

Week 6

Isnad

Chain of authority that attests to the historical authenticity of a particular hadith. There was a need to vet the authenticity of the hadith. Isnad is the general term for this vetting or canonization process.

Koran on more topics

Christians and Jews

Surah 1:7

The Way of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace, not (the way) of those who earned Your Anger (such as the Jews), nor of those who went astray (such as the Christians).

Supremacy of Qur'an

2:23. And if you (Arab pagans, Jews, and Christians) are in doubt concerning that which We have sent down (i.e. the Qur'an) to Our slave (Muhammad Peace be upon him), then produce a Surah (chapter) of the like thereof and call your witnesses (supporters and helpers) besides Allah, if you are truthful.

Resurrection

2:28 28. How can you disbelieve in Allah? Seeing that you were dead and He gave you life. Then He will give you death, then again will bring you to life (on the Day of Resurrection) and then unto Him you will return.

Second Coming of Jesus

"And he (Jesus) shall be a Sign (for the coming of) the Hour (of Judgment): therefore have no doubt about the (Hour), but follow ye Me (Follow the guidance and instruction of Allah): this is a Straight Way." 43:61

Sahih al-Bukhari (Hadith)

3:43:656: Narrated Abu Hurairah:

"Allah's Apostle said, "The Hour will not be established until the son of Mary (Mariam) (i.e. Jesus) descends amongst you as a just ruler, he will break the cross, kill the pigs, and abolish the Jizya tax. Money will be in abundance so that nobody will accept it (as charitable gifts)."

Paradise and Suicide Bombers

People skew Koran to fit political agenda. Muhammad was grasping for imagery to describe paradise and talks about 72 Virgins.

There are 72 Huri/Houri for each righteous man

Huri – dark wide eyed maiden

They are/ have

- Chaste 37.48 / 55.56
- A modest gaze 38.52
- Wide, lovely eyes 56.22 / 37.48 / 52.20
- Pearls 56.22
- A spouse 56.36
- Companions of equal age 56.38
- Splendid and voluptuous 78.33

The contested / minority view - Not virgins, but a modest bunch of grapes. Very unlikely as it was a symbolic description of paradise. I don't think grapes are a compelling enough metaphor.

Symbolic description– Muhammad was pointing to something beautiful beyond imagination.

Think Song of Songs in OT. Allegory of human love and also of God's love. Allegories are throughout Scripture - We are the Bride of Christ.

Islamic and Christian Crusades

Holy War - Christian

- First crusade was launched by Pope Urban II at the Council of Clermont in 1095
Initiated to restore access to the Holy Land that was under the control of Muslim governance.
- Arguably - Last crusade – Spanish Armada of 1558. Catholic Spain against “apostate” England. Ultimately a stalemate
- 9 in Middle East and 7 in Europe.
- http://usna.edu/Users/history/abels/hh315/crusades_timeline.htm

Two views of Christian Crusades

Traditionalist – strictly defensive against Islamic threat.

Pluralist – get a much territory as possible under the guise of purifying the land of Muslims and Jews and the non-complaint Christians.

There is a huge amount of history that we won't cover. You could get lost in the fascinating history of the 15 Christian crusades. But for the sake of brevity, we will move on.

Holy War – Islam

Remember a few weeks ago about how some religious leaders make the battle cry for a Global Caliphate - where politics and religion are seamlessly united. In the same way, the Church has sought to be the universal expression of God's will by gun and/or proclamation. Muslims throughout history have felt it their religious duty to spread Islam by book or sword. This should not surprise us. Millions of Native Americans were killed or converted to Christianity when Europe spread to North America just to name one.

Muslim expansion chronology

Muhammad's campaigns (during his lifetime)

Byzantine–Arab Wars: 634–750 *Syria, Armenia, Egypt, Cyprus, Constantinople*

Conquest of Persia, *Iran*, and Iraq: 633–651
Conquest of Transoxiana, *Afganistan*: 662–751
Conquest of Sindh, *India*: 664–712
Conquest of Spain (711–718)
Conquest Septimania, *Modern French region of Languedoc-Roussillon*: (719–720)
Conquest of the Caucasus, *Georgia and Russia*: 711–750
Conquest of Nubia, *Northern Sudan / Southern Egypt*: 700–1606
Incursions into southern Italy: 831–902
Conquest of Anatolia: 1060–1360
Byzantine-Ottoman Wars: 1299–1453

Again we could get immersed in mountains of wonderful details, but we will keep it to an overview.

Iconoclastic Controversy

In the 8th and 9th Centuries the Eastern Church saw the Islamic expansion and thought that this movement was God using heretics to chasten its practices. So, many of what are now Eastern Orthodox churches destroyed, dismantled, or removed their iconography from their sanctuaries hoping to quell God's wrath

Art

Islam takes a strong stand against any form of idolatry. Therefore figural art historically has been discouraged- sculpture, portraiture, or any figural representation. This has led to a focus on calligraphy, poetry, and singing.

In practice, Islamic art does not adhere totally to this. Often the image of Muhammad is in the form of a body with a blazing fire where his head would be as well as full representation.

Contemporary Friction

- Innocence of Muslims
- South Park
- Koran Burning
- Satanic Verses