencies
- ❑ 2.1 billion listeners / viewers per month to broadcasting
- ❑ 168 billion evangelization hours / year
- ❑ 100,000 Christian martyrs / year
- ❑ 306 million evangelicals
- ❑ 628 million Pentecostal / Charismatic
- ❑ 702 million Great Commission Christians

Statistics from Status of Global Mission / Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary 2013

Religious Impact

First Frontier: Evangelizing the Disoriented



Unreached Peoples Ministries

AD2000

Adopt-A-People Clearinghouse

Caleb Project

Christian Information Network

U.S. Center for World Mission

These and other Unreached Peoples resources listed on Global Mapping's website at <www.gmi.org>

Data from Integrated Strategic Planning Database (Southern Baptist Convention International Mission Board)
 People group locations from World Language Mapping System
 Map by Global Mapping International, 1/19/03-3/09

A world map is centered on the slide, rendered in a light blue color. The background of the slide is a vertical rainbow gradient, transitioning from red at the top to blue at the bottom. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the map.

Lesson Two:

The Authenticity of the Bible

Why is the Bible so Unique?

The Bible tells us to Regard it:

- A. As **inspired** by God.
- B. As **given** by the Holy Spirit.
- C. As the **eternal** Word of God.
- D. As the **completed** Word of God.
- E. As intricately tied with the **name** of the Lord God Himself.

Why is Faith Necessary?

How Accurate is the Bible?

Defending Against Contradictions

How Judas Died

Matthew 27:5

Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Acts 1:18

(Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out . . .

The Damascus Road Encounter

Acts 9:7-8

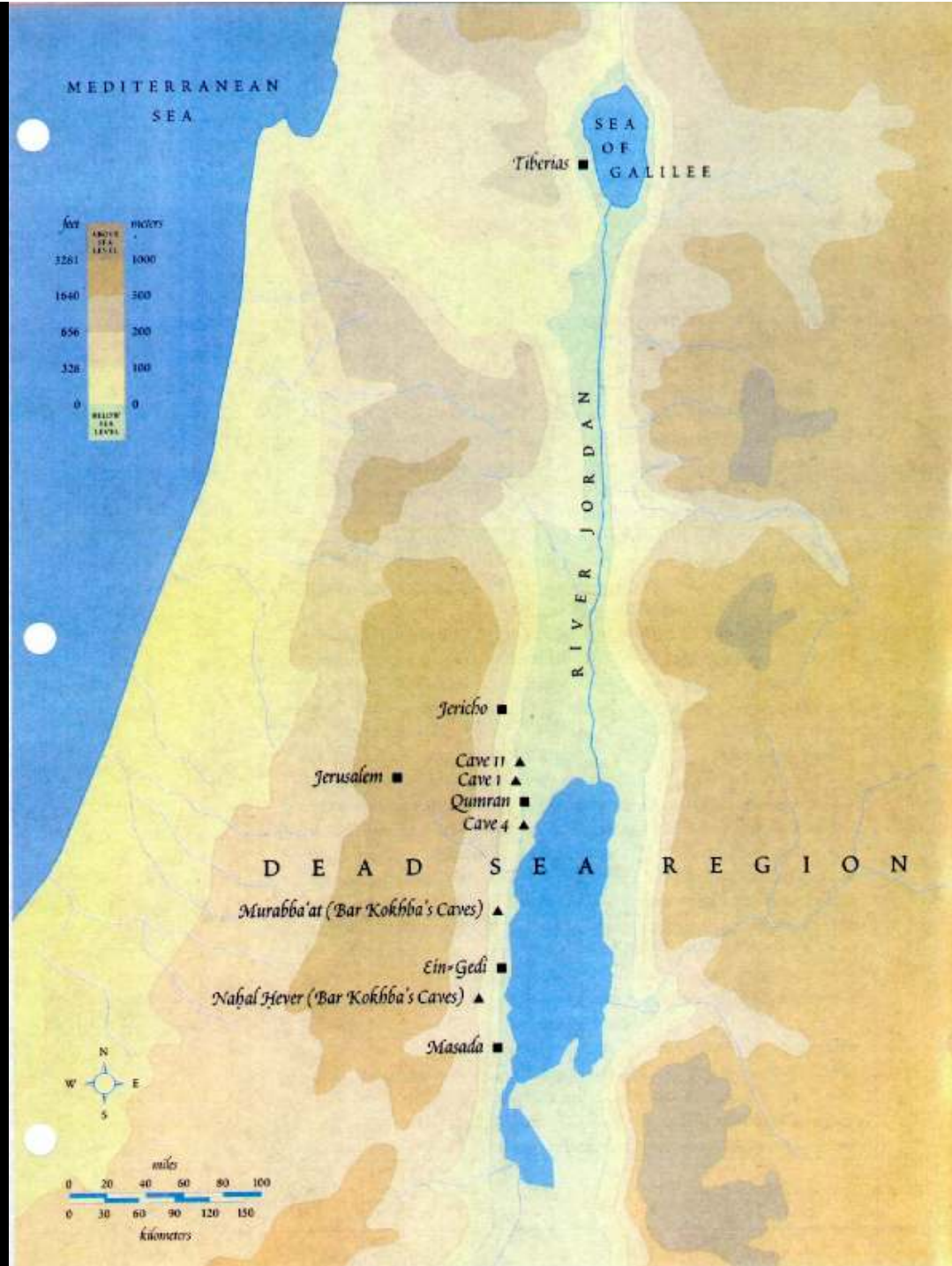
And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.

Acts 22:9-10

And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me.

Evidence of Authenticity of the Old Testament

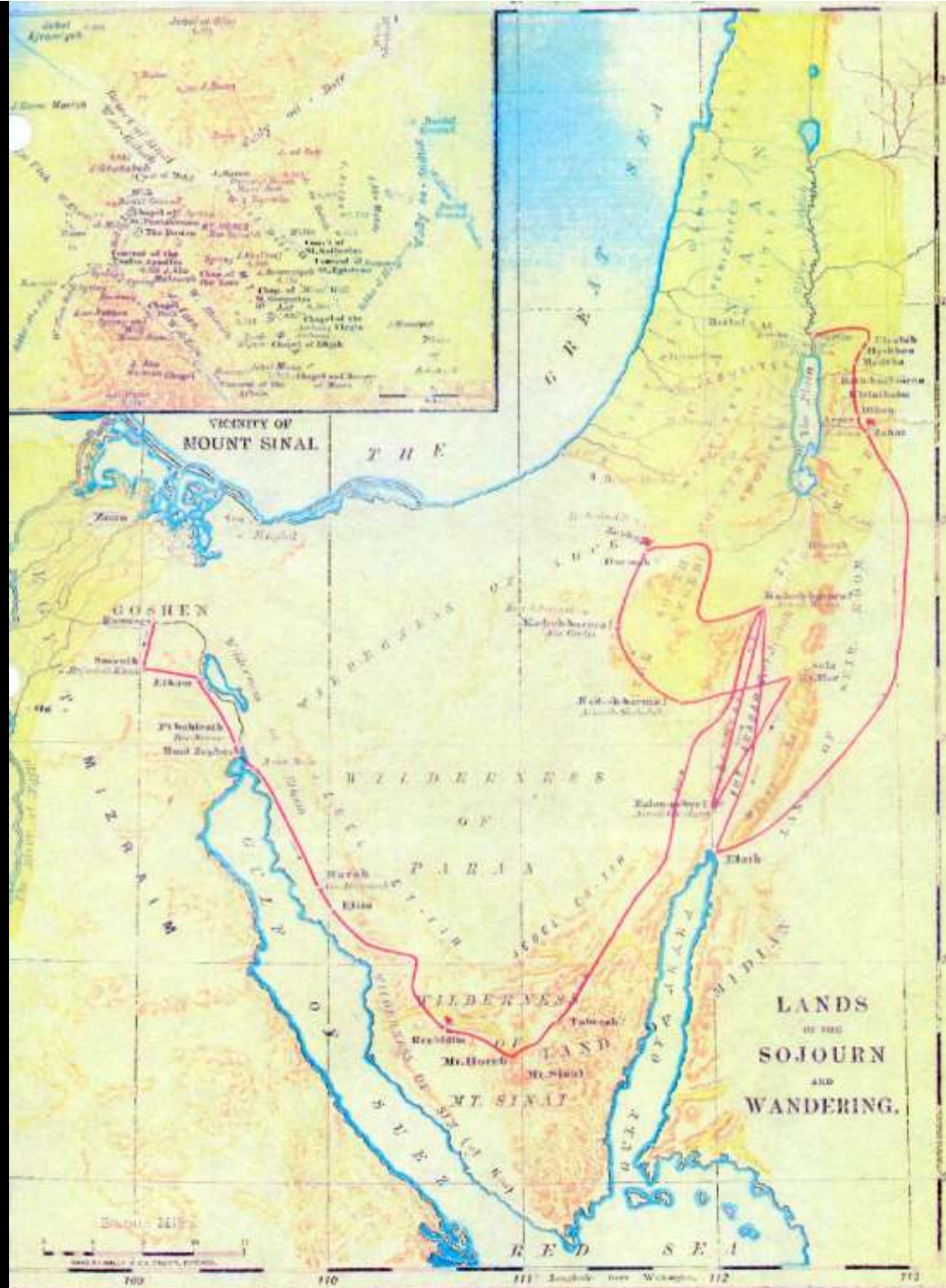
Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls



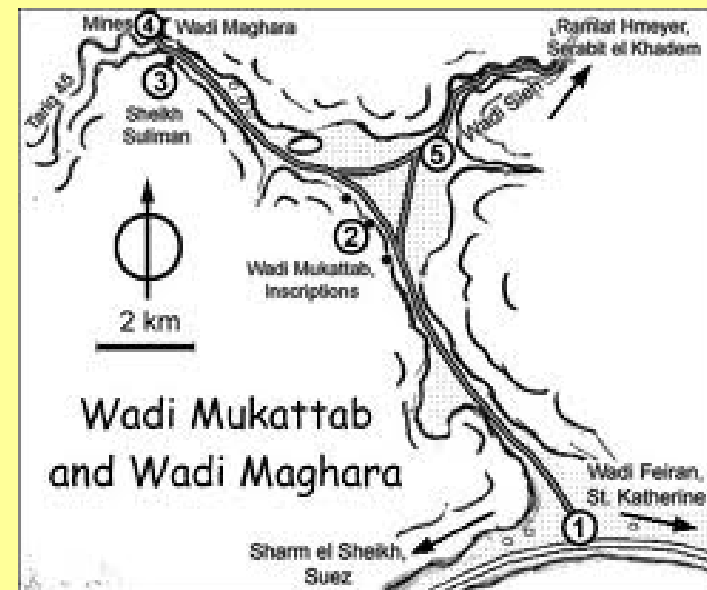
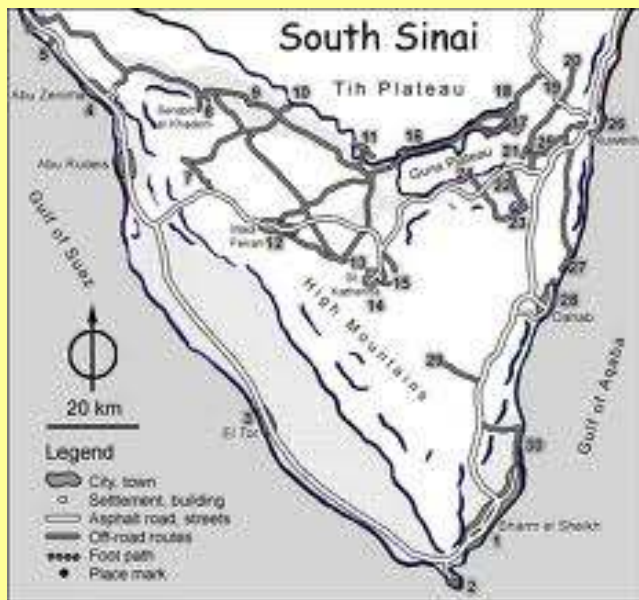
Discovery of Dead Sea Scrolls

- In the mid 1940's a young Bedouin man named Muhammad edh-Dhib ("Muhammad the wolf") was tending goats on the west side of the Dead Sea. While searching for a stray goat, he discovered a small opening down into what appeared to be a cave. He threw stones in to discover if he could hear the goat respond, but what he heard were clay pots cracking. So he climbed into the cave and discovered ancient scrolls.

Moses in the
Wilderness
and inscriptions
on canyon
walls



Wadi Mukattab in Southern Sinai



Ancient Inscriptions on Canyon Walls



The inscriptions describe such things as the Red Sea crossing, murmuring against Moses, miraculous provision of water, plague of fiery serpents, etc.

- “We know these inscriptions are truly ancient because they were first recorded by the historian Diodorus Siculus before the birth of Christ (10 B.C) in his *Library of History*, who stated ‘an inscription of ancient letters in an unknown tongue’” .
- “A parallel description by the Greek writer Strabo (A.D. 24) in his seventeen volume *Geography* confirm that these passages were so ancient in their own day that the language was unknown to those living at the time of Christ.”

Grant Jeffrey, *The Signature of God*, 48



The Wadi Musa

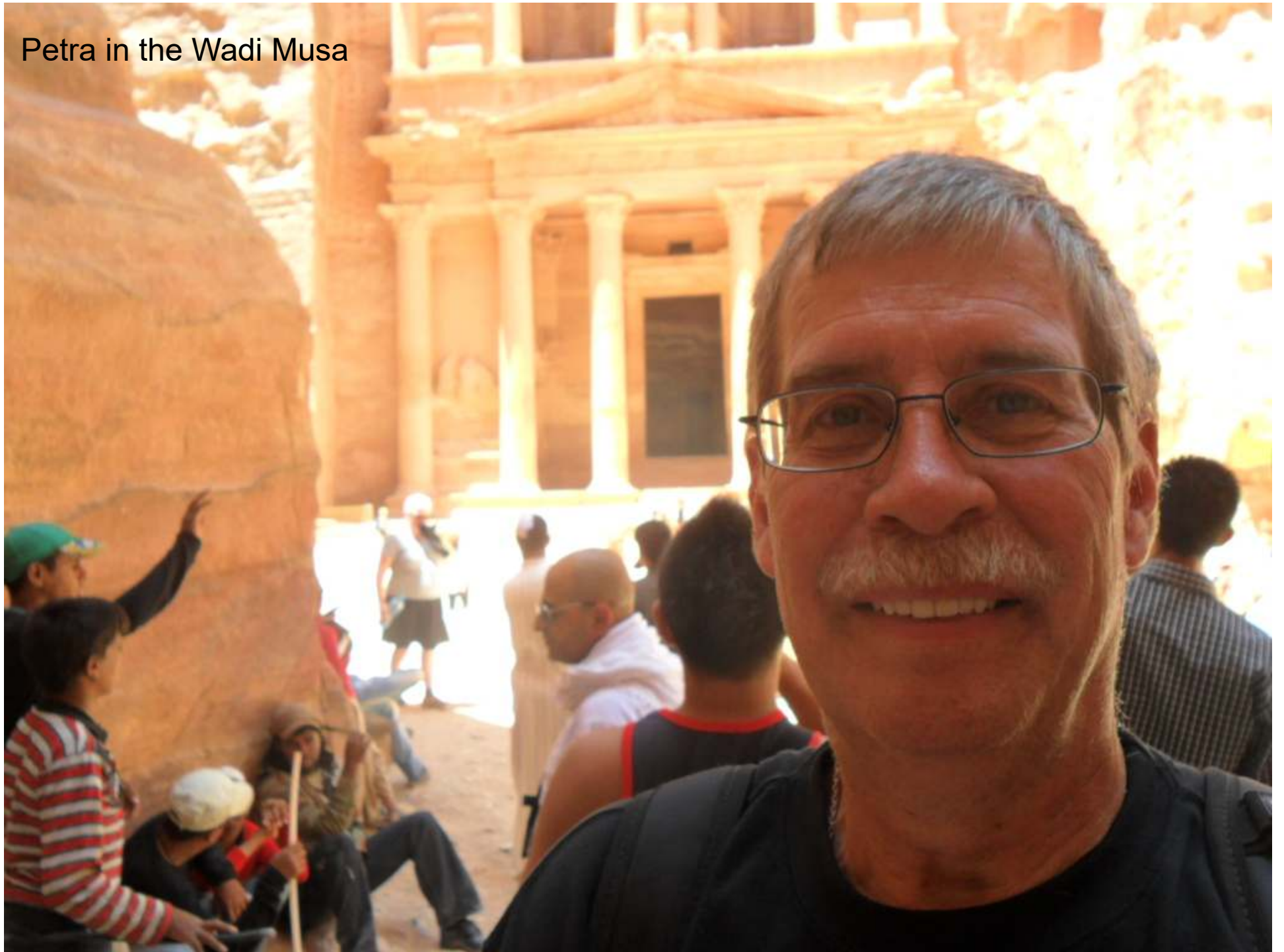
Bab el-Siq

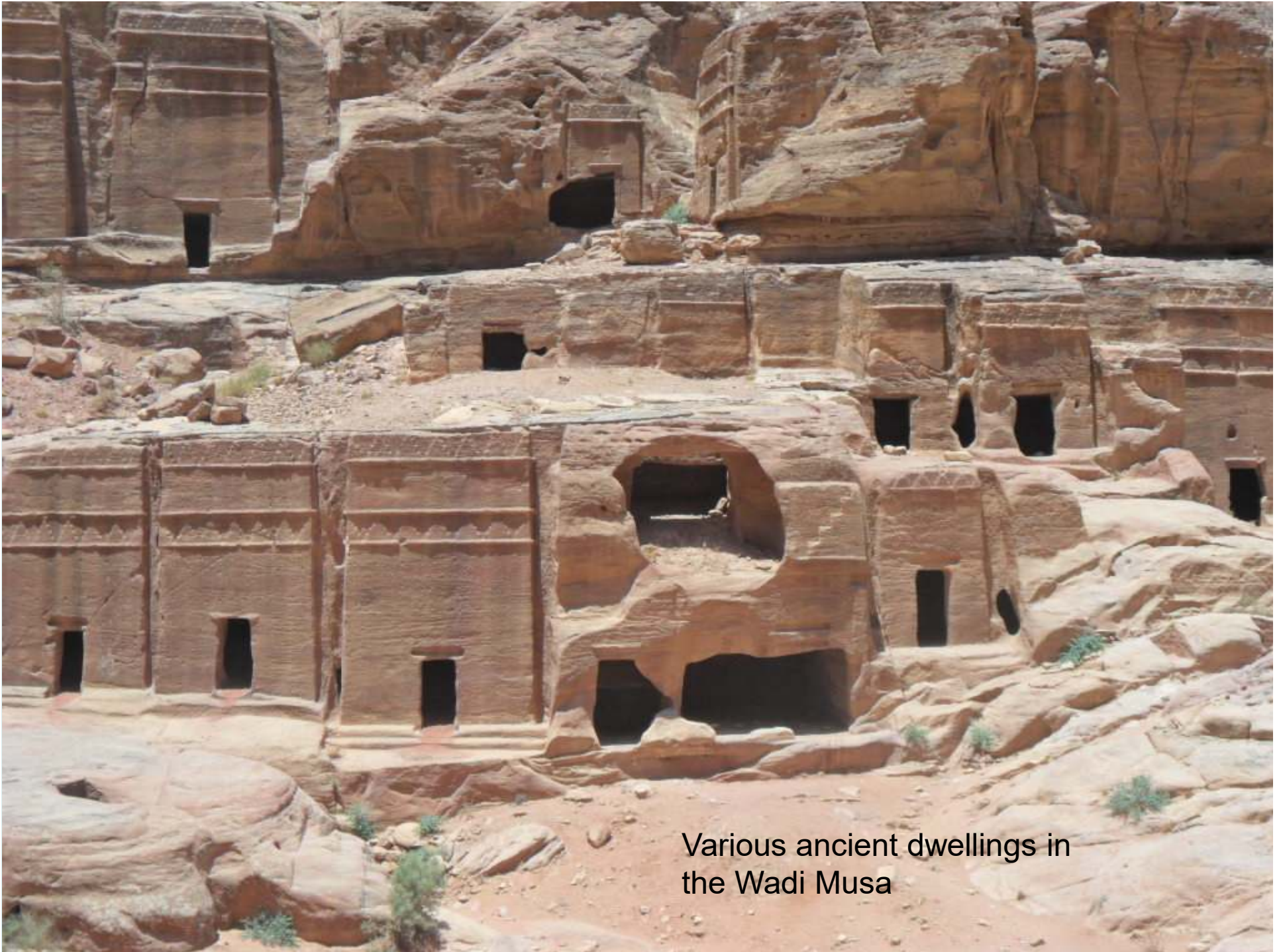
The area before you is known traditionally as Bab el-Siq ('Gate to the Siq' in Arabic), so-named by Petra's Bedouin inhabitants. This area contains several rock-hewn monuments and memorials, including the distinctive tower tombs, known as the Djinn Blocks, the rock-cut funerary complex of the 'Obelisk Tomb' and the 'Bab el-Siq Triclinium.'

This area traces a path that follows the course of the Wadi Musa (in Arabic, 'Valley of Moses'), the meandering riverbed that flows from Ain Musa ('Spring of Moses') into Petra. The Bedouin believe Ain Musa is the spring that gushed forth when Moses smote a rock in Biblical times. The valley was formed as a result of floodwater erosion and the Nabataeans carved water cisterns and channels to divert the water and channel it into Petra for their use. The Bab el-Siq terminates at the start of the chasm of the Siq.

The Wadi Musa

Petra in the Wadi Musa





Various ancient dwellings in the Wadi Musa



حراسة الاراضي المقدسة
الاراضي الرئيسية

جبل نيبو - صياغة
مقام النبي موسى
وقف مسيحي

FRANCISCAN CUSTODY OF THE HOLY LAND
MOUNT NEBO SIYAGHA
MEMORIAL OF MOSES
CHRISTIAN HOLY PLACE



Mount Nebo



Mount Nebo

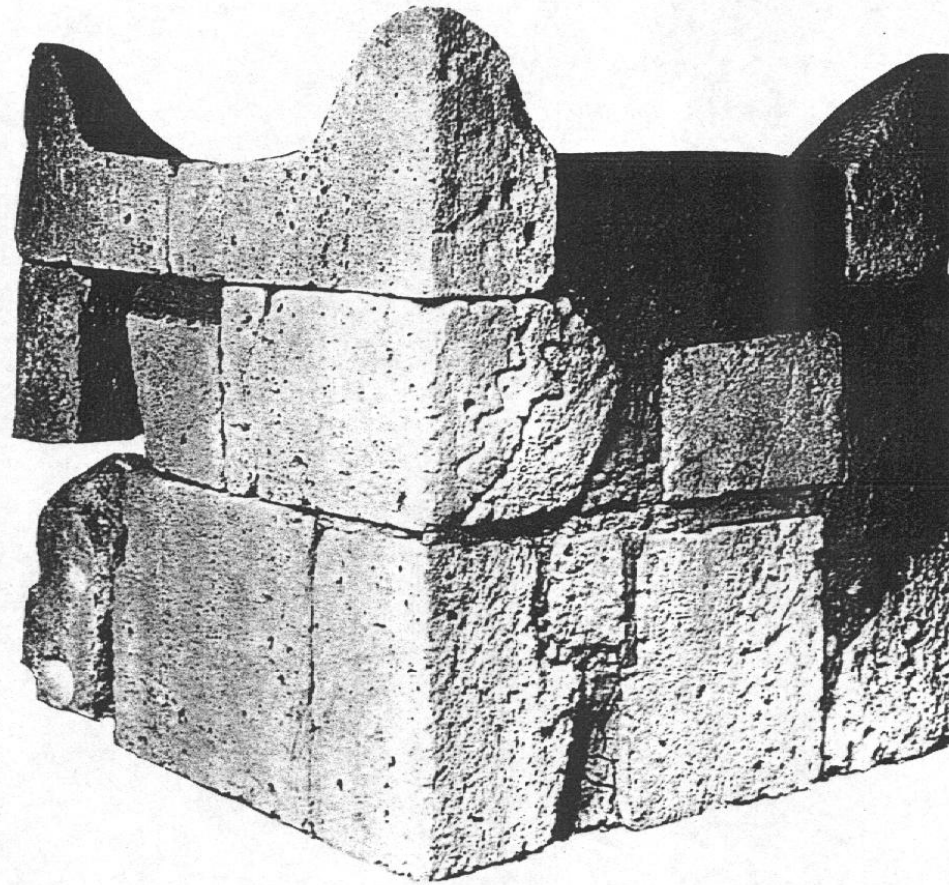


Mount Nebo

View from Mount Nebo over the Jordan Valley



**NUMEROUS ARCHEOLOGICAL
DISCOVERIES**



Horned altar uncovered in the pagan sanctuary of Beersheba.

Amos denounced the high places of Beersheba (Amos 5:5; 8:14).

Biblical tradition stressed the importance of Beersheba from the earliest times.

(Genesis 21:33; 46:1-5)



Ancient epitaph of King Uzziah
found on the Mount of Olives
but far from the royal cemetery
because he died of leprosy.
(2 Chronicles 26:23)



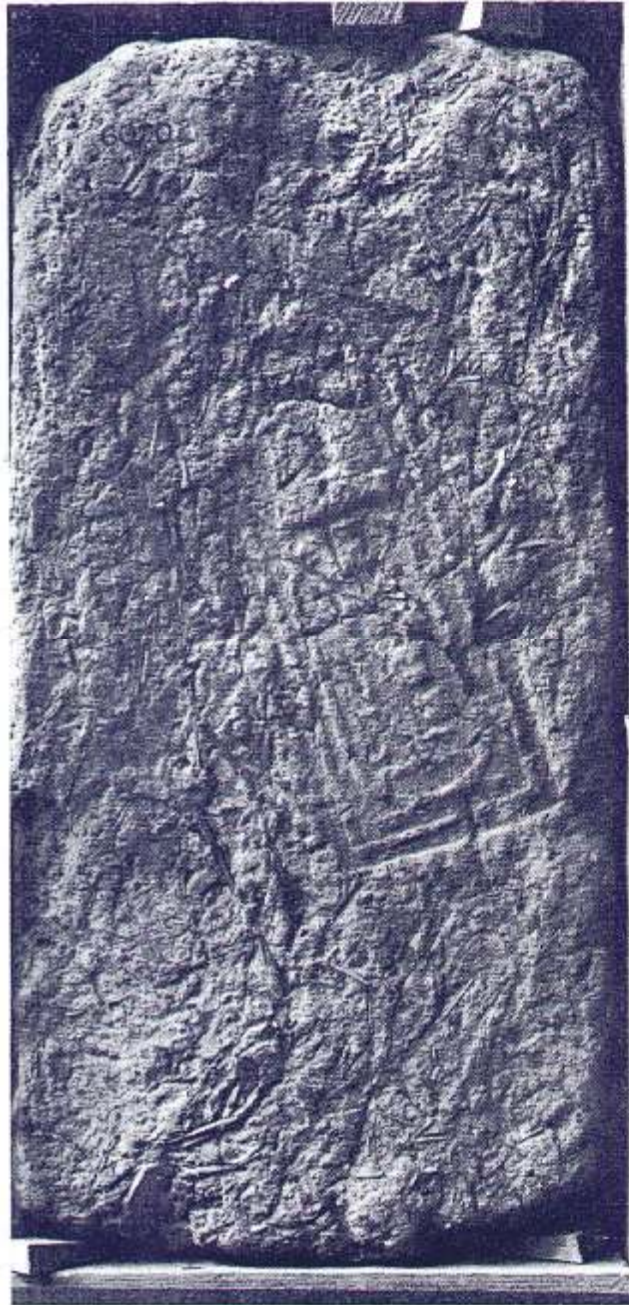
In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia . . . the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing . . . "The LORD the God of Heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah."²⁷ (EZRA 1: 1-2)

Cylinder of Cyrus proclaiming restoration of the temples. 538 B.C. (British Museum)

HOUSE OF DAVID

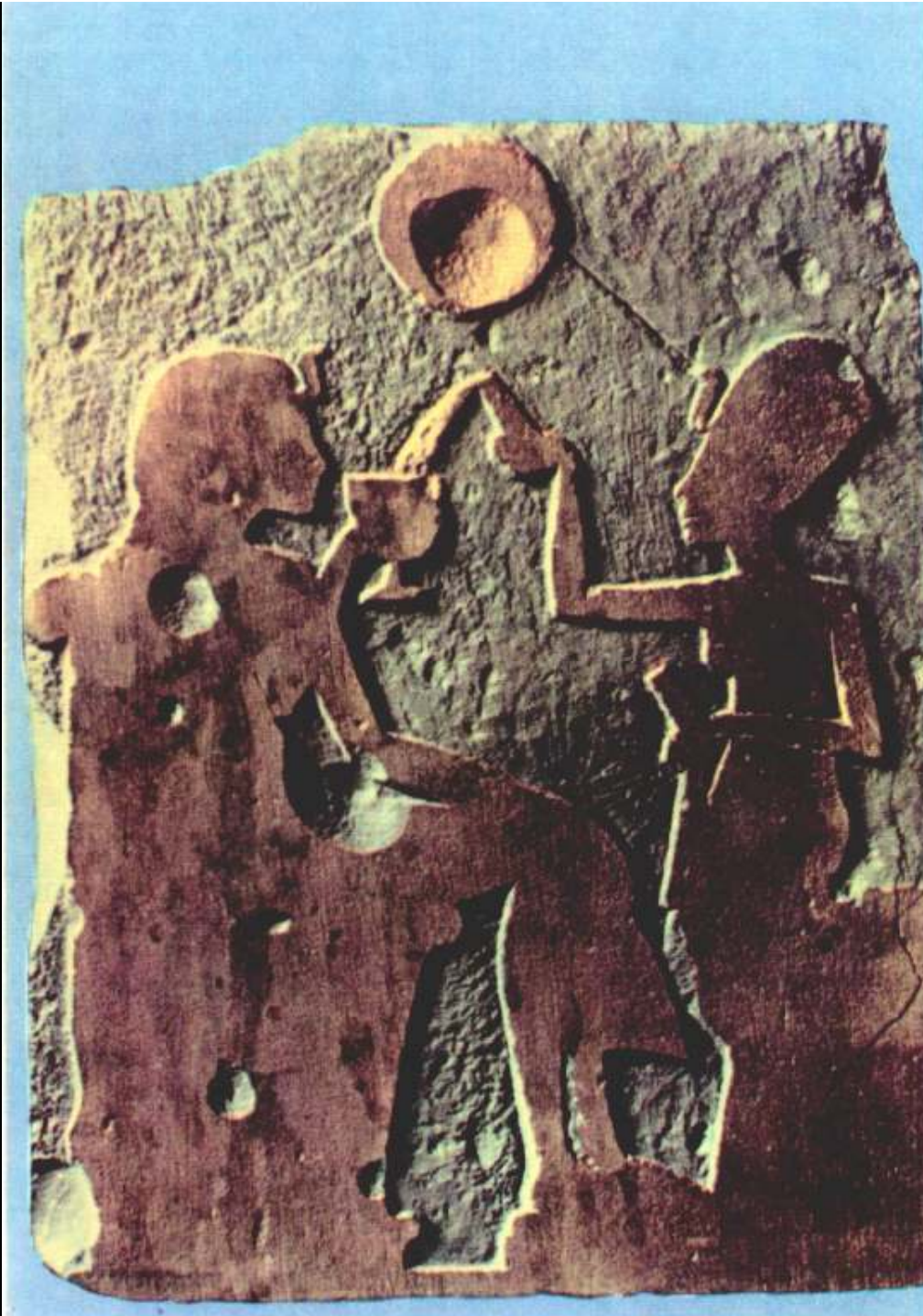
AN ENEMY'S VICTORY
BOAST, INSCRIBED IN
STONE, IS THE FIRST
EVIDENCE OUTSIDE THE
BIBLE THAT THERE WAS A
KING NAMED DAVID





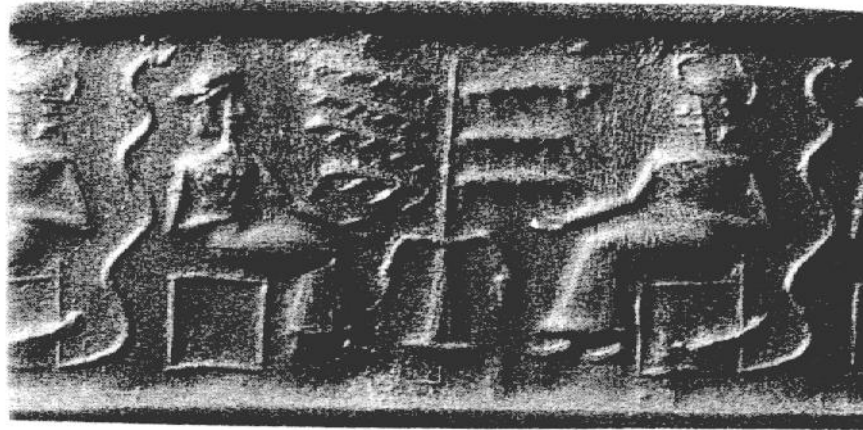
Mud Brick

This Egyptian brick made of chopped straw and mud from the Nile has the name of Rameses II on it. It is dated 1330 BC and may well be one of the bricks that the oppressed Israelites made. (Located in the British Museum)





Babylonian Tablet dating about 650 BC
which contains the account of a great flood
with remarkable similarities to the
Genesis story except from a pagan
perspective using their own heros.



“Temptation Seal”

This cylinder seal currently located in the British Museum originated from the 23rd century B.C. in Mesopotamia. It shows a man and woman seated around a tree, reaching out to the fruit, with a serpent behind one of them. There is a debate as to whether this represents a male deity and woman worshiper, or if is actually symbolic of the garden of Eden with Adam and Eve.

Manuscript Evidence of the New Testament

Evidence of ancient copies of the New Testament



The John Rylands
Fragment
John 18:31-33
(117-138 AD)



Bodmer Papyri
104 leaves of John,
Jude, 1st & 2nd Peter
(200 AD)



Chester Beatty
Papyri – Most of
New Testament
(250 AD)



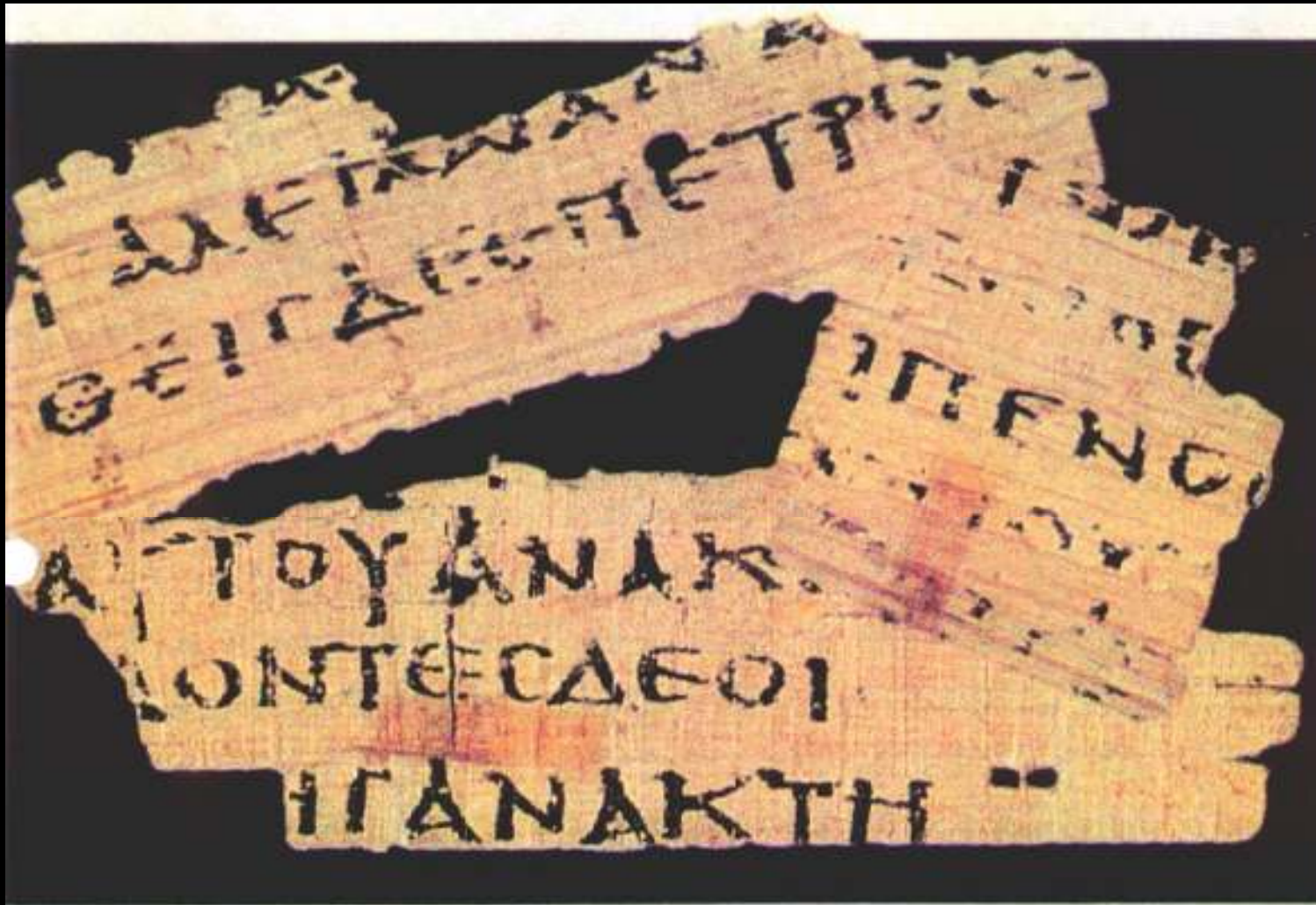
Codex Sinaiticus
Most of New Testament
(340 AD)

Comparison

- **New Testament:** Over 24,000 fragments and complete manuscripts in Greek, Latin, and other languages, dating from the first few centuries.
- **Aristotle:** 49 copies, earliest dating from 1100 AD
- **Caesar:** 10 copies, earliest dating from 900 AD
- **Early Church Fathers writings:** All but eleven verses of N.T.



John chapter one,
dated 100 to 200 AD



THE MAGDALEN FRAGMENTS



Dead Sea Greek Scripture

Dr. Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853)

Professor at Harvard Law School, was an expert on judicial evidence. He was also a unbeliever in Christ. Some students challenged him to study the evidence regarding the resurrection account and apply judicial evidence standards. After his research, he concluded that there is more evidence for the historical fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ than for just about any other event in history.

<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/jesus/greenleaf.html>

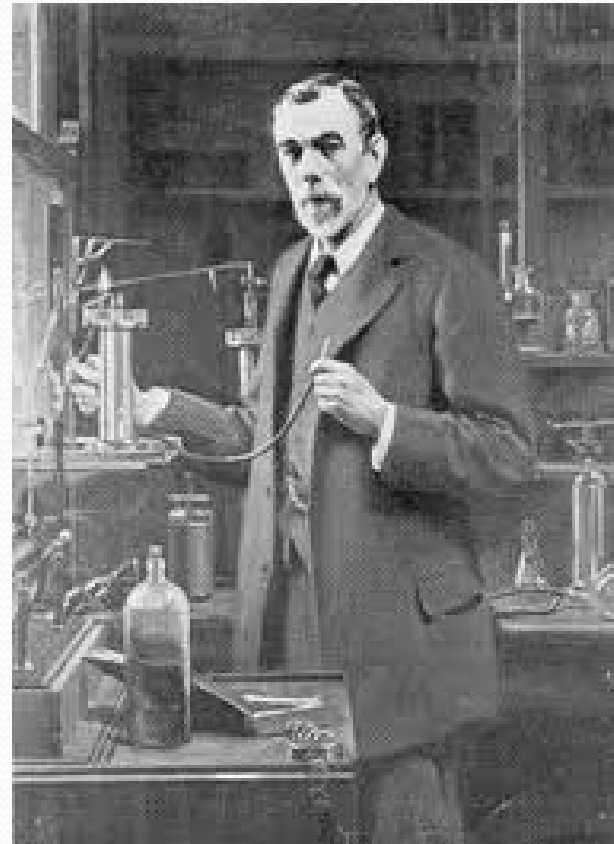


Dr. Simon Greeleaf

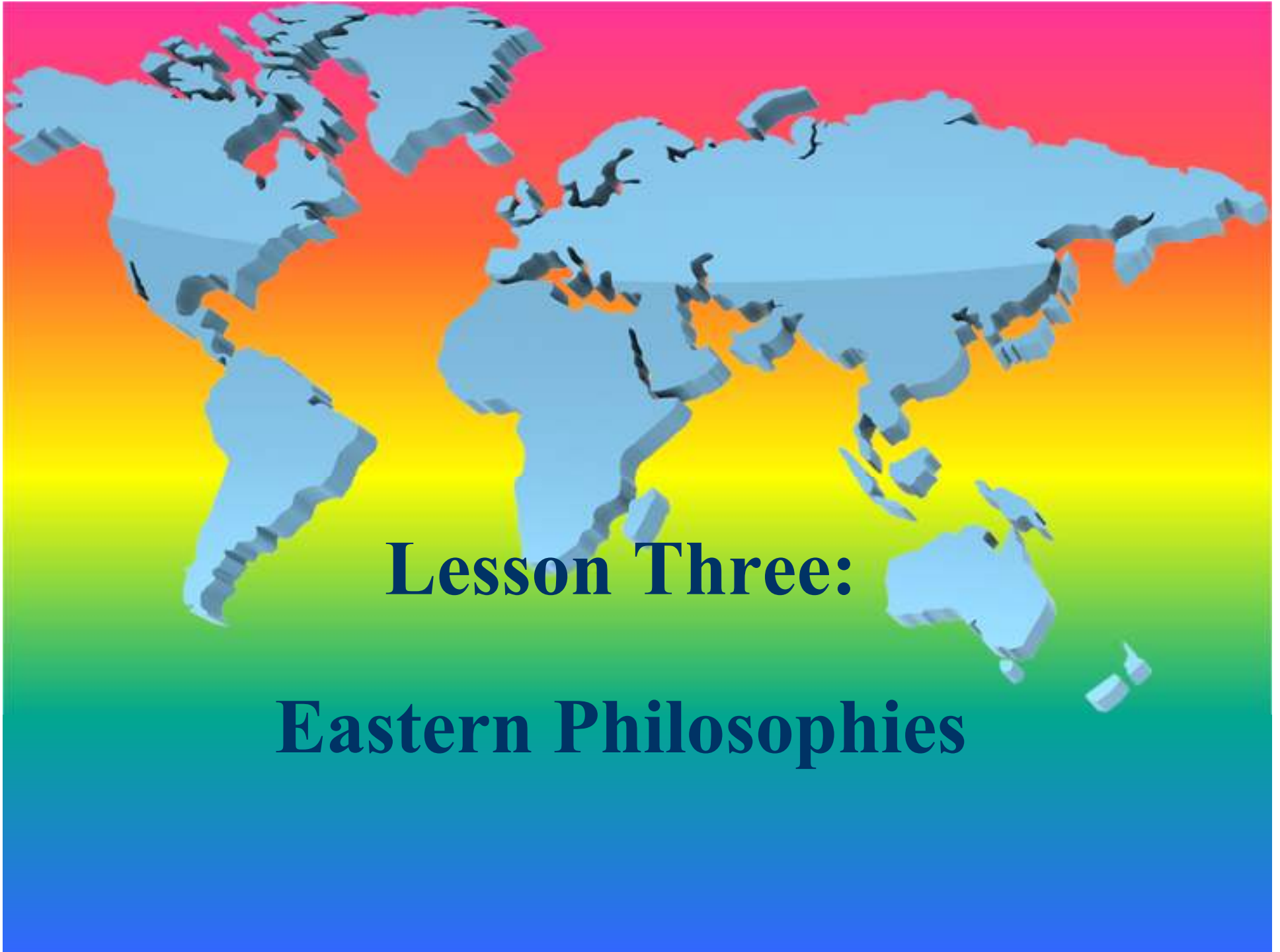
Sir William Ramsay (1851 – 1939)

The eminent British archaeologist, raised an atheist, who set out to disprove the Bible. After years of study in the middle east, he concluded that the Bible was authentic and accurate. He became a Christian which shocked his colleagues.

http://www.conservapedia.com/William_Mitchell_Ramsay



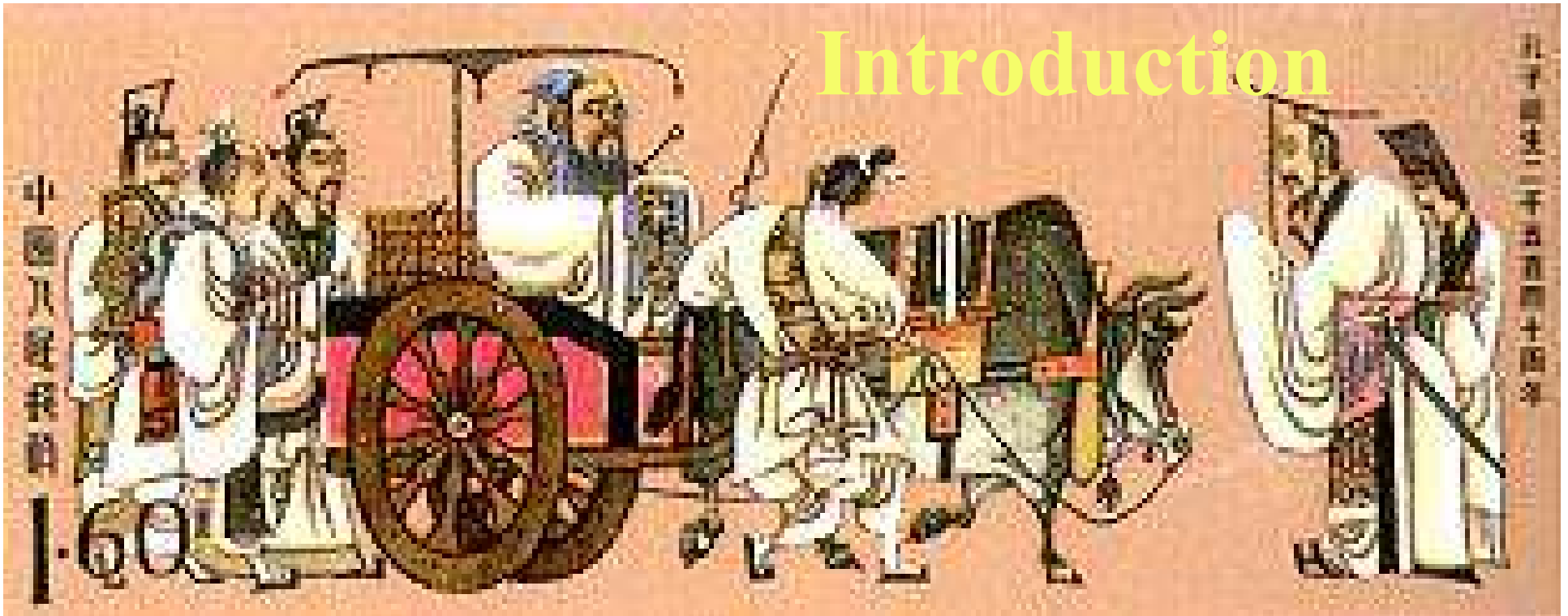




Lesson Three:

Eastern Philosophies

Introduction



The common people of China have traditionally held these three lineages of teachings: the **Confucian** system of ethics for public life; the **Taoist** system of rituals and attitudes towards nature; and the **Buddhist** system of salvation concerning the afterlife.

Confucius: Life & Times

1. China deteriorated from “The Ritual-Music Culture”.
2. K’ung Fu-tzu (Grand Master King). Confucius is the Latin version.

Moral responsibility.



A large, jagged iceberg floats in the ocean under a cloudy sky. The iceberg is the central focus, with a smaller, smoother iceberg in the foreground. The water is dark blue, and the sky is filled with soft, grey clouds.

Confucius say:

*Real knowledge is to know the
extent of one's ignorance.*



Confucius say:

*Our greatest glory is not
in never falling but in
rising every time we fall.*

A black and white photograph of a stone bridge over a river in a forest. The bridge has a central arch and two smaller side arches. The river is calm, reflecting the bridge and the surrounding trees. In the background, a large, prominent rock formation, likely Half Dome, rises above the forest. The sky is clear and light.

Confucius say:

Wheresoever you go, go with all your heart.

Confucius: Life & Times

3. Meng-tzu (Mencius) became a devout follower of Confucianism and was second only to Confucius in his teaching impact.

Heart-Mind Nature.

Meng-tzu



心 性

“Heart-Mind Nature”

Water flows downhill naturally, but it can be forced uphill or splashed on one's head as a result of external pressure. In the same way, man's nature is basically good but can be forced into being bad by external pressure. – Meng-tzu

Confucius

C. The reverence of Confucius began in 195 BCE. By 1906 he is considered the Co-assessor with deities in heaven and earth.



Teachings of Confucius

1. Jen.
2. Chun-tzu.
3. Chen-ming.
4. Te.
Virtue.
5. Li.
6. Wen.



Taoism

Lao-tzu was a contemporary of Confucius who saw things differently.

Lao-tzu





圖子老見子孔·托史 元

Shih Kang (Yüan)

There is a legend that Lao-tzu once confronted Confucius about his philosophical views and the impact on China. He thought that these views were responsible for the current chaos and lack of harmony in the country.

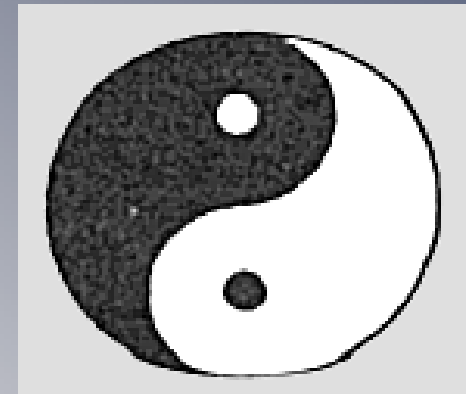
The Question



Whereas a Confucian might ask, “What should I do?” the Taoist would ask, “What **kind of person should I be?**”

Teachings of Taoism

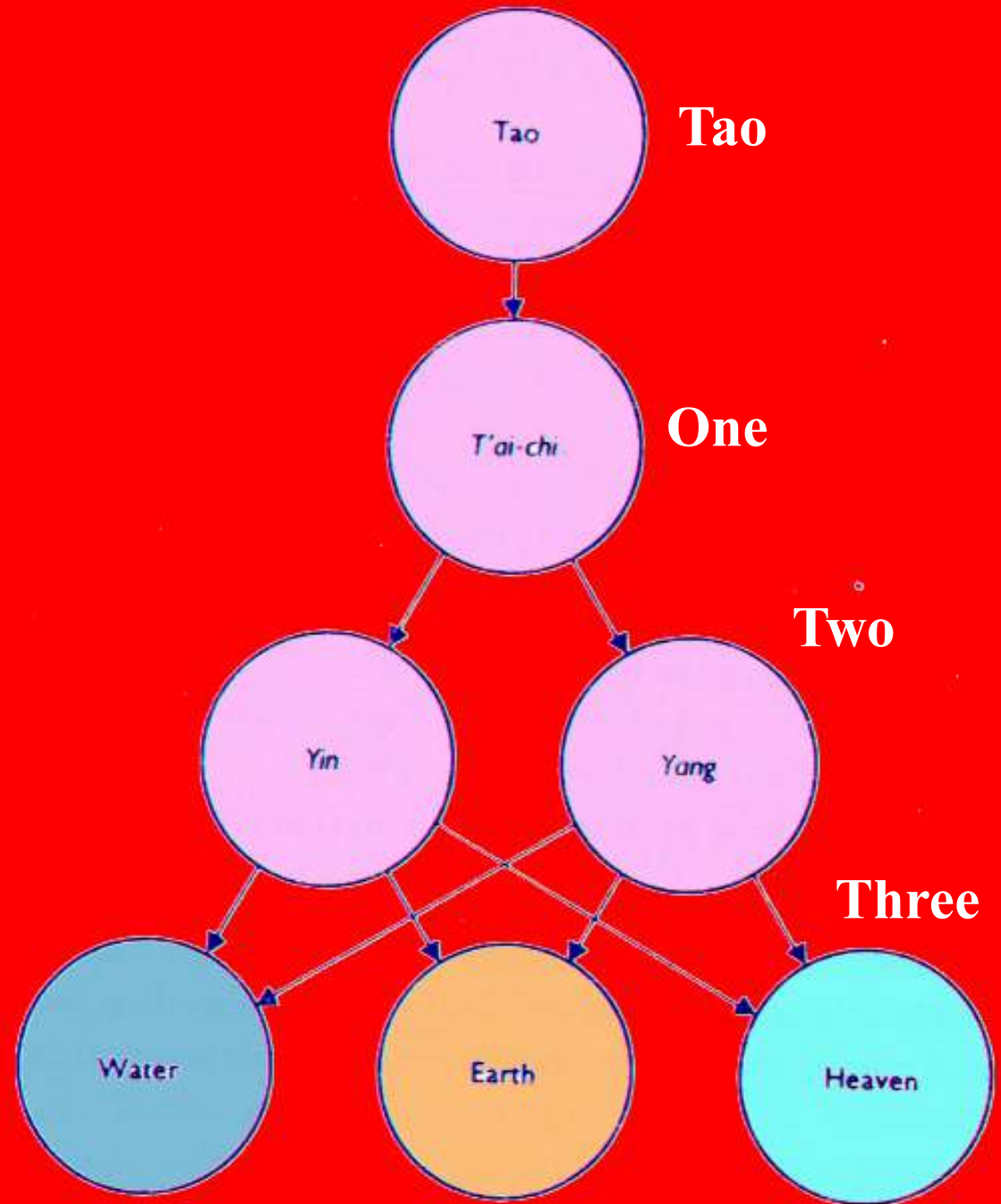
1. **The Tao.**
2. The Te.
3. The Wu-Wei.
4. The Yin Yang.
5. The Other teachings.
6. The Five Elements of the Tao.



Ancient Chinese Cosmos

The Tao gives birth to the One; the One gives birth to the Two; The Two give birth to the Three; The Three give birth to the myriad creatures.

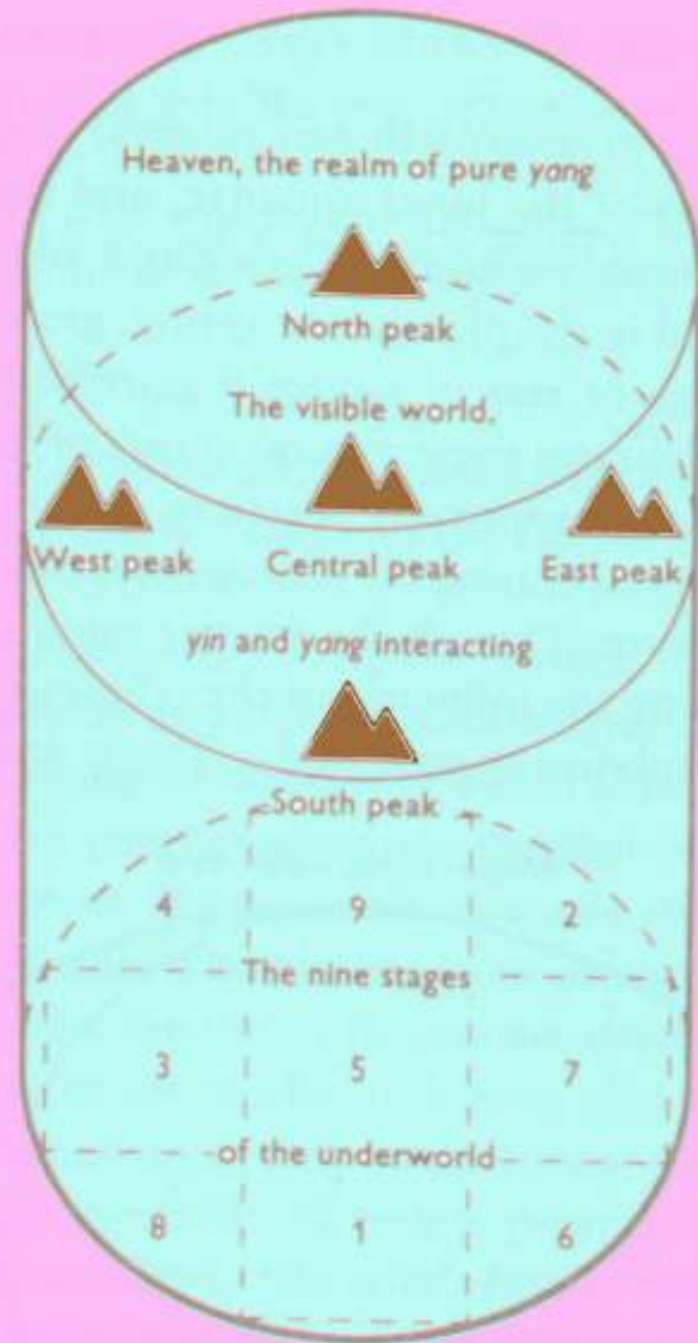
From the *Lao-tzu*, chapter 42.



Spatial Structure

Heaven is pure, separated *yang*; earth is visible world, *yin* and *yang* interacting. The watery or fiery underworld is the realm of pure *yin*, divided into nine sections of the magic square.

John R. Hinnells, editor, *A Handbook of Living Religions* (Middlesex, England: Penguin Books, 1987), 353.



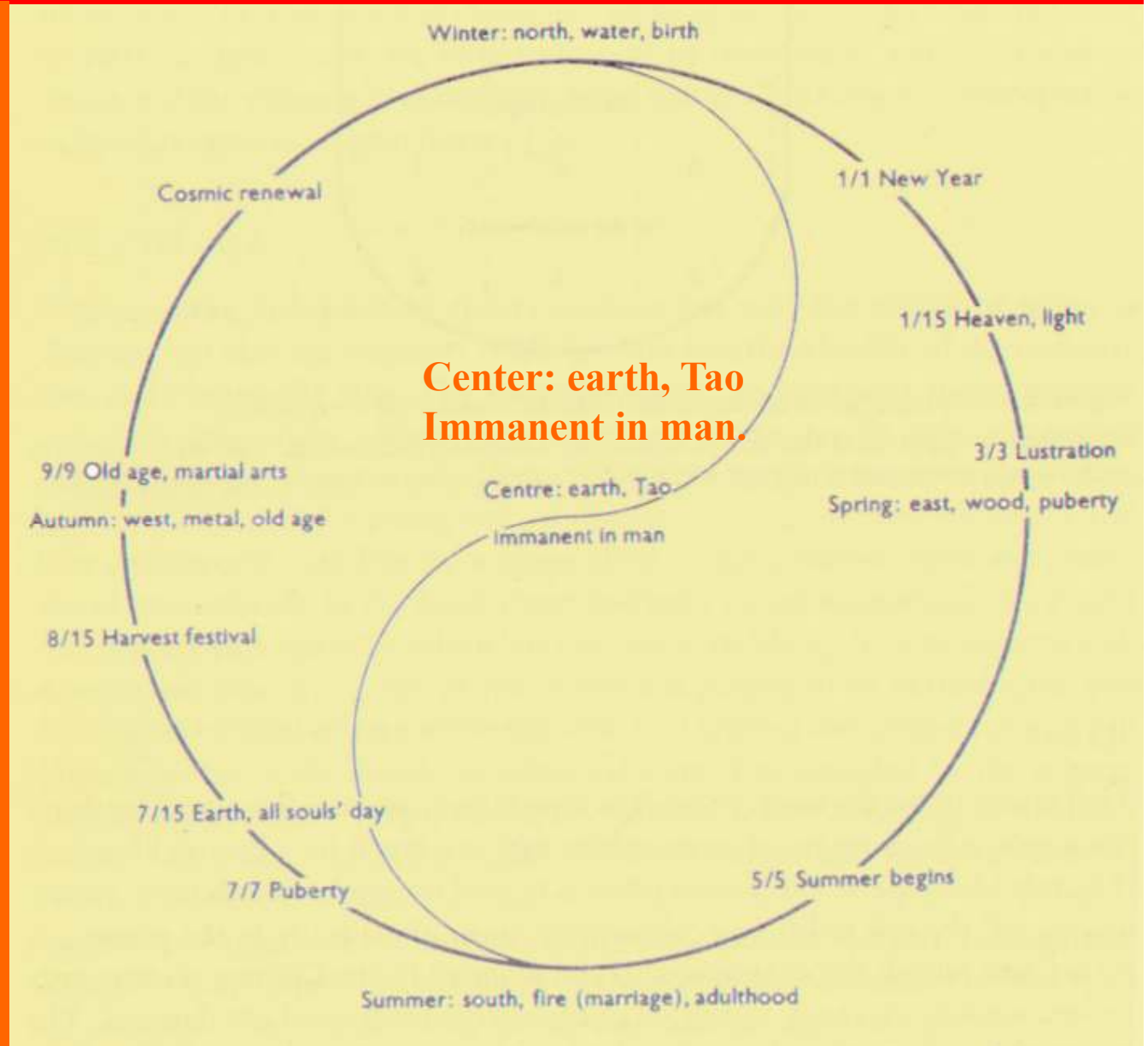
Another View of the Tao Symbol

☯ Winter:
north, water,
birth.

☯ Spring: east,
wood,
puberty.

☯ Summer:
south, fire,
adulthood.

☯ Autumn:
west, metal,
old age.







Lesson Four:
Hinduism

Introduction

India

As of 2011, India had 966 million Hindus, which is 79.8% of the population. Other concentrations of Hindus are in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Indonesia.



Nepal Ritual Cleansing



Nepal is 81% Hindu with 27 million citizens. Each October, on the eighth day of the ten-day Deshain celebration, the goddess Durga is worshipped with animal sacrifices (chickens, ducks, goats, sheep, etc.) for her victory over evil. As with the Old Testament sacrifices, the idea is to rid oneself of sin. “Miracles in the Hindu Kingdom,” *Charisma* (January 2003), 47-55. “Nepal”, Wikipedia.

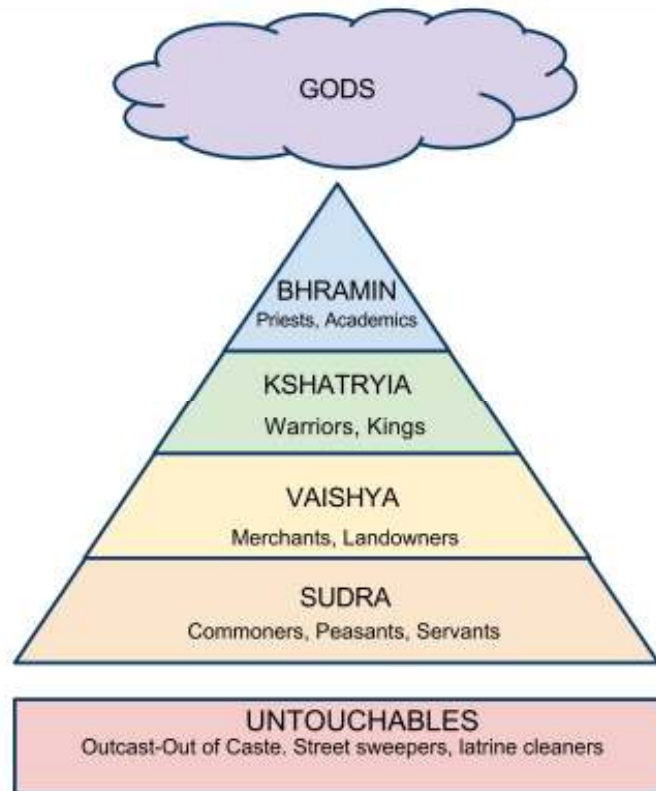
The Four Periods of Hindu History

A. Pre-Vedic Period: (3000-1500 BC).

B. **Vedic Period**: (1500-500 BC).

1. Oral Texts written down.
2. **Emphasis on Polytheism.**
3. Caste System.

Caste System



The Untouchables

They lived away from the other castes and could not drink from the same well, get an education, or read the holy texts. Some were restricted to night movement as they would pollute a higher caste member upon being seen. Their occupations were the dirtiest, their clothing from corpses, and their food eaten in broken dishes. They still suffer discrimination despite India's efforts to integrate them into modern society.

The Oxford Dictionary of World Religions (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997).

The Four Periods of Hindu History (Continued)

C. Upanishadic Period: (700-200 BC).

1. The Upanishadic writings.
2. Emphasis on philosophic monism.
3. Emergence of the guru / disciple relationship.
4. **New Salvation System**

Basic Denominations

There are four basic modern denominations of Hinduism: Vaishnavism, Shaivism, Shaktism, and Smartism. Some say that there are no real denominations. Others add a fifth denomination – the Darshanas.

Denominational gods

- ◆ Vaishnavism ----- **Vishnu (Krishna)**
- ◆ Shaivism ----- **Shiva**
- ◆ Shaktism ----- **Shakti (Shiva's wife)**
- ◆ Smartism ----- **Ganesha, Shiva, Shakti,
Vishnu, Surya, and Skanda**
- ◆ Darshanas ----- **Philosophical branches**

What happened to Brahma?

Brahma the creator is one of the least worshipped deities in Hinduism today. Why? One myth says that he fell into disfavor after he created the beautiful Shatarupa and lusted after her. Shiva put a curse on him saying that people should not worship him. Another myth says that his job of creation is over and it is left to Vishnu to preserve and Shiva to bring reincarnation.

- www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/deities/brama.shtml

Monotheistic????

Hindus often say that they are monotheistic which is contradictory to the western mind set because of their religion's 330 million deities. To them, the important deities are manifestations of one supreme god and there are many sub deities. This merges polytheistic and monotheistic concepts in a unique situation so that Hindus pray to whatever form of the divine that they want.

- huffingtonpost.com/ramdas-lamb/polytheism-and-monotheism_b_841905.html

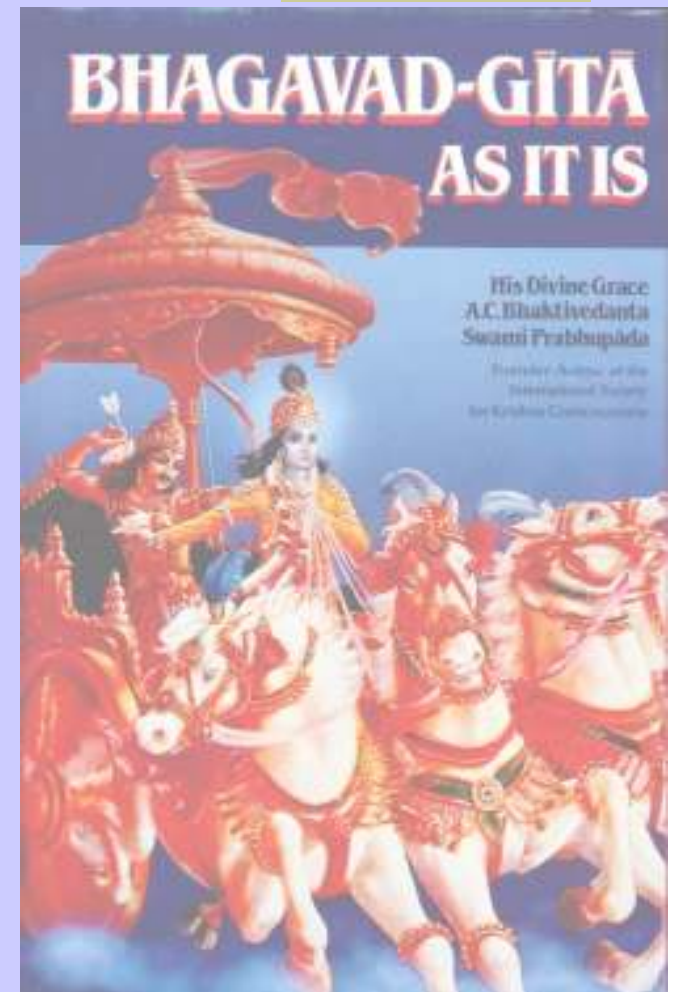
The Four Periods of Hindu History (Continued)

D. Revival of Vedantic Literature: (200 BC – 200 AD)

1. Formation of the Trimutri:
2. **Bhagavad-Gita**

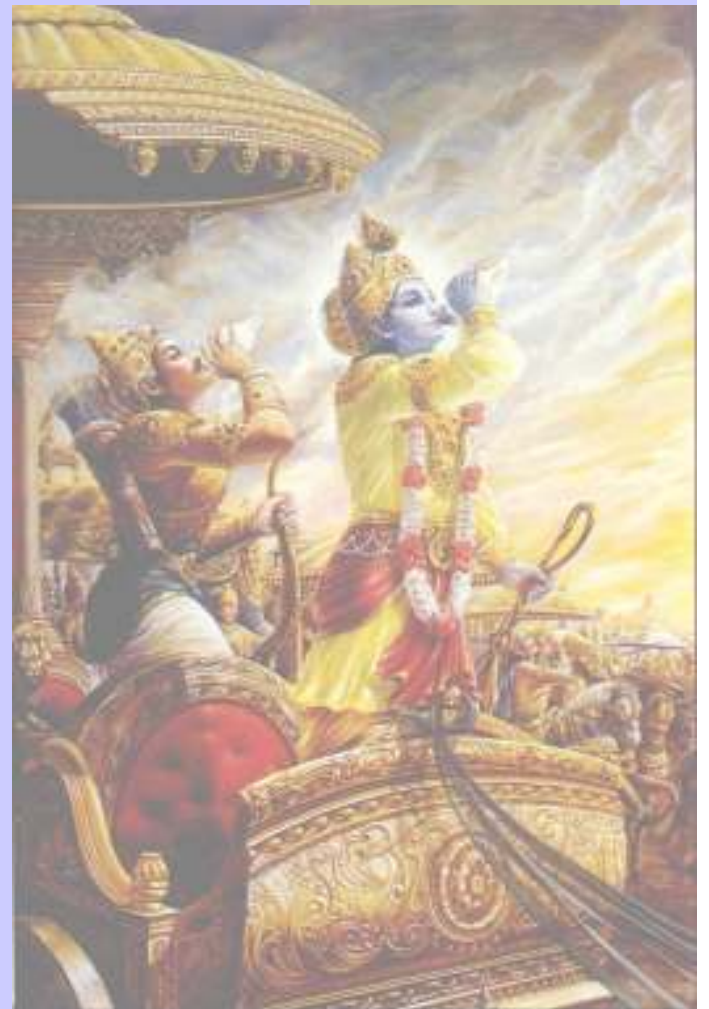
The Bhagavad-Gita

It is a long poem about the warrior Arjuna, a supreme archer, and his charioteer, Krishna. Here, Vishnu has incarnated as Krishna to teach Arjuna some lessons about life.



The Bhagavad-Gita

In the story, Arjuna and Krishna, sound their transcendental conchshells to prepare for the battle ahead.



The Bhagavad-Gita

But Arjuna meets relatives and friends on both sides of the battle. He is overwhelmed with compassion and grief. Thus, he desires not to fight since his duty should be to protect rather than destroy his friends.



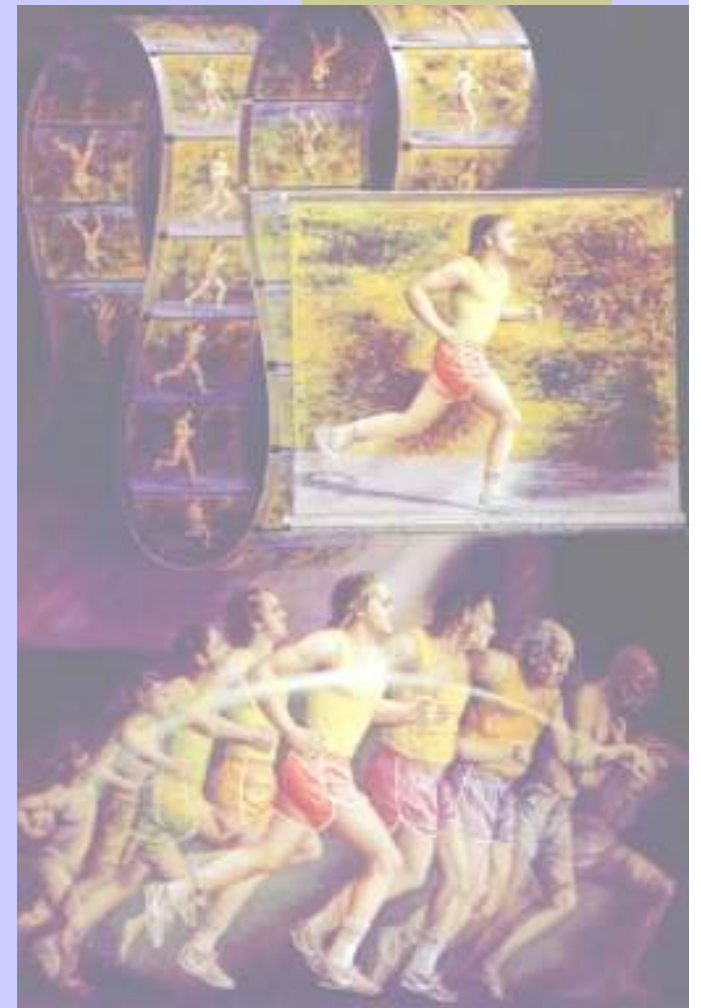
The Bhagavad-Gita

Krishna, however, corrects Arjuna. It is his duty to fight. He should rise above personal desires and not lament for either the living or the dead. Devotion to proper duty is better than momentary reaction to materialistic situations.



The Bhagavad-Gita

He goes on to explain what life's purpose is supposedly all about: The soul remains the same throughout a person's life, but the body is constantly changing.



The Bhagavad-Gita

Just as a person takes off garments and puts on new ones, so the soul takes off the old body at death and accepts a new material body for another life.



The Bhagavad-Gita

The individual self is like a passenger in the chariot of material body; intelligence drives, mind is the driving instrument, and senses are the horses. Self enjoys or suffers in association with mind and senses.



The Bhagavad-Gita

Past actions produce each person's own karma that result in their current status and experience, whether it is one of joy or suffering. Proper duty and devotion to what is right releases people from desiring things based upon joy or suffering.



The Bhagavad-Gita

Supposedly, there are four types of pious men that surrender to Krishna's ways and four impious types that do not.



The Bhagavad-Gita

Some men have small intelligence so that they seek favors from demigods. Though they often gain their requests, they are only temporary and taken away at death. Yet, in reality it was actually Krishna who granted the petitions and requests.



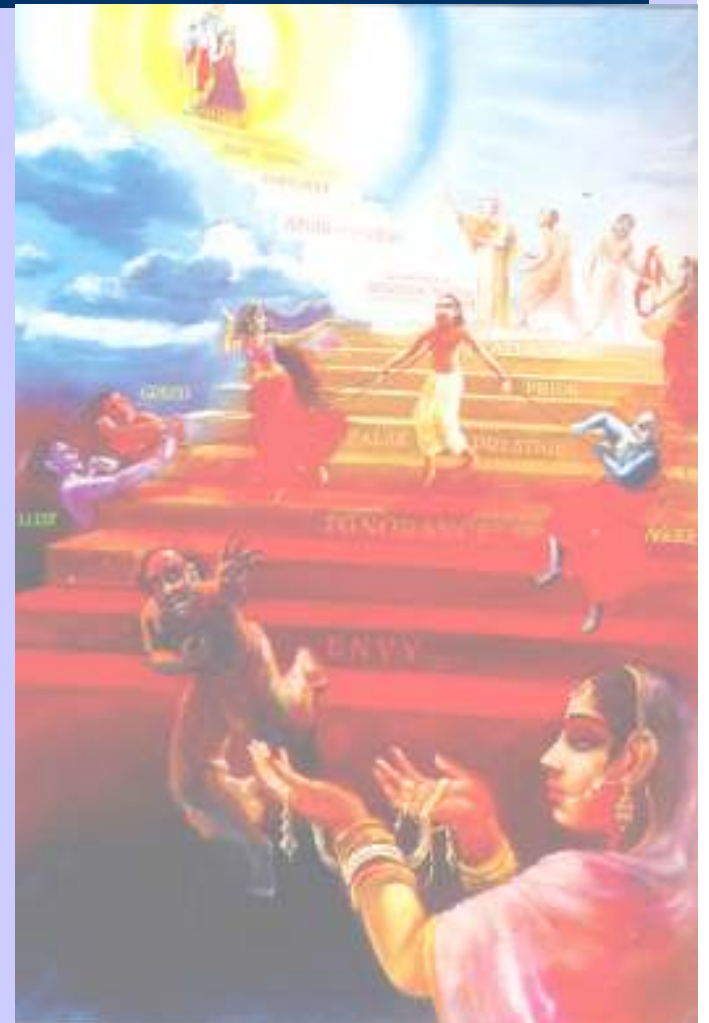
The Bhagavad-Gita

Foolish men who scornfully laugh at the idea of sri Krishna descending as a human being, miss out on his transcendent nature and His supreme dominion over all things.



The Bhagavad-Gita

The transcendent qualities of life lead people up to liberation, but the baser, demonic characteristics lure them downwards into bondage.



The Bhagavad-Gita

At the time of death, the consciousness of the individual based upon karma determines what their next body will be. The consciousness then transmigrates the soul to the next body of existence.



The Bhagavad-Gita

If the consciousness has become like an animal, then the soul transmigrates to an animal. He can get the body of a dog, cat, hog, even demigod or any other of the 8,400,000 species.

Swami Prabhupada, *Bhagavad-Gita As It Is* (LA: The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, 1983), 724.



The Bhagavad-Gita

When worshippers approach the supreme lord, sri Krishna in love and devotion with a leaf, flower, fruit, or water, he will accept it. This is the bhakti marga, or path of devotion.



The Bhagavad-Gita

Suddenly, Krishna showed Arjuna the universal form of himself as the supreme lord, sri Krishna. Arjuna was overwhelmed. So, he folded his hands and began to pray.



The Bhagavad-Gita

Then Sri Krishna as the supreme personality of the godhead, revealed his true four-armed form to Arjuna. Next, he showed his two-armed form.



The Bhagavad-Gita

Near the end of his lesson, Arjuna was shown that there is an unlimited spiritual world that lies beyond the borders of this material universe. It is something to be sought after more than this life.



The Bhagavad-Gita

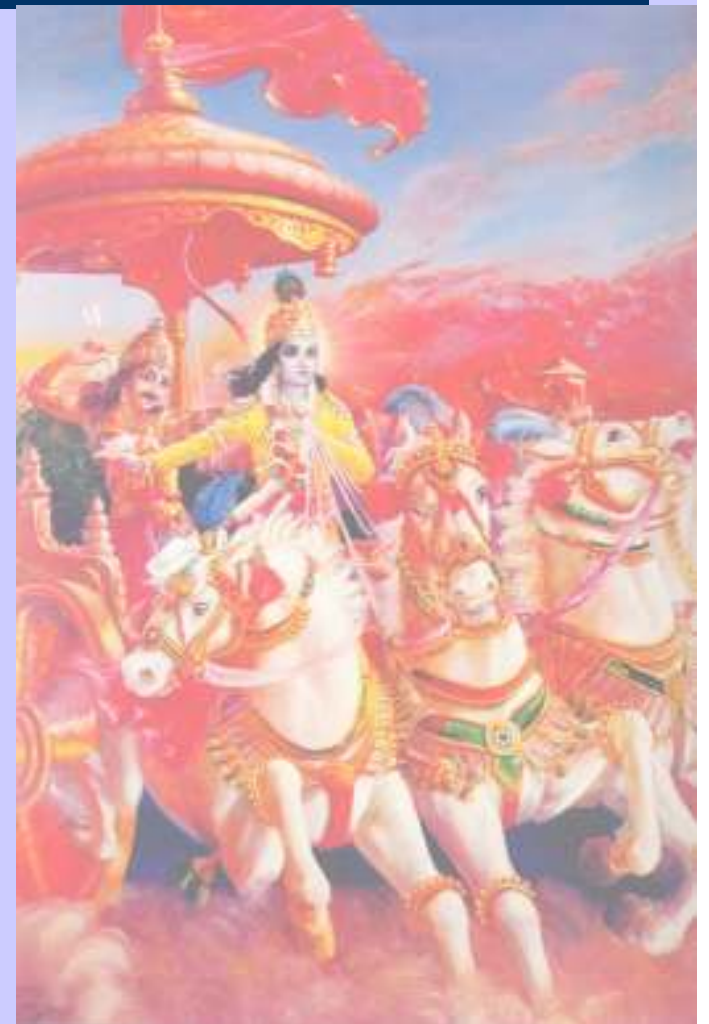
It is a place of Krishna consciousness rather than the consciousness of this life. Proper duty and devotion to Krishna here will transmigrate the soul to that place where one associates with Krishna himself.



The Bhagavad-Gita

It is said that wherever there is Krishna, the master of mystics, and Arjuna, the supreme archer, there will be opulence, victory, extraordinary power, and morality.

Prabhupada, 863. All pictures are from the plates in the book.



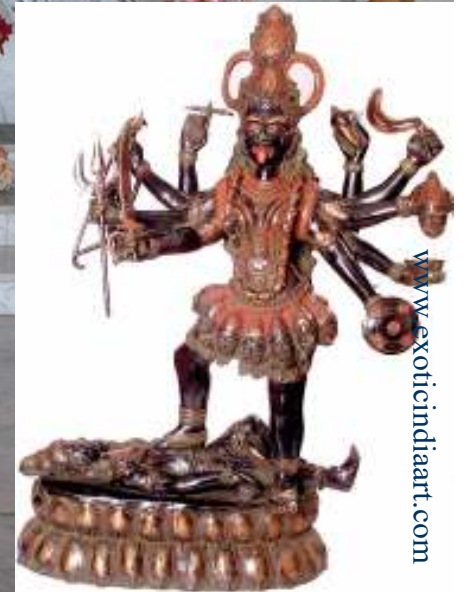
Modern Images of Hinduism

A typical Hindu shrine today features numerous – even hundreds – of pictures and statues of Hindu deities.

“Challenging the Strongholds of Idolatry”, *Charisma* (January 1999), 96.







www.exoticindiaart.com

Why do Westerners have difficulty understanding it?

- A. Hinduism has a fundamentally different worldview.
- B. Hinduism sees time as **cyclical**.
- C. Hinduism has no single concept of God but strives to encompass all religions.

Karma and Hindu Salvation

- A. Jnana Marga: The path of knowledge.
- B. Karma Marga: The path of works.
- C. Bhakti Marga: The path of devotion.
- D. Karma is the law of retributive justice. . . One who breaks through to moksha.

Reincarnation

2. What is the foundational doctrine of Hinduism?

Reincarnation.

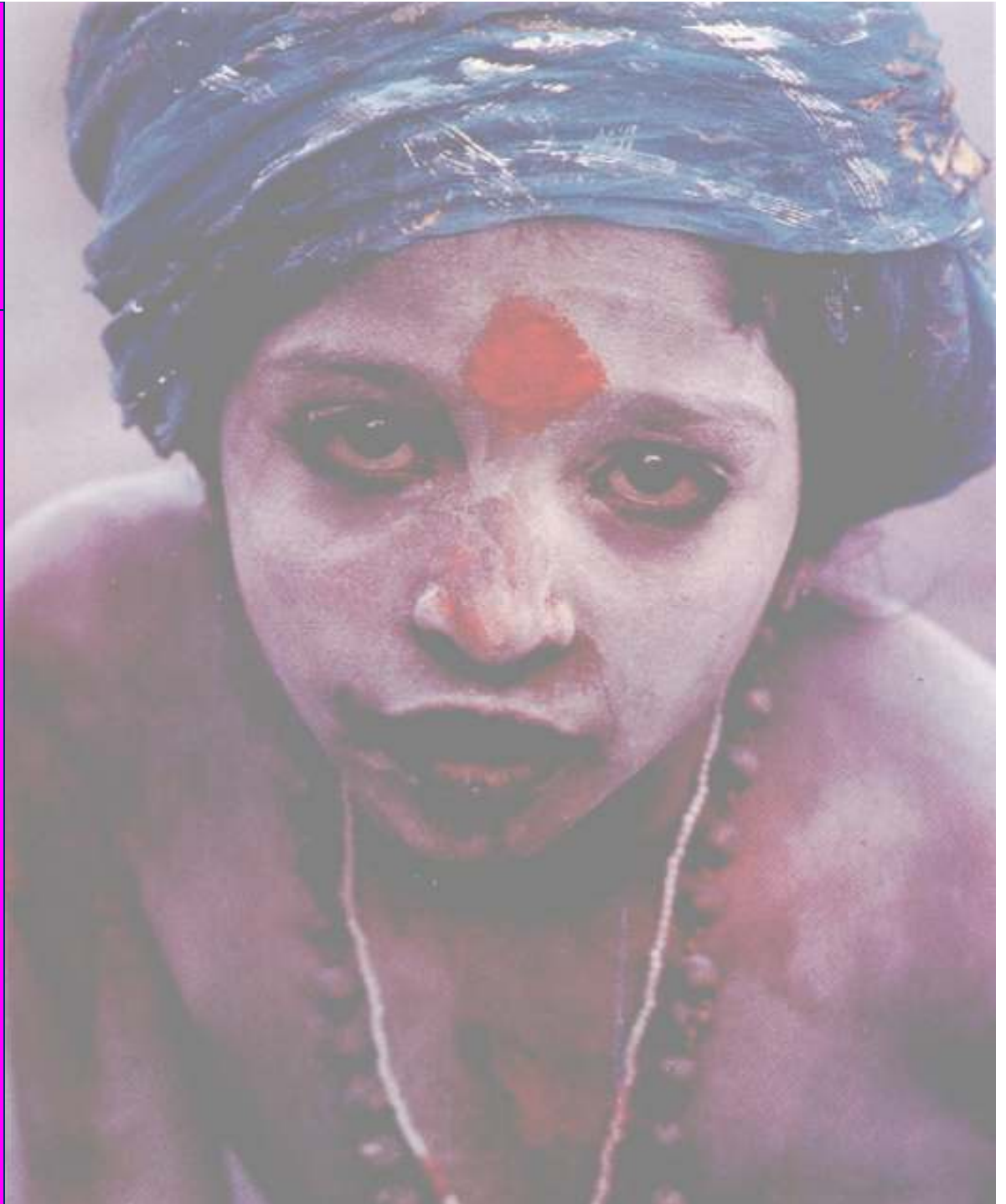
Reincarnation

2. What would happen if this doctrine were destroyed?

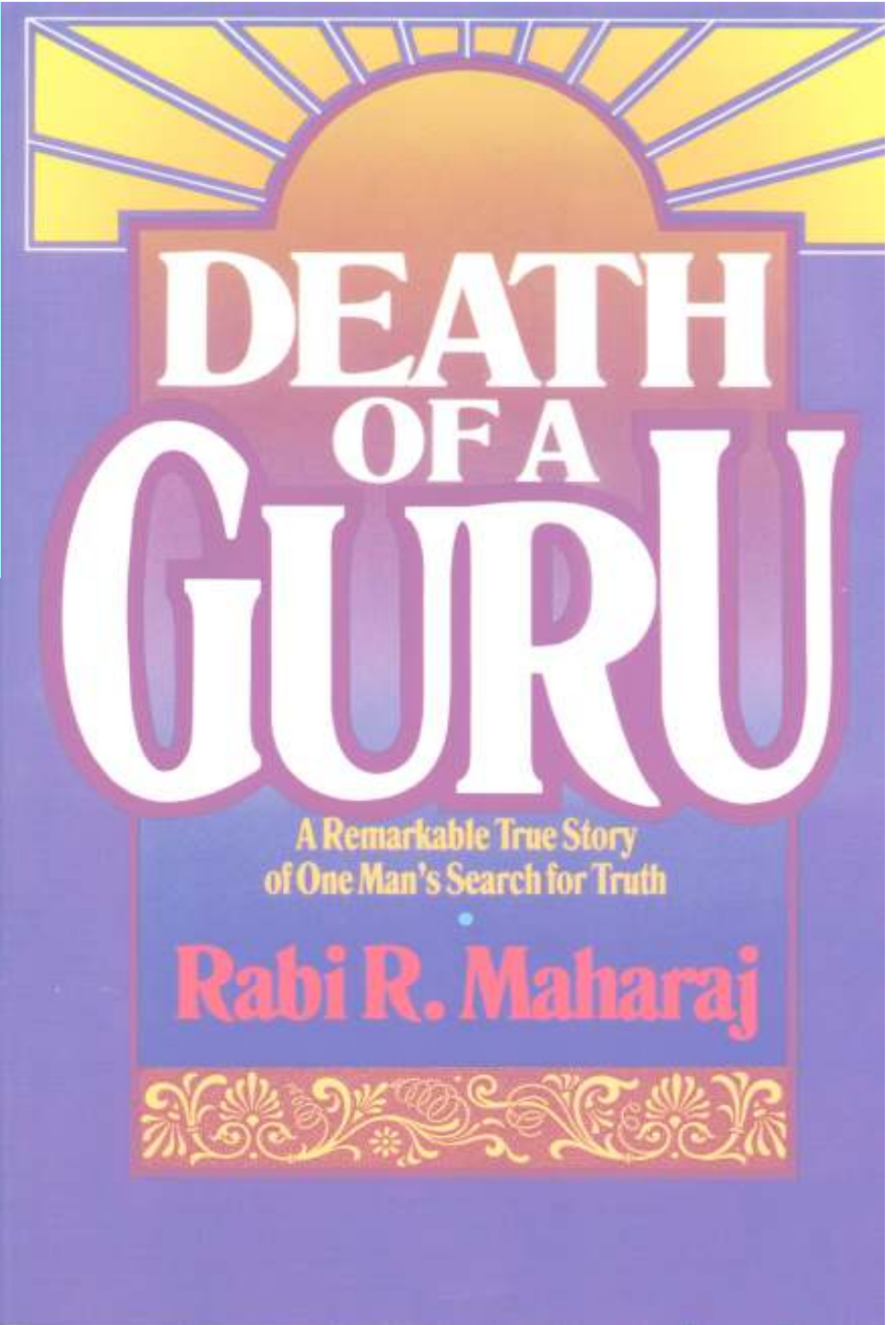
**Hinduism would
fall apart.**

They need Jesus!

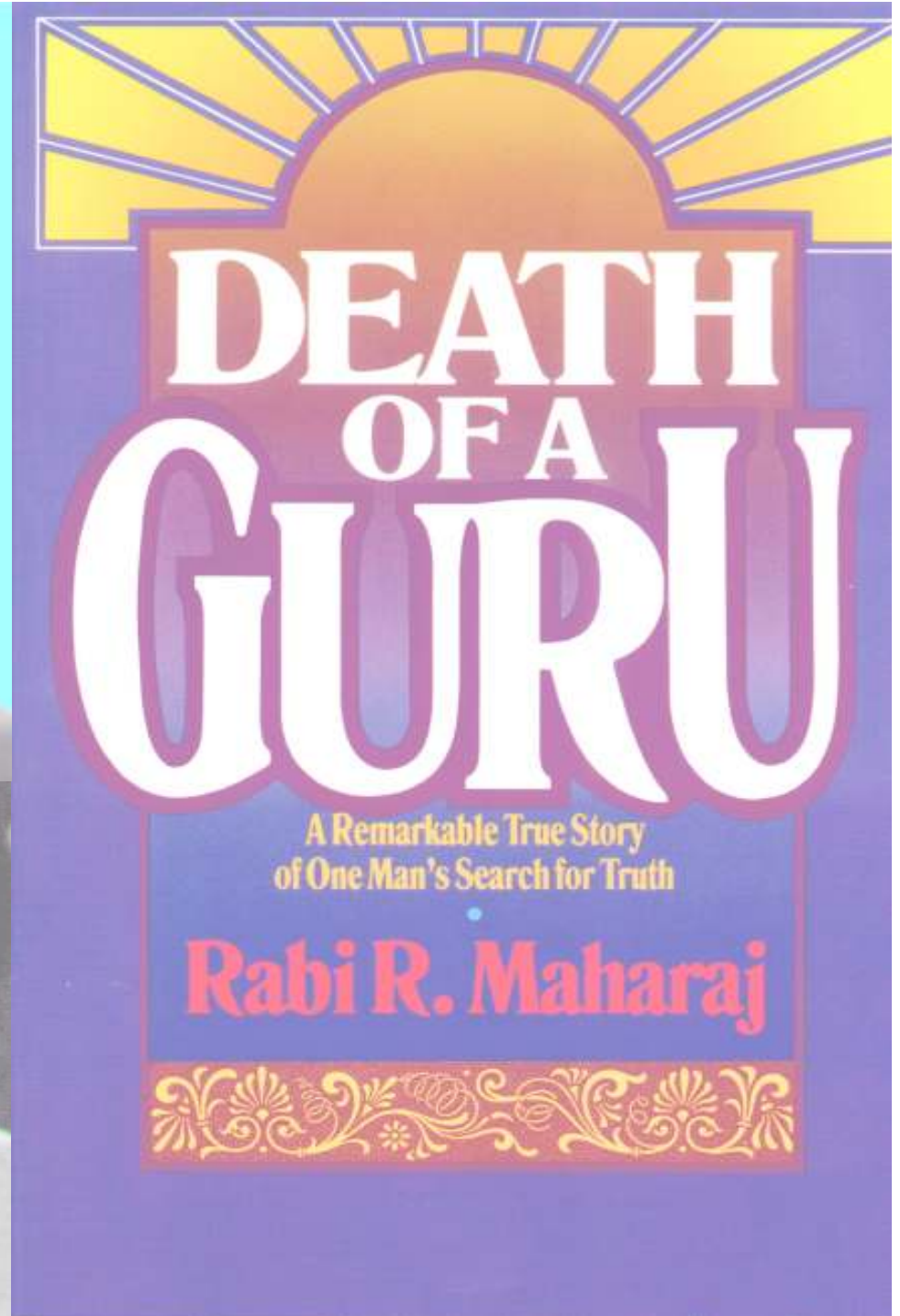
**A young,
crippled guru
seeks for
acceptance,
power over
others, and
purpose in life.**



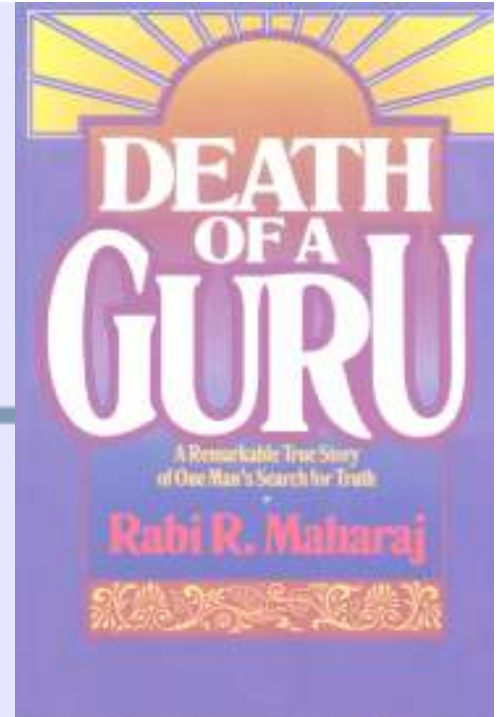
Brahman Yogi Rabi Maharaj once experienced the divine protection of God that made him aware of the power in the name of Jesus.



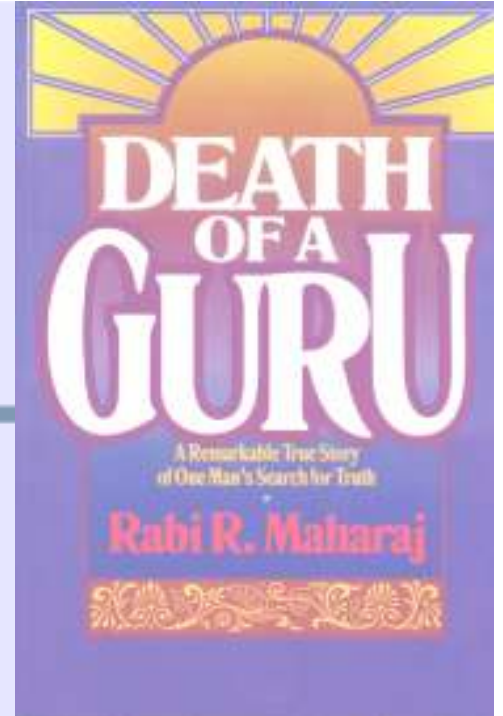
He was in the jungle giving homage to Shiva, the destroyer, when he was startled by a nearby cobra. He was amazed by its resemblance to Shiva. As it made ready to strike him, he remembered something his Mom had once said.



She said, “Rabi, if ever you’re in real danger and nothing else seems to work, there’s another god you can pray to. His name is *Jesus*. Rabi said, “Help me Jesus,” at the last moment. Suddenly, the cobra dropped its head to the ground, turned, and slithered away.



**Eventually, Rabi met a Hindu
covert to Christianity that told him
about the love of God. He had
never heard of a God of love.
Eventually, he gave his life to Jesus.**





Lesson Five:
Buddhism

Introduction

Largest Concentrations of Buddhists

- ◆ **China**
- ◆ **Japan**
- ◆ **Thailand**
- ◆ **Vietnam**
- ◆ **Myanmar**

- **Fourth largest religion.**
- **Between 488 to 535 million in the world.**



The Origins of Buddhism

1. **Siddhartha Gautama**: The founder.
2. Time sketch:
 - a) 563 BC: Birth.
 - b) 547 BC: Marriage.
 - c) 534 BC: **Great Renunciation**.
 - d) 528 BC: **Attaining Nirvana**.
 - e) 483 BC: Death

Buddha's Four Noble Truths

1. Life consists of suffering.
2. Suffering is caused by selfish desire.
3. Liberation comes through eliminating these desires.
4. Desires are eliminated by following the middle way.

Right Understanding

The Last Samurai

Doctrine of no-self



Theravada versus Mahayana

C. What is the key difference?

How they view God! In Mahayana, Buddha is made a god.

Theravada versus Mahayana

D. How does this influence their belief system?

It affects how each thinks to attain nirvana. It affects the key virtue of importance in this life.

Kyoto, Japan October, 2002

**There are over 1600
Buddhist Temples
just in Kyoto
(former capital city).**

KIYOMIZU TEMPLE

KIYOMIZU TEMPLE

Today, only a small percentage of Japan's population is Christian. But it was not always that way . . .



Sanjo Catholic Cathedral



First Church in Kyoto

In the 1540's Francis Xavier brought Christianity to Japan. The first church in Kyoto, called Nanbanji, was opened in 1576.

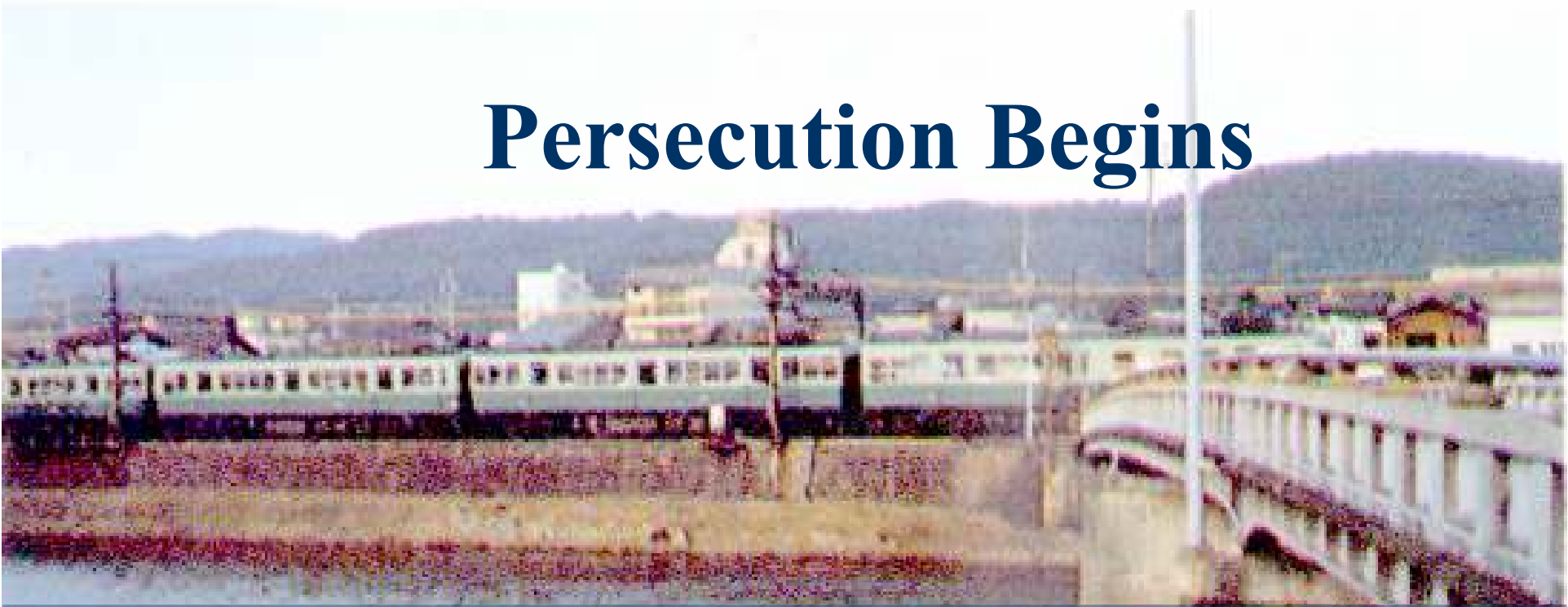


First Church in Kyoto

**The impact of Christianity was mighty!
Some say that up to 1/3 of Japan
converted. There were 300,000 by 1596.
30,000 Christians resided in Kyoto and
the surrounding provinces by 1613.**

Source for 300,000 from "Christianity in Japan," <www.baobab.or.jp/~stranger/mypage/chrinjap.htm>

Persecution Begins

A photograph showing a train crossing a bridge over a river. The train is moving from left to right. In the background, there is a town with a prominent white building, possibly a church, and hills. The sky is overcast.

In the 1590's Christianity came under heavy persecution by Shogun Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Feuding between the Jesuits and Franciscans worked against Christianity. In 1597, 26 martyrs were killed at Nagasaki. Many more were martyred, including 63 crucified near the Kamo River in 1619. This included children.

Nagasaki Martyrs

Thousands of Christians were marched to Nagasaki to be crucified. If they stepped on Christ's image and renounced Him they lived.



Nagasaki Martyrs

One fifteen year old, now known as St. Thomas Kozoki, when asked if he would renounce Christianity said: “No, which one is my cross.”



Their Worldview

1. Universe is made of billions of world systems.
2. Time is cyclical.
3. **Samsara.**
4. Karma.
5. Six life form results of karma.

Nirvana

A. It is basically the place of existence where karma is **out / extinguished.**



Lesson Six:

Judaism

Introduction



Size and Impact



- ❑ 14.4 – 17.3 million worldwide.
- ❑ 5.7 – 6.8 million in the USA.
- ❑ 6.5 million in Israel.
- ❑ 362,000 in Canada.
- ❑ Influence on history, literature, science, politics, and other religions.





Largest Concentrations

Largest concentrations are in the United States, Israel, France, and the former Soviet Union. Two million Jews live in New York.



Similarities & Differences

A. Similarities:

One God.

B. Differences:



Brief History



A. Ancient Jews: They were called Hebrews, a name derived from their ancestor Eber (Genesis 10:21).

Main Branches

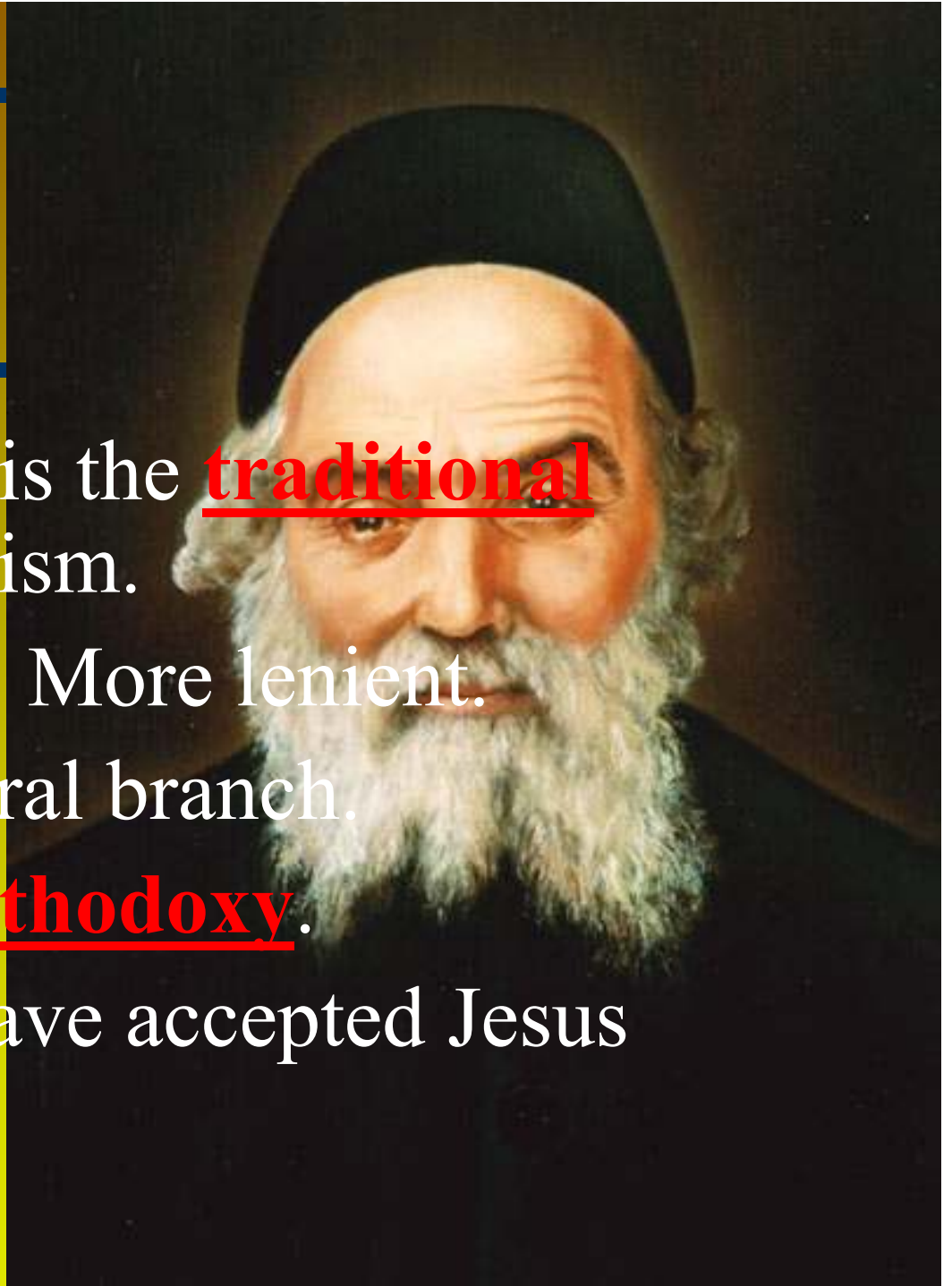
A. Orthodox: This the traditional rabbinic Judaism.

B. Conservative: More lenient.

C. Reform: Liberal branch.

Reaction to Orthodoxy.

D. Messianic: Have accepted Jesus Christ.



Estimates of Branch Sizes

- ❑ Conservative = 4,500,000.
- ❑ Unaffiliated = 4,500,000.
- ❑ Reform = 3,750,000.
- ❑ Orthodox = 2,000,000.
- ❑ Reconstructionists = 150,000.

The Holy Books

Phylacteries

- A. The Sacred Text: The Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings.
- B. The Talmud: 36 volumes comprised of the Mishnah (200 AD) and Gemara (500 AD); known as the Halakah – the way.

Doctrines that clash

A. The Trinity:

Jew: Christianity has three Gods.

Christian: Jews don't understand the doctrine of the Trinity.

B. The Way:

Jew: The Halakah is the righteous way.

Christian: Jesus is the Way (John 14:6; Acts 9:2; 24:14; 24:22).

Doctrines that clash

C. The Messiah:

Jew: Concept has changed from a special messenger from God to a messianic age of truth and justices.

Christian: Jesus is the Messiah.

D. Original Sin:

Jew: None. Man is born good but makes choices.

Christian: Man born in sin (Genesis 3; Psalm 51).

Doctrines that clash

C. Atonement by works:

Jew: Since man is born good, there is no need of the a Savior.

Christian: Man is born in sin and definitely needs a Savior.

Acts 4:10,12 “That by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead . . . For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Holy Days

- A. The Sabbath.
- B. **Rosh Hashanah.**
- C. Yom Kippur.
Holiest.
- D. Sukkot.
- E. **Hannukkah.**



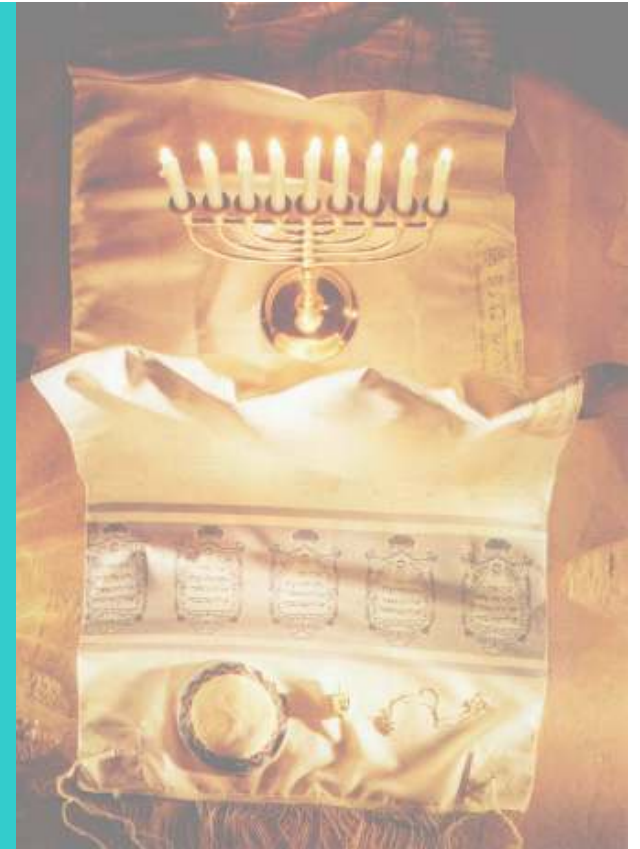
Holy Days

F. Purim.

G. Passover.

H. Shavout.

I. Jubilee.



The Prophecy of Moses

Deuteronomy 4:30-31 “When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the Lord your God and obey His voice (for the Lord your God is a merciful God). He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He bore to them.”





Lesson Seven:

Understanding Islam in the Modern World: Part One

Introduction

In regard to radical Islamic terrorism, we live in a world of
**confusion, political posturing, and social
manipulation.**

Wisdom and Understanding

WHAT CHRISTIANS NEED

Proverbs 4:5, 7

Get wisdom! Get understanding! . . .

Wisdom is the principal thing;

Therefore get wisdom.

**And in all your getting, get
understanding.**

Colossians 4:5-6

Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

1st Corinthians 14:33

God is not the author of confusion but of peace.

2nd Timothy 1:7

**God has not given us a spirit of fear,
but of power and of love and of a
sound mind.**

Modern Portrait of

ISLAM

Islam was started by Muhammad in the seventh century in Arabia and has grown to become the second largest religion in the world, second only to Christianity. At the heart of Islamic teachings is the Koran which supposedly contains revelations from God to Muhammad . . .



. . . Moderate Muslims interpret the teachings of Muhammad to live in peace, but Jihadist Muslims interpret the teachings of Muhammad to spread Islam through violence and war. . .



Of the approximate 1.6 billion Muslims in the world, Jihadist Muslims make up possibly 15 - 25%, and it is from these that the world has witnessed decades of Islamic terrorist attacks and wars . .



. . .The two main sects of Islam are Shia and Sunni. They differ in their concept of religious authority, theology, religious practices and interpretation of the Koran. . .



. . .The vast majority of Muslims in the world are Sunni, between 80 – 85 %. The Shia minority account for 15 – 20% with large populations in Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, and India. . .



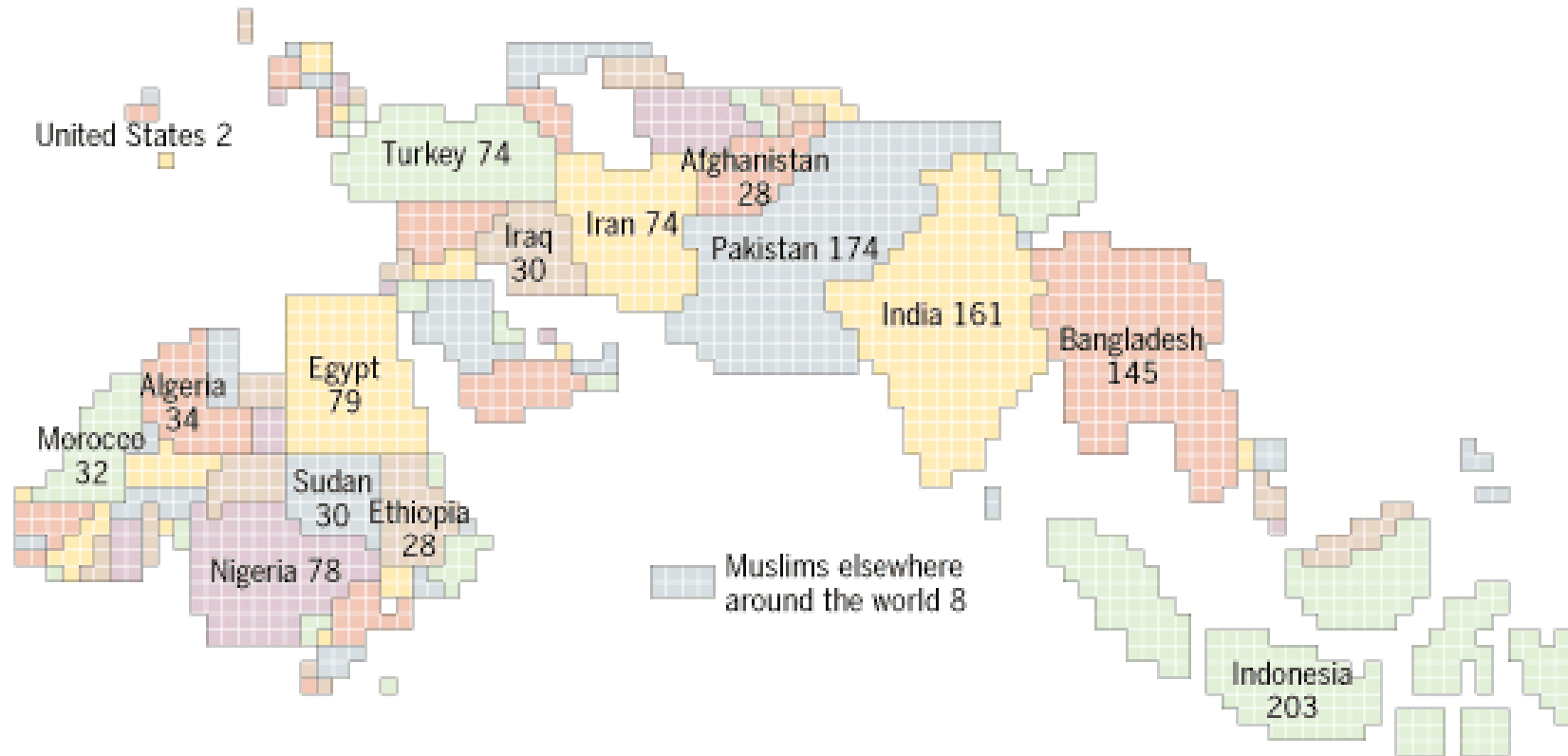
Islam is trapped in the 7th century because that was the “perfect” era of Muhammad. In some Islamic countries women are forced to wear burqas out of fear of beatings, arrests, or honor killings. Today, in 30 countries of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East women must suffer female circumcision and are illiterate. .



Under Sharia law, a women's testimony in court is half that of a man's. A daughter's inheritance is half that of her brother. A wife cannot leave the house or the country without her husband's permission. If a woman is raped, there must be four witnesses; otherwise, the man normally goes free.



Islam by millions



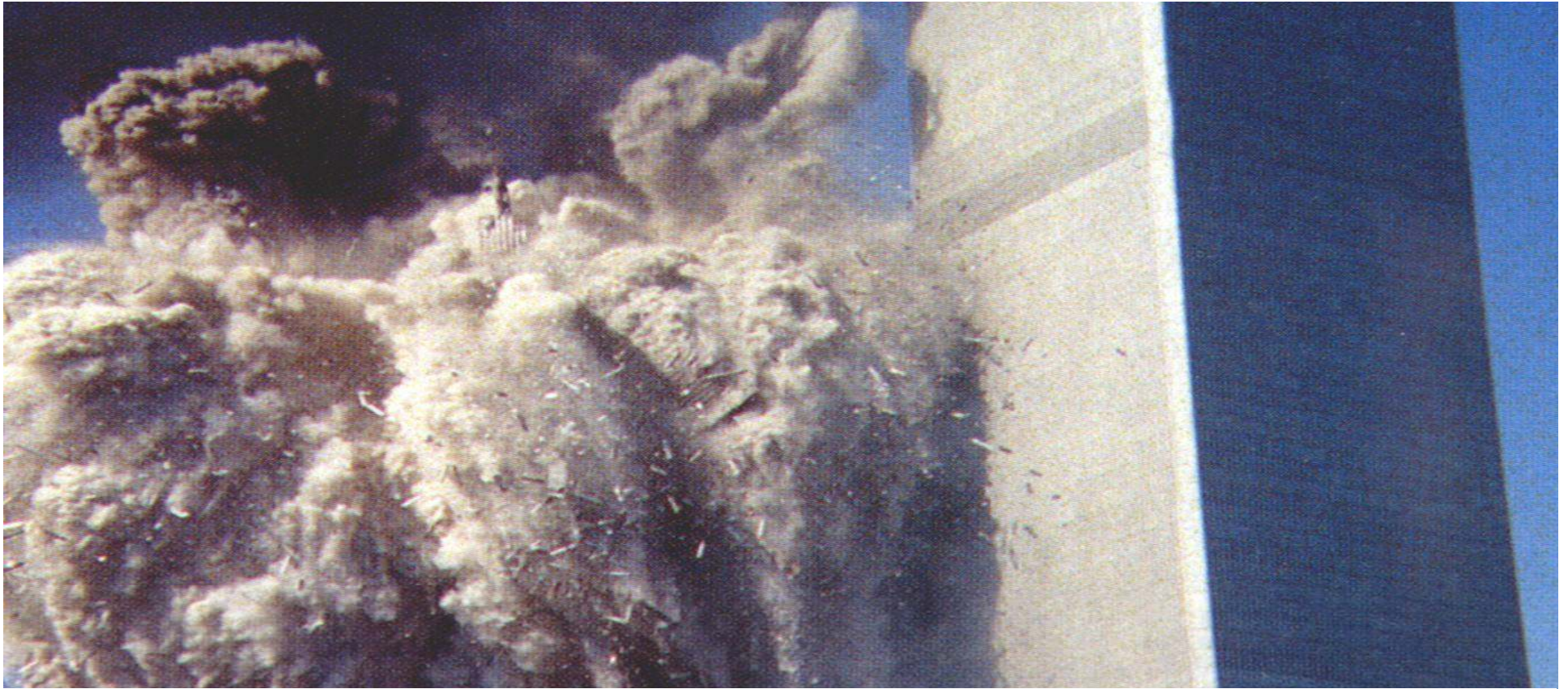
Islam in the United States

- 2.6 million
- Top 5 populations: Detroit, Washington D.C., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Philadelphia, New York
- Over 2,300 mosques, schools, and organizations in 50 states. California has 198. Idaho has 3.
- Dearborn, Michigan is one of the few places in the U.S. where one can hear the public call to prayer over the loudspeaker.

Mosque in Dearborn, Michigan

9/11

AMERICANS REMEMBER



Most Americans remember what they were doing on September 11, 2001





2014 Memorial Service



Tribute in Light Service



Bombing of Sari nightclub in Bali, Indonesia in 2002

In the previous few years, hundreds of churches had been burned down and thousands martyred.



Prayer Miracle in Jakarta, Indonesia – October, 2002



Bible School



The Spirit of Faith



Istiqlal Mosque



Istiqlal Mosque



Top Floor of Mosque



Looking down & praying



God's Heart for People

1st Timothy 2:1-6

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

God's Heart for People

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

God's Heart for People

5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Of Islam

Basics

Definitions

- **Koran** means to “recite.”
- ***Islam*** means “**submission.**”
- **Muslim** means “one who is submitted.”

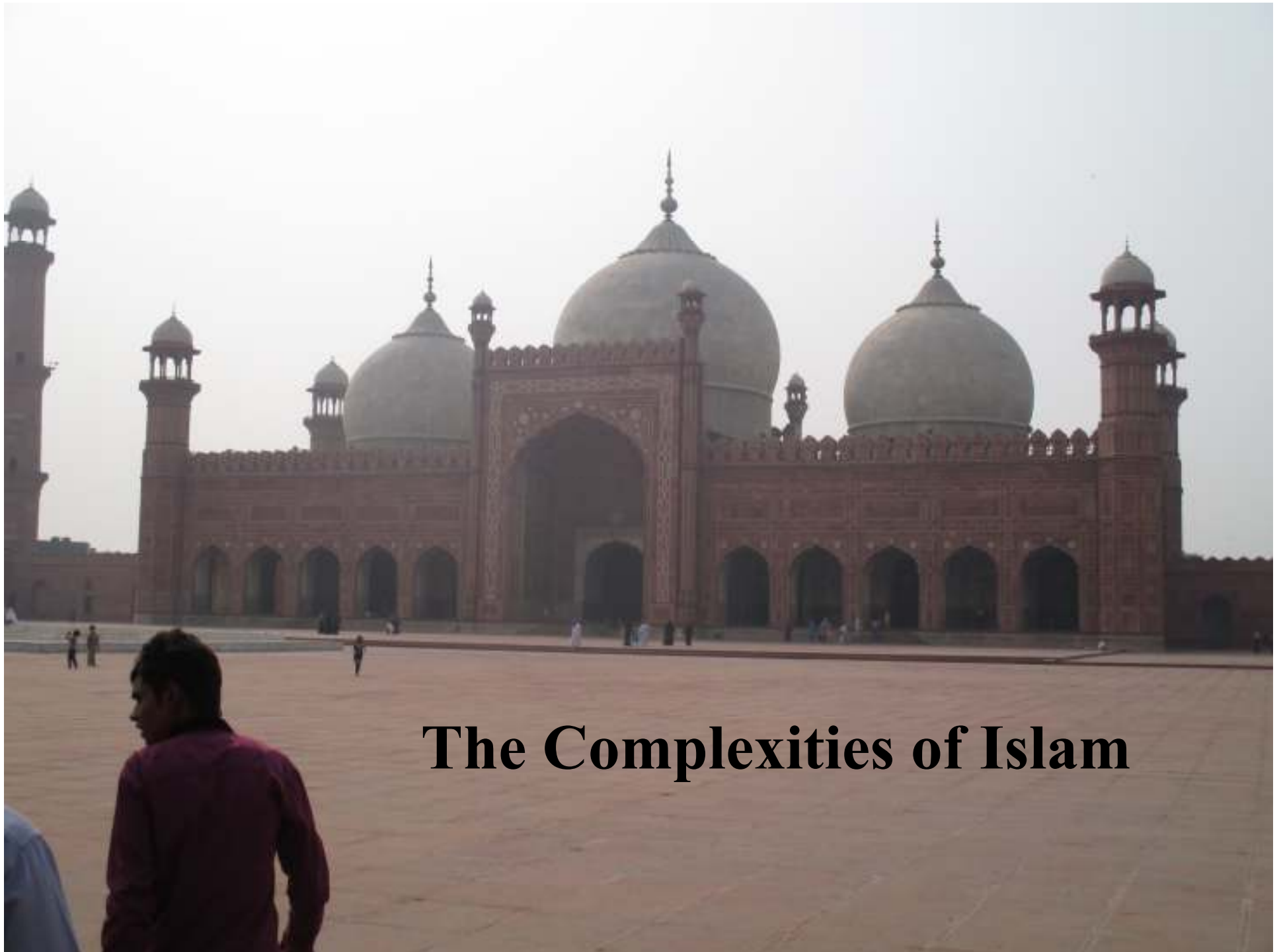
Who do Muslims worship?

They worship Allah, whom they think is the God of Abraham and the same God whom both Jews and Christians worship. However, their idea of God and that of Christians and Jews is quite different.

For instance, Jews have a proper name for God, Yahweh. Christians believe in a personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Muslims are taught that they must obey Allah but not know him.

The Name of *Allah* is a Composite of sorts:

- ***Al – Lah* (the god): Possible Aramaic connection.**
- **Some say it was associated with an ancient moon deity: Possible Sabeian connection in South Arabia with their word *al-ilah* (the god), associated with their moon deity named *Sin*. Abd al-Masih al-Kindy, a Christian apologist who lived among them at the time Islam began said that this was the origin of the name Allah.**
- **Head of the Arab pantheon of gods.**
- **Possibly a distorted form of the ancient Aramaic '*Elahh* used by Daniel and Ezra.**
- **Various other Bedouin concepts including *Al – Rahman* (the merciful).**



The Complexities of Islam

Recent Islamic State

On June 29, 2014, ISIS announced the establishment of a new caliphate. Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi was named the Caliph, now known as Caliph Ibrahim. This was followed by years of fighting with the United States and its allies.





ISIS stands for Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

ISIL stands for Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

The Levant includes Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Cyprus, and the southern part of Turkey.

Known for brutality, ISIS massacred both Christians and Yazidis in the summer of 2014.

Multiple attacks in 2015, including Paris. In 2016, UN said ISIL had more than 3,500 slaves.

On October 26, 2019 the leader of ISIS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed in Syria.

Today, much of ISIS has been destroyed, but now it may merge with Al-Qaeda which continues to grow in strength.

Caliphate

- **Definition:** A caliphate is an Islamic state, under Sharia Law, which is led by a supreme religious and political leader, known as a Caliph, who considers himself a successor of Muhammad, the founder of Islam.
- **Examples in history:** Rashidun (632 – 661); Umayyads (661 – 750); more recently the Ottomans (1453 – 1924)

Barbarism in Modern Times

- ISIS televised the execution of American journalists and others by beheading them.
- This method of killing is prescribed in The *Koran* which says: “When ye encounter the infidels, strike off their heads till ye have made a great slaughter among them.” (Sura 47:4)
- Muhammad used this method to kill over 700 Jewish men in the community that he had conquered in 627 AD.

Who was Muhammad?

Muhammad

**He was a seventh century Arab,
whom they revere as
a prophet.**

**He descended from
Ishmael,
Abraham's son
with Hagar.**



Ancient Prophecy regarding Ishmael: Genesis 16:12

**Of Ishmael, the Lord said: “He shall be a
wild man,
his hand shall be against every man,
And every man’s hand against him.
And he shall dwell in the presence of
All his brethren.**

Another Prophecy: Genesis 17:20-21

“And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. **But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.**”

Ishmael's Descendants

- Twelve son's became twelve princes, dwelling to the east (Gen. 25:13-18).
- They became known as Ishmaelite and Midianite. They bought Joseph & sold him to Potiphar.
- They became enemies of Israel (Psalm 83:6).
- Josephus called them *an Arabian nation*.

Muhammad's Life: 570-632 AD

- **570:** Born in Mecca
- **576:** Mother died, making him an orphan.
- **595:** Married Khadijah & ran business.
- **610:** 1st Revelation in a cave on Mt. Hira.



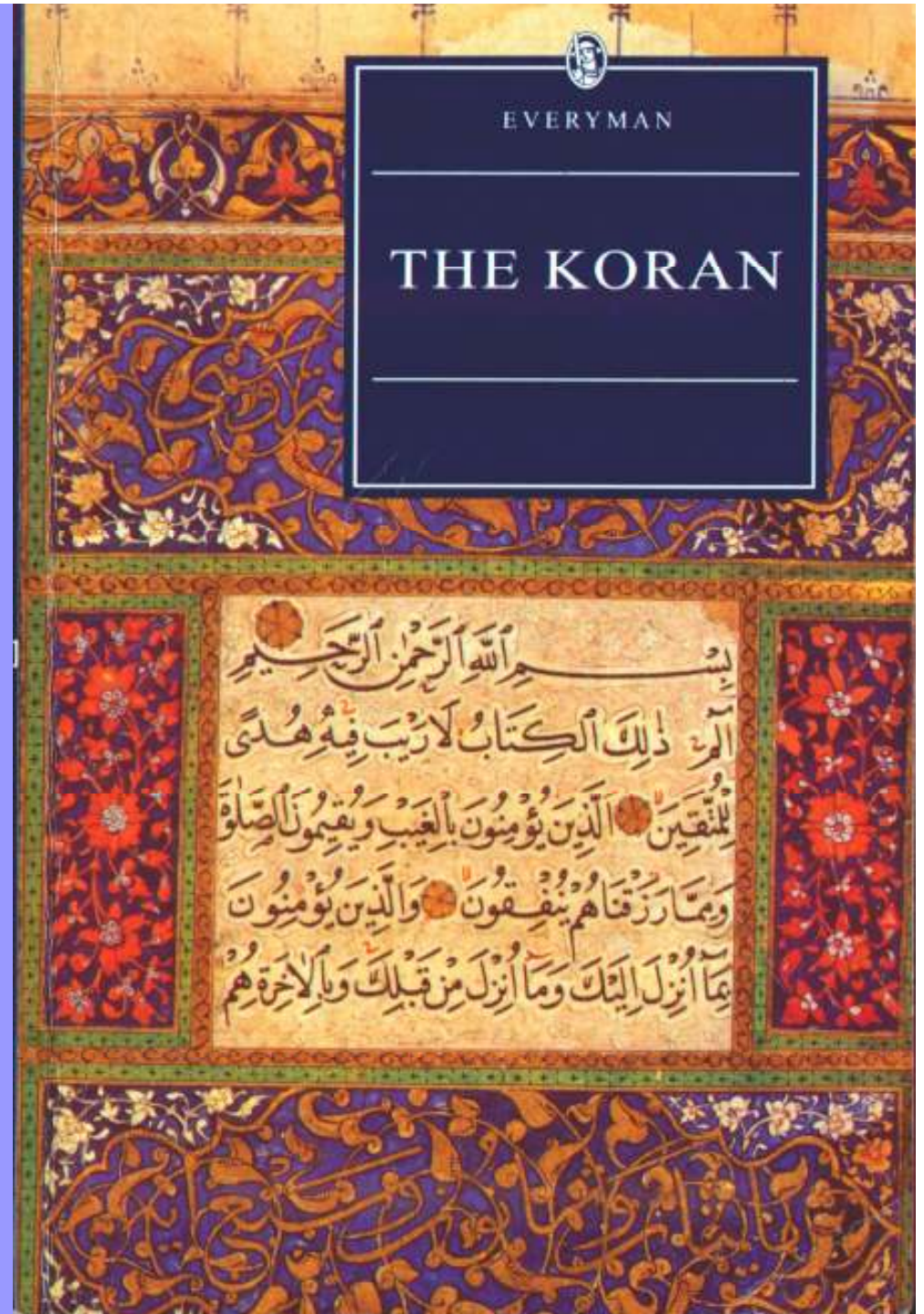
Muhammad's Life: 570-632 AD

- **622:** Moved to Medina to lead the town.
- **624-627:** 3 large battles, many smaller ones
- **630:** Conquered Mecca.
- **632:** Muhammad died. Abu Bakr elected as the first Caliph. Islamic warriors began to sweep through Africa and Asia.



The Koran:

It purports to be the revelation from Allah to Muhammad, promotes Islam over Judaism & Christianity, and lists the pillars of Islamic practice.



The Five Pillars of Islam

1. The Shahadah (creed)
2. The Salat (prayer)
3. The Zadak (give to the poor)
4. The Sawm (fast during Ramadan)
5. The Hajj (trip to Mecca)

Some add a 6th pillar - The Jihad

- *Jihad* literally means “efforts on God’s path,” but it is roughly translated as “holy war.”
- Greater Jihad – inner struggle to bring one closer to Allah.
- Lesser Jihad – Militant Jihad against infidel (e.g.. Jews & Christians) who resist expansion of Islam or who pose a threat against it.

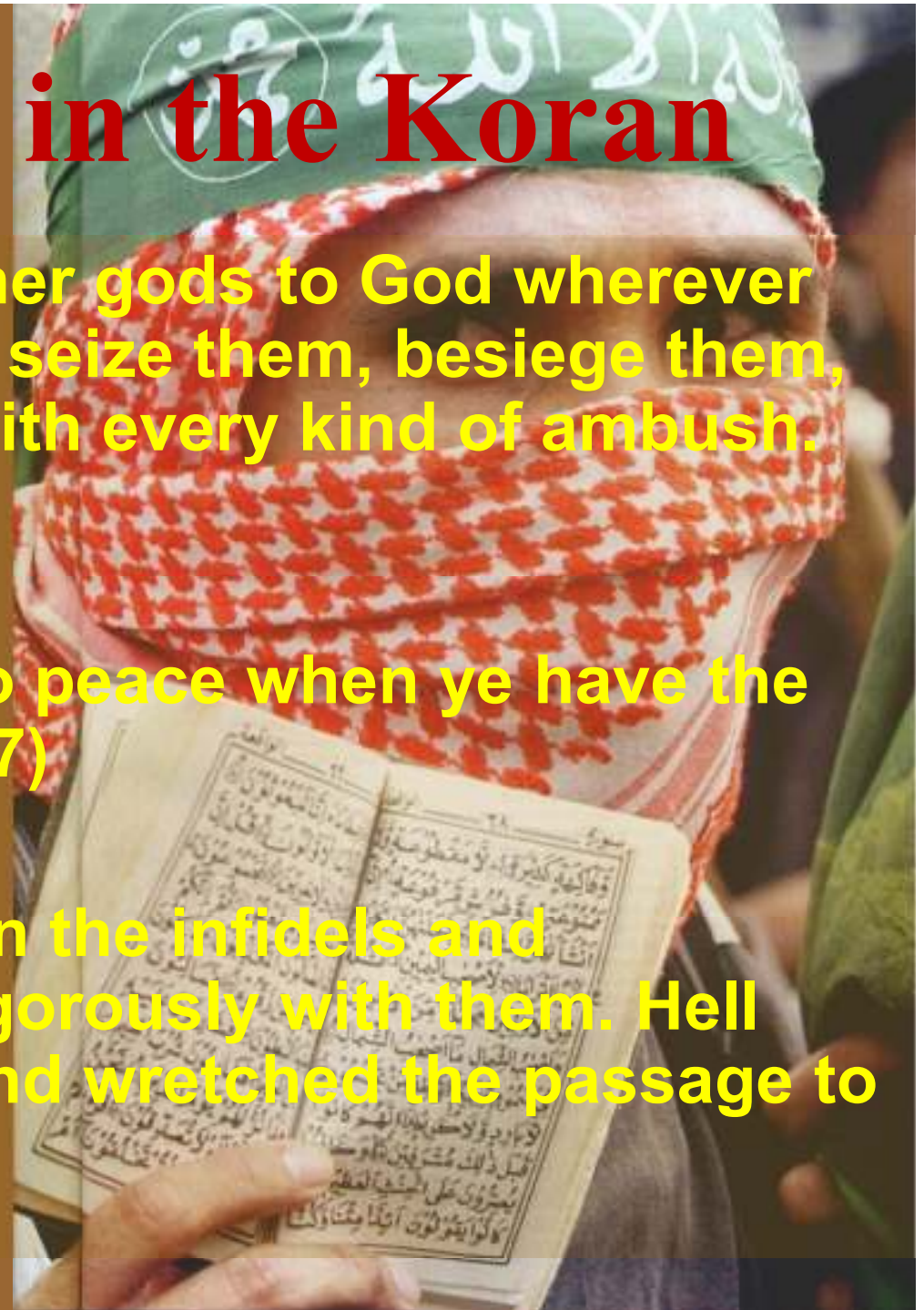
Militant Jihad in the Koran

- “Make war upon such of those to whom the Scriptures have been given as believe not in God [Allah].” (Sura 9:29)
- “Believers! Wage war against such of the infidels as are your neighbors, and let them find you rigorous: and know that God is with those who fear him.” (Sura 9:124)



Militant Jihad in the Koran

- “Kill those who join other gods to God wherever ye shall find them; and seize them, besiege them, and lay wait for them with every kind of ambush. (Sura 9:5)
- Invite not the infidels to peace when ye have the upper hand. (Sura 47:37)
- O Prophet! Make war on the infidels and hypocrites, and deal rigorously with them. Hell shall be their abode! And wretched the passage to it! (Sura 66:9)



Modern Suicide Wars

Hamas Training



Word Origin

The word **assassin** derives from an Arabic word meaning “*hashish eaters*”. In the 11th century Islamic suicide assassins emerged to eliminate enemy leaders. The *fidâ'îyûn* (“ready for sacrifice”) terrorist cell often carried out suicide missions in the Mediterranean region.

Pakistan India Border

Visiting Pakistan – India border ceremony on October 30, 2013



November 2, 2014, a suicide car bomber killed dozens



Pakistani girl wants education for girls



- **Malala Yousafzai was shot in the head as an assassination attempt by the Taliban on October 9, 2012 because she was a student / education activist in Pakistan. She survived and is now continuing her education in England. She is still an activist for women's education in Pakistan.**

How can Christians help Muslims to find

Christ?

Show the Love of Christ

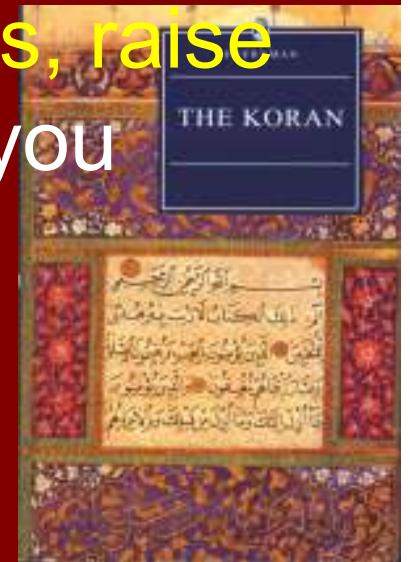
Shahrokh Afshar became a pastor at a Christian church for Iranians in Los Angeles. However, when he first came to the States, he argued his position with Christians. It was the **love** he saw in their lives that melted him. A Christian friend invited him to Thanksgiving dinner, and the simple prayer of a father saying grace touched him. From simple social gatherings and warm acceptance, this brother gave his life to Christ.

Show compassion

- Sura 57:27 “We caused Jesus the son of Mary to follow them; and we gave him the Evangel (gospel), and we put into the hearts of those who followed him kindness and compassion.”
- Colossians 3:12 “Put on tender mercies, kindness”

Learn what the Koran says about Jesus

- **Sura 3:43** - *“ . . . I will heal the blind, and the leper; and by God’s leave will I quicken the dead.”*
- **Matthew 10:8** – [Jesus told his disciples to] **“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”**





Lesson Eight:

Understanding Islam in the Modern World: Part Two

What are some Sad Truths of Islam ?

- Muslims are taught to obey Allah but not to know him.
- The Koran endorses both the Jihadist and the peaceful actions of Muslims.
- Over fifty countries are dominated by Islam but not one of them is a true democracy.
- Islam embraces 7th century life rather than modernity.
- Over 75% of Muslim women must suffer female circumcision and are illiterate.
- Slavery still exists in Sudan, Mauritania and marginally in other countries.

Testimony of a former Muslim

“Romans 3 describes the problem of my people: ‘The way of peace they do not know.’ My people are suffering because they are infected by the sin of the world. As I understood this I thought: If all Muslims knew the way of Jesus, they would live in peace with God, with other nations and with themselves.”

-- Mark Gabriel

Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world!

THE WORLD NEEDS JESUS!

Luke 2:10-11

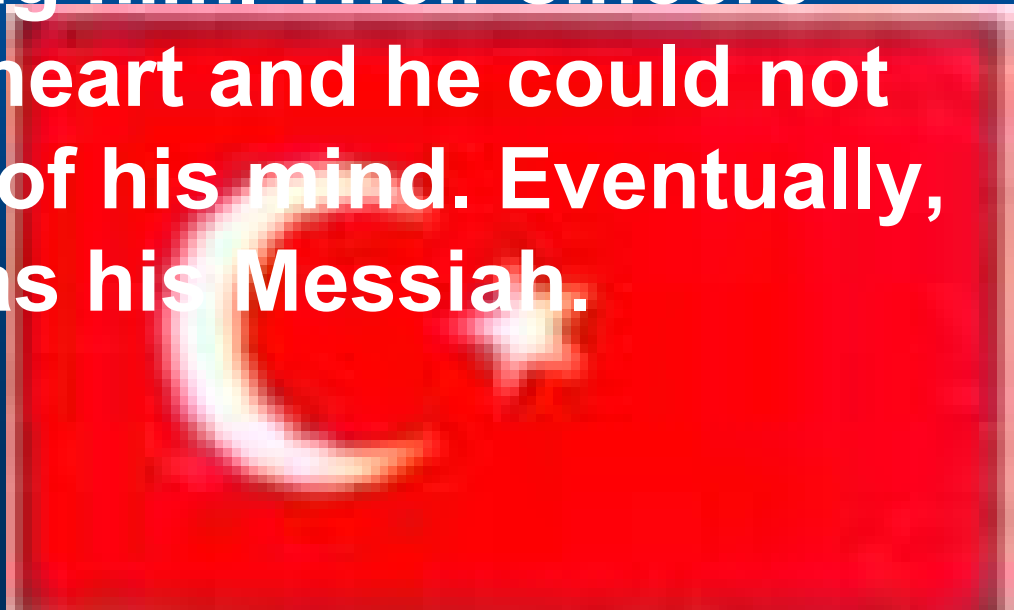
Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Conversion of Simba

Simba Mohammadovich, a twenty-three-year-old male, was raised a Sunni Muslim but turned to Sufi Islam (animism) as he grew older due to visions he was having. In 1992, he encountered a Christian named Martha and asked her for a Turkish New Testament. She did not have one but invited him to visit a **Messianic Muslim Christian fellowship**, so that he could learn more about her faith. He refused on several occasions but finally attended . . .

Conversion of Simba

As a Muslim, **Simba thought he knew all about prayer**. Five times a day, he normally prayed for himself, his family, and perhaps a close friend. These Christians were different. They were **praying** for many things and people, including him. Their sincere love oozed into his heart and he could not get the meeting out of his mind. Eventually, he accepted Jesus as his Messiah.



Acts 4:10, 12

Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead . . . there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Impact of the Truth

In Iraq, a young man named Monthir was searching for Jesus in the Koran and read Sura 10:94 **“And if thou art in doubt as to what we have sent down to thee, inquire at those who have read the Scriptures before thee.”** So he got a Bible and discovered John 14:6, **“I am the way, the truth, and life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** Monthir gave his life to Jesus

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age . . .

Titus 2:11-14

. . . 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

The Middle East Conflict

Going Deeper

Sunni and Shia Differences

Sunni

- Majority: 80 – 85%
- Leadership: Community elects best leader
- Orthodox (Sunnah = traditions)
- Imams: Any teacher, leader of a mosque
- Fatalistic: everything predestined by Allah
- They tend to separate religion from politics

Shia

- Minority: 15 – 20%
- Leadership: Descendent of Muhammad
- Radical (Followers of Ali')
- Imams: Special appointed family members
- Free will: people can choose Allah or not
- They question the legitimacy of earthly political power

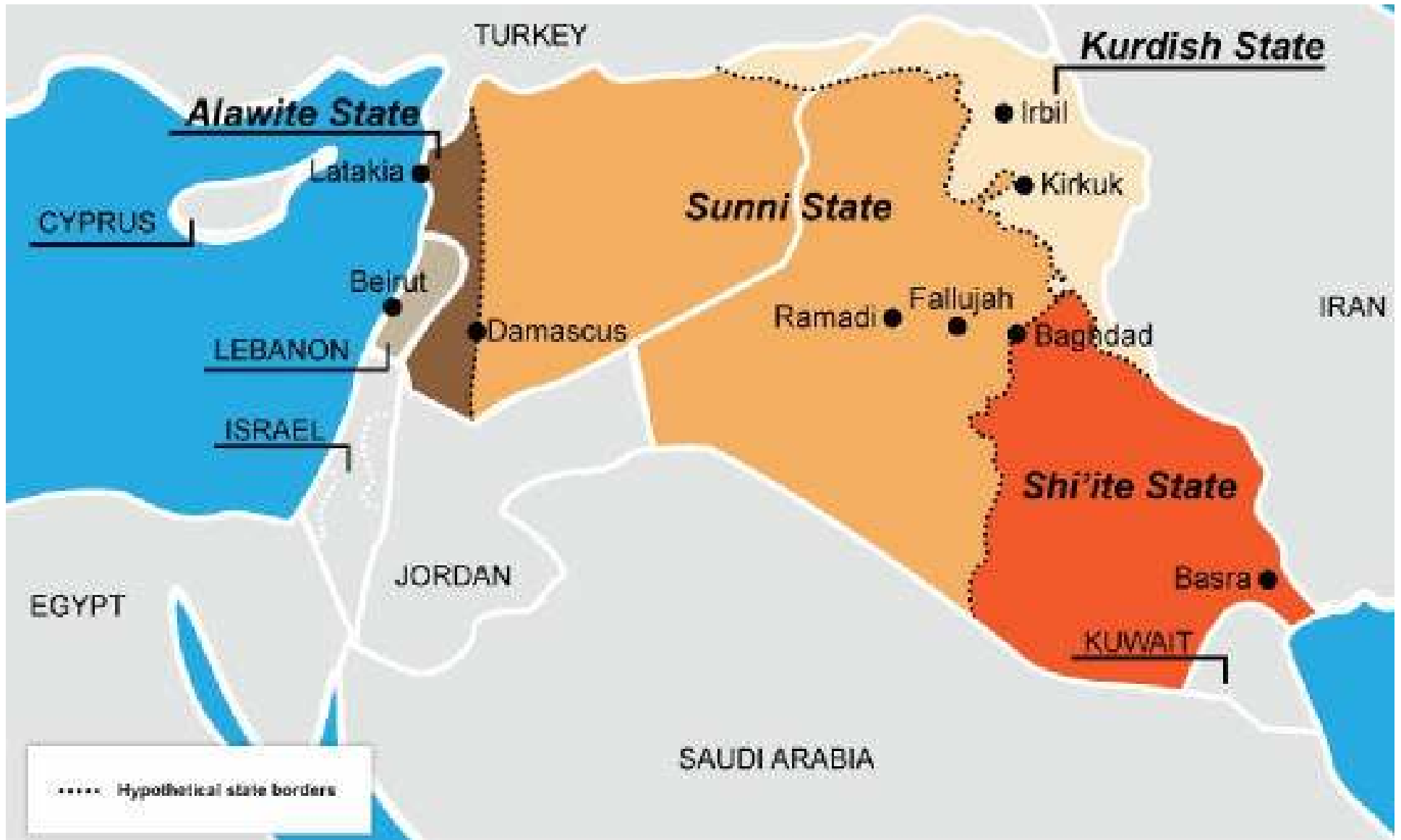
The Ancient Struggle

What most of the crucibles of conflict in the Middle East have in common is that Sunni Muslims are on one side of the disagreement and Shia Muslims on the other The division between Sunni and Shia Muslims is the oldest in the Middle East.



Paul Vallely, "The vicious schism" The Independent (2/19/14) www.independent.co.uk/





ISIS began with radical Sunni Jihadists in Iraq who fought under the banner of al-Qaeda

Salafism: The word salaf means “predecessors.”

- **Basic idea:** behind this movement is that the first generations of Muslims, who conformed closely to Muhammad’s model, are the best examples of how to live.

SALAFISM – A TYPOLOGY

- Common features:
 - *Considers itself as the «the pure society»*
 - *Focused on practises, rituals*
 - Clothing, men and women



Wahhabism:

- Based upon the teachings of the 18th century fundamentalist preacher Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab.



The Muslim Brotherhood:

- Former Muslim and Islamic historian, Mark Gabriel writes: “While various radical groups come and go, Muslim Brotherhood is the most mature and well-organized powerful Islamic radical movement in our modern history.”



Examples of Modern Islamic Terrorist Groups:

- a. -**Al-Jihad**: Egyptian Islamic Jihad
- b. - **Al-Qaeda**: Yemen and Middle East Islamist and Wahhabist / Salafi organization.
- c. -**Al-Shabaab**: Somalia Terrorist attacks in Kenya

Examples of Modern Islamic Terrorist Groups:

- d. -**Boko Haram**: In March, 2015, they swore allegiance to ISIS. Nigeria Attacking Christians in southern Nigeria
- e. -**Hamas**: Gaza strip and West Bank Constantly attacking Israel
- f. -**Hezbollah**: Lebanon Responsible for past wars with Israel

Examples of Modern Islamic Terrorist Groups:

- g. -**Islamic State of Iraq and Syria**: Iraq and Syria Current war with the U.S.
- h. -**Palestine Liberation Front**: Palestine
- i. -**Taliban**: Afghanistan with large influence in Pakistan. Pak Taliban support of ISIS -- International reproach from their treatment of women.

Know the difference



Hijab

Comes from the Arabic word for veil, the type commonly worn in the west is a scarf that covers the head and neck but leaves the face clear.



Chador

The Chador, worn when outside the house, is a full-body cloak. It is often worn with a smaller scarf underneath.



Niqab

The niqab is a veil for the face that leaves the area around the eyes clear.



Burqa

Most concealing of Islamic veils. It covers the entire face and body, leaving just a mesh screen to see through.

<http://philly.com.au/?tag=muslim-headwear>

Some countries require women to wear full facial burkas or a chador, which opens in the front.

The Demise of Arab Civilization

HISHAM MELHEM

Washington bureau chief of Al-Arabiya

“Arab civilization, such as we knew it, is all but gone. The Arab world today is more violent, unstable, fragmented and driven by extremism—the extremism of the rulers and those in opposition—than at any time since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire a century ago. Every hope of modern Arab history has been betrayed. . . .

The Barbarians within our Gates, Politico Magazine, September 18, 2014

. . . The jihadists of the Islamic State . . .

did not emerge from nowhere. They climbed out of a rotting, empty hulk—what was left of a broken-down civilization. They are a gruesome manifestation of a deeper malady afflicting Arab political culture, which was stagnant, repressive and patriarchal after the decades of authoritarian rule that led to the disastrous defeat in the 1967 war with Israel. . .

. . . . That defeat sounded the death knell of Arab nationalism and the resurgence of political Islam, which projected itself as the alternative to the more secular ideologies that had dominated the Arab republics since the Second World War. If Arab decline was the problem, then 'Islam is the solution,' the Islamists said—and they believed it. . . .

Ps 122:6-7 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces."

Modern Israel

Moses' Prophecy Fulfilled (Again)

Deuteronomy 30:3-5 “. . . the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity . . . and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you. . .

Moses' Prophecy Fulfilled (Again)

4 If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. . .

Moses' Prophecy Fulfilled (Again)

5 Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.”

Modern Israel's Conflicts

After WWII, Jews fled to their ancient homeland. They proclaimed statehood and independence on May 14, 1948. They had to fight the surrounding Arab nations at that time to keep Israel. Since then, there have been numerous wars with Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine.



Modern Israel's Conflicts

In what was known as The Six Day War of 1967, Israel took the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and occupied the entire Old City of Jerusalem.

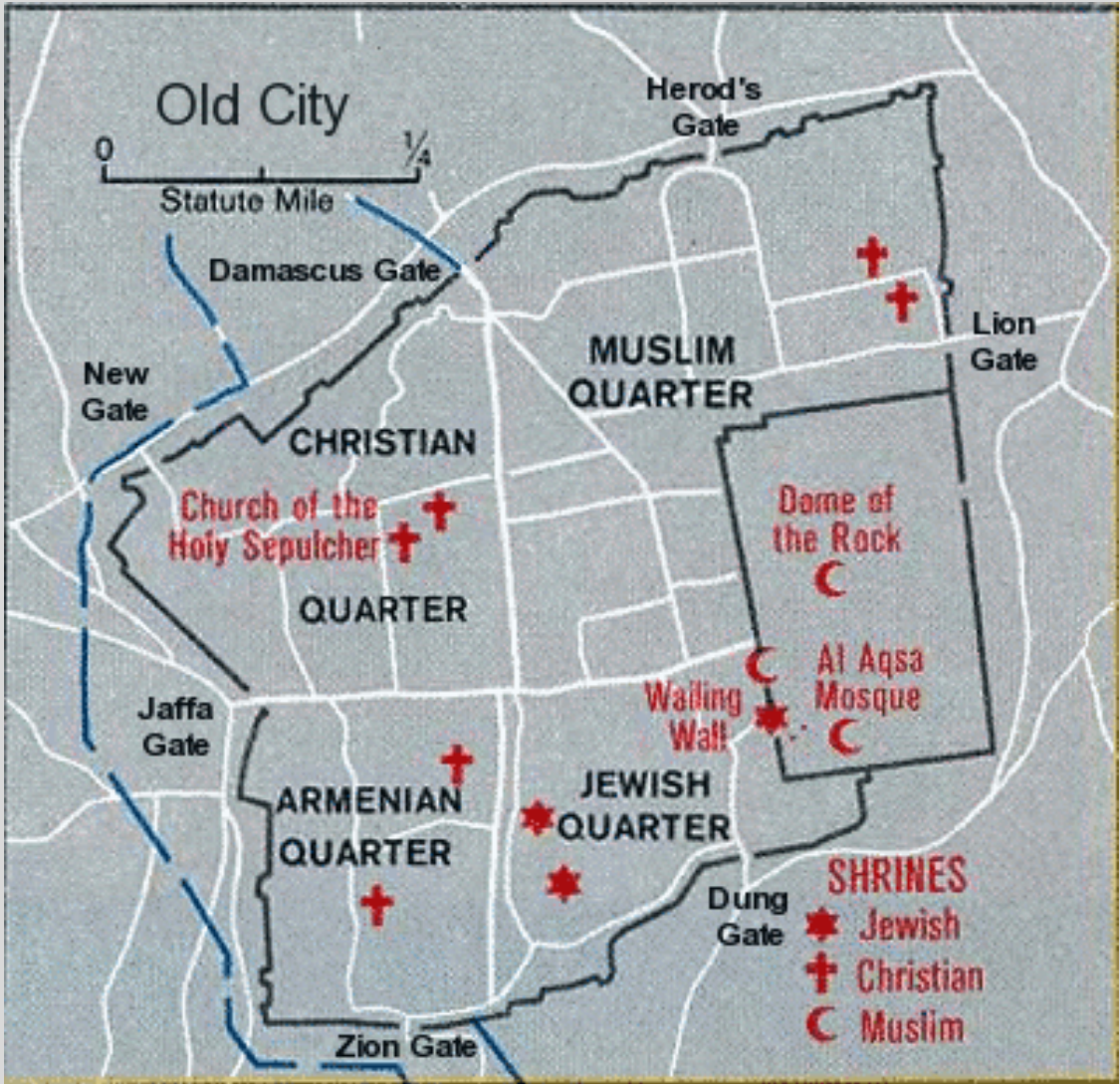
In recent years, Hezbollah fighters from Iran and militants from the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have attacked Israel.



On going conflict between Israel and Hamas




Cohabitation by three religions in the Old City



The Wailing Wall and Temple Mount



Valley of Jehoshaphat

A man with glasses and a blue t-shirt stands on a balcony with a black metal railing, smiling at the camera. He has a black backpack on. The background shows a panoramic view of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount and the Dome of the Rock, under a clear blue sky. The foreground shows a large cemetery with many stone tombs.

Joel 3:2 “I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage, Israel”

Gate Breaker Ministries

Ministry in Pakistan

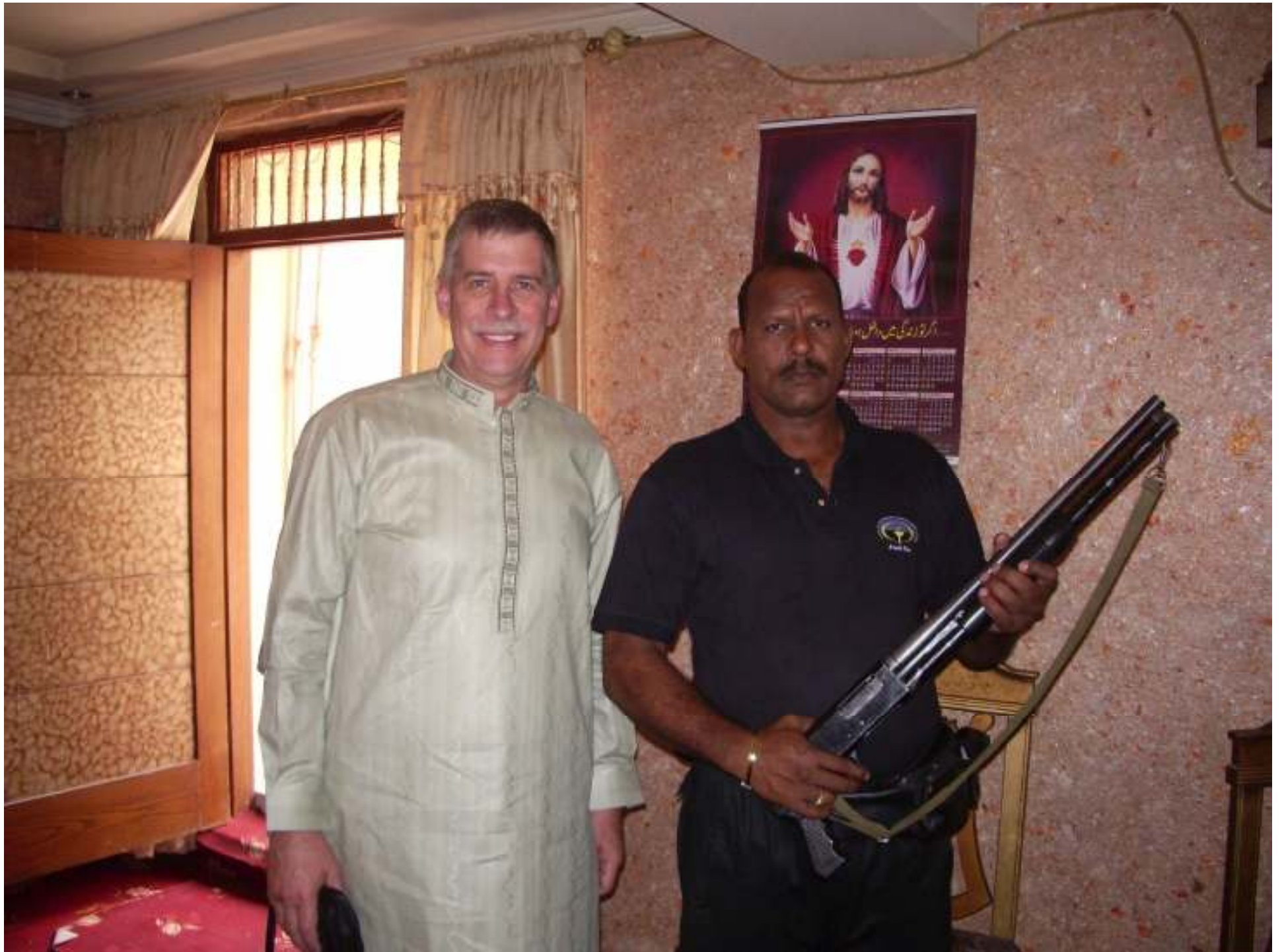
Gate Breaker Ministries in Pakistan 2009 - 2020



PAKISTAN



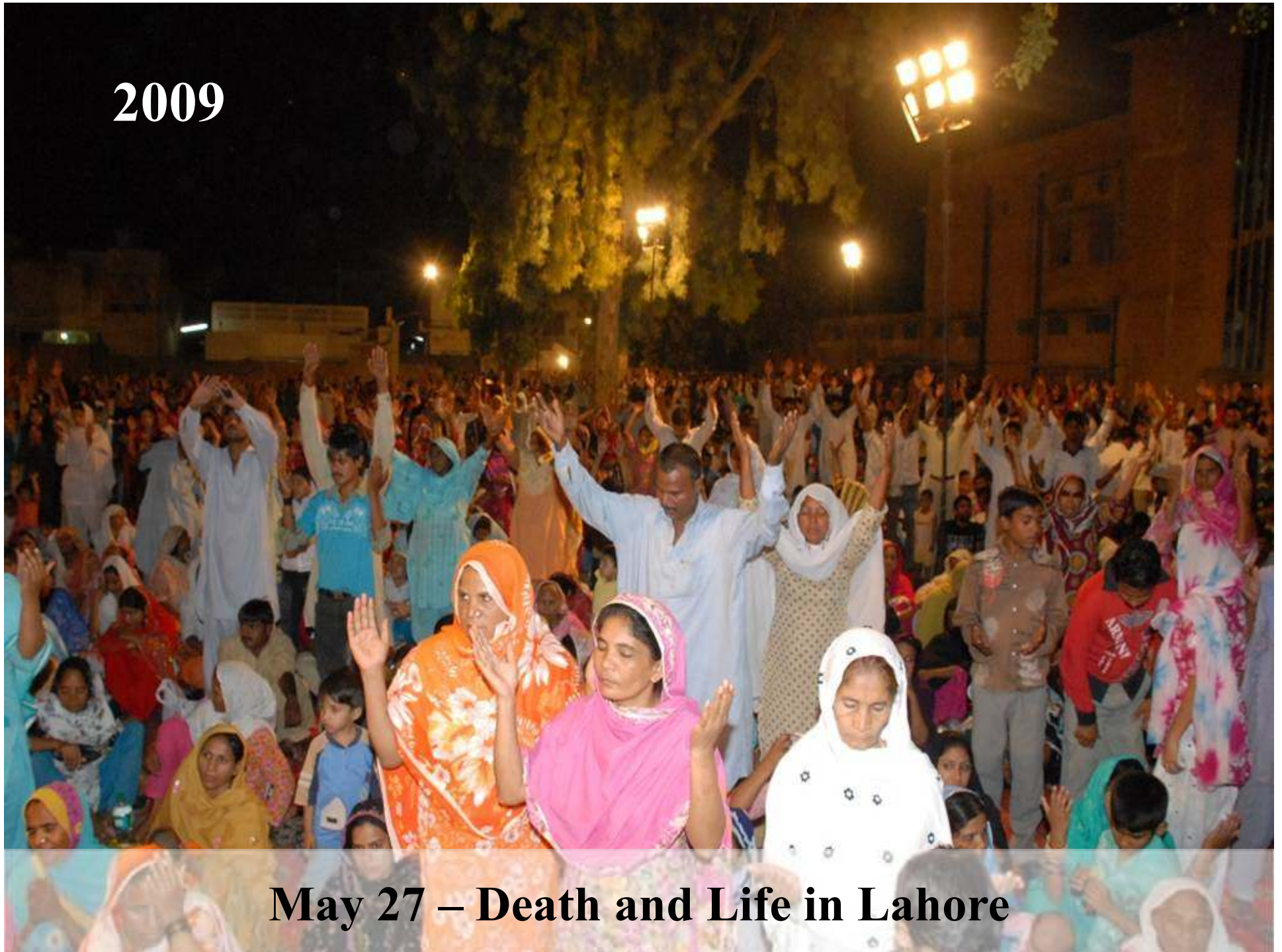
The Punjab region of Pakistan “has a higher number of unreached individuals per Christian worker than any other place in the world”.
Operation World, 2010





Power outage in the Hood

2009



May 27 – Death and Life in Lahore



Many Pastors Conferences



Our 2019 Team

Six GBM Trade Schools





GBM TRADE SCHOOL PAKISTAN

OPENING CEREMONY

October 2018

Venue:

Bhatta Manawala Kasur.







**300 Graduates
since 2009**

17 GBM Hope Schools For slave children



**They work long hours
Each day in the brick yards**



Some of the schools of Gate Breaker Ministries







**GBM provides curriculum,
furniture, clothing and teachers**



**They are trained in English,
Urdu, Mathematics, Science,
Bible, Social
Studies and more.**



40 + children in each of 17 schools



Our land in Kasur



2019 Prayer Festival



The world needs Jesus

Classification	C 1	C 2	C 3	C 4	C 5	C 6
Christ – centered community description	A church foreign to the Muslim community in both culture and language	C 1 in form but speaking the language used by Muslims, though their religious terminology is distinctively non-Muslim	C 2 using non-Islamic cultural elements (e.g. dress, music, diet, arts)	C 3 with some biblically acceptable Islamic practices	C 4 with a “Muslim follower of Jesus” self identity	Secret believers, may or may not be active members in the religious life of the Muslim community
Self - identity	Christian	Christian	Christian	Follower of Isa	Muslim follower of Jesus	Privately: Christian, or follower of Isa, or Muslim follower of Jesus
Muslim perception	Christian	Christian	Christian	A kind of Christian	A strange kind of Muslim	Muslim

Statement of an Indonesian Convert

”In Islam I had no certainty and no peace. I was always in a state of anxiety and frustration. But in Christ I have assurance and rest in my heart. The most important thing to me is the love of Christ and the love he puts in the hearts of those who sincerely believe in Him and know him. True Christians love Muslims too . . .

Statement of Indonesian Convert

”... If anyone calls himself a Christian and hates anyone else, he is self-deceived, for he does not truly know Christ. The Bible warns against all of those who think that by persecuting and killing others they are doing God service (John 16:2).”

Jesus (Isa) in the Koran

- The Koran refers to Jesus more than 30 times.
- Muhammad's knowledge of Jesus was limited. Some was based on corrupted oral tradition rather than the Bible.
- Yet, there is evidence of Jesus' miracles, compassion, gospel, and place of honor in God's sight.
- These can be used as bridges to share Jesus with Muslim friends.

A Bridge from the Koran to the Bible

- Sura 4:169 “The Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, is only an apostle of God, and his Word which he conveyed into Mary, and a Spirit proceeding from himself.”
- John 1:1 “. . . And **the Word was God.**”
- John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and **dwelt among us.**”

Jesus was born to the virgin

- **Sura 19:20-22** “She (Mary) said, ‘How shall I have a son, when man has never touched me? and I am not unchaste.’ He said: ‘So it shall be. Thy Lord hath said: ‘Easy is this with me;’ and we will make him a sign to mankind, and a mercy from us. For it is a thing decreed.’ And she conceived him.”

Jesus had a special mission

- **Sura 2:81** “To Jesus, Son of Mary, gave we clear proofs of his mission, and strengthened him by the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus is the Messiah

- **Sura 3:40** “His name shall be, Messiah Jesus the son of Mary, illustrious in this world, and in the next, and one of those who have near access to God.”
- **Al Masih Isa**

Ask the Lord

What He wants you to do



Lesson Nine:

Shining Christian Light