

## **Intro week**

### **Islam broadly**

It is considered one of the Abrahamic, monotheistic faiths, along with Judaism and Christianity.

Hagar is considered to be the first mother of Islam. Genesis Chapters 16, 17, 21, 25 tell the story of her and her son Ishmael.

She is not mentioned in the Koran but tradition holds that her lineage leads to Muhammad. Muslims consider Judaism and Islam as “brothers” in a similar way that Isaac and Ishmael were half brothers. Tradition in Islam has Hagar and Ishmael being brought by God to Mecca. I have maybe had a dozen conversations about Islam with Muslims and most of those conversations included this idea about Hagar.

### **Islam the Name**

The name of the religion is Islam, which comes from an Arabic root word meaning "peace" and "submission."

Peace is found by submitting to Allah in thought, word and deed

### **Allah**

The name for God generally in the Arabic language. Muslims speak of the One God when they use Allah. They believe they are speaking of the same God that Christians and Jews speak of. The French refer to God as Dieu, but we don't think they are talking about a foreign God.

### ***Origin of the name***

Muhammad's (the Author of the Koran and original leader of what became Islam). His father's name was Abd Allāh meaning - the slave /servant of Allah

For the Meccans there were competing deities and powers for the minds of the people. Muhammad developed this “Allah is one of many” a made Allah the supreme and only God.

### **99 names of God in the Koran**

There are ninety-nine names/ attributes of God.

99 names point to the inherent unity of the all-embracing Greatest Name Ismi Azam

Examples-

- Ar-Raḥīm “The Exceedingly Merciful” Beginning of almost every Surah (Surah is a chapter in the Koran)
- Al-Laṭīf The Gentle, The Subtly Kind. Surah 6:103, 22:63, 31:16, 33:34

Faithful Muslims sometimes use these 99 names as a meditation and uses prayer beads. This naming practice approximates the Christian use of a rosary and the Buddhist use of prayer beads.

## **OT and NT Names for God**

### **Yahweh (YHWH)**

Comes from a verb which means “to exist, be.” This, plus its usage, shows that this name stresses God as the independent and self-existent God of revelation and redemption (Gen. 4:3; Ex. 6:3 (cf. 3:14); 3:12).

### **(And lots of associated compounds of Yahweh)**

Example Yahweh Elohim Israel: “The Lord, the God of Israel.” Identifies Yahweh as the God of Israel in contrast to the false gods of the nations (Jud. 5:3.; Isa. 17:6).

**Elohim:** The plural form of EL, meaning “strong one.” It is used of false gods, but when used of the true God, it is a plural of majesty and intimates the trinity. It is especially used of God’s sovereignty, creative work, mighty work for Israel and in relation to His sovereignty (Isa. 54:5; Jer. 32:27; Gen. 1:1; Isa. 45:18; Deut. 5:23; 8:15; Ps. 68:7).

**Adonai:** Like Elohim, this too is a plural of majesty. The singular form means “master, owner.” Stresses man’s relationship to God as his master, authority, and provider (Gen. 18:2; 40:1; 1 Sam. 1:15; Ex. 21:1-6; Josh. 5:14).

### **El Shaddai:** “God Almighty.”

The derivation is uncertain. Some think it stresses God’s loving supply and comfort; others His power as the Almighty one standing on a mountain and who corrects and chastens (Gen. 17:1; 28:3; 35:11; Ex. 6:1; Ps. 91:1, 2).

### **El Elyon:** “The Most High God.”

Stresses God’s strength, sovereignty, and supremacy (Gen. 14:19; Ps. 9:2; Dan. 7:18, 22, 25).

### **El Olam:** “The Everlasting God.”

Emphasizes God’s unchangeableness and is connected with His inexhaustibleness (Gen. 16:13).

### **Theos:** Greek word translated “God.” Primary name for God used in the New Testament.

Its use teaches: (1) He is the only true God (Matt. 23:9; Rom. 3:30); (2) He is unique (1 Tim. 1:17; John 17:3; Rev. 15:4; 16:7); (3) He is transcendent (Acts 17:24; Heb. 3:4; Rev. 10:6); (4) He is the Savior (John 3:16; 1 Tim. 1:1; 2:3; 4:10). This name is used of Christ as God in John 1:1, 18; 20:28; 1 John 5:20; Tit. 2:13; Rom. 9:5; Heb. 1:8; 2 Pet. 1:1.

**Kurios:** Greek word translated “Lord.” Stresses authority and supremacy. While it can mean sir (John 4:11), owner (Luke 19:33), master (Col. 3:22), or even refer to idols (1 Cor. 8:5) or husbands (1 Pet. 3:6), it is used mostly as the equivalent of Yahweh of the Old Testament. It too is used of Jesus Christ meaning (1) Rabbi or Sir (Matt. 8:6); (2) God or Deity (John 20:28; Acts 2:36; Rom. 10:9; Phil. 2:11).

**Despotes:** Greek word translated “Master.” Carries the idea of ownership while kurios stressed supreme authority (Luke 2:29; Acts 4:24; Rev. 6:10; 2 Pet. 2:1; Jude 4).

**Abba Father:** A distinctive New Testament revelation is that through faith in Christ, God becomes our personal Father. Father is used of God in the Old Testament only 15 times while it is used of God 245 times in the New Testament. As a name of God, it stresses God’s loving care, provision, discipline, and the way we are to address God in prayer (Matt. 7:11; Jam. 1:17; Heb. 12:5-11; John 15:16; 16:23; Eph. 2:18; 3:15; 1 Thess. 3:11).

## A practitioner – a Muslim

A Muslim is one who submits to the will of God.

Pronunciation: moos-lim (with a strong 's' sound as in 'snake')

- Alternate Spellings: Moslem -- but "Muslim" is preferred.
- Old school -- Mohammedan (as in a follower of Muhammed)

"Muslim" is used when referring to people -- My neighbor is a Muslim  
"Islamic" refers to countries, laws, etc. --- Iran is an Islamic Nation.

To contrast - We have Christians and Christian countries.

### Greetings and sayings

**Salaam alaykum.** Roughly – “Peace be with you.” Muslims of all languages use this greeting. - It is a very common greeting mostly among Muslims.

**Insha'Allah** - "Allah willing" (God willing (hopefully)).

The term is used in the Islamic world, but is also used generally in the Middle East.

**Allahu Akbar** is also spoken during [salat](#), the five-times daily prayer, and by [muezzin](#) (a cantor who stand at the top a minaret to call the faithful to prayer. More when we get to the “pillars” of Islam and structure of a mosque.

When a movie shows a crazed Muslim screaming Allahu Akbar before blowing something up, it is a wrong co-opting of the phrase. It probably has been used as a war cry, but not nearly as much a Hollywood would have you believe.

