

# Islam

## *Religion of Peace, or Death?*

Recently, I read two really good books by authors who provided an insider's view of Islam, which I thoroughly recommend to anyone who wishes to understand why we see so much violence, torture and death emanating from Islam in countries around the world.

'The Imam's Daughter' is set in England and is the story of Hannah Shah, its author. 'Son of Hamas' is set in Israel and is the account of his life by Mosab Hasson Yousef, the son of one of the founders of Hamas.

These two young people felt compelled to write their accounts to bring out the deceit and hypocrisy that lies hidden behind Islam, but similar claims have been made about so called 'Christianity' down the ages, from the Inquisition in Europe to Northern Ireland in the last century.

Almost all religion it seems, is not what it seems, and this article will explain the reason why; who is responsible for the resultant horrendous suffering, and how you can find your way to worship the true God you are seeking.

Just this morning I sat through a lengthy TV news bulletin relating another terrible bomb attack on police stations in Nigeria. It could easily have been in Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, the Philippines, Israel or Indonesia for we have all seen them so many times before, even carried out in Western lands like the USA and Britain.

This time, it was claimed by Islamist militants who have warned Christians to leave Northern Nigeria, but it doesn't need to be inter-faith violence, such as that which brought about the terrible deaths of so many thousands in Sudan, the Christian villages burned, women raped, children mutilated by Islamic militants who eventually succeeded in splitting that country into two.

Almost every day we read of similar atrocities inside countries like Pakistan, which is entirely Islamic. The Qur'an is the source of such hatred and violence, and its verses lie behind most terrorist activity in the world, though other religions have also been responsible to a lesser extent. Why is this, for some have claimed Islam to be a religion of peace?

Mosab Yousef, 'Son of Hamas', explains that Islam is like a ladder with rungs. At the bottom are many sincere seekers after God who actually know little about their religion, apart from what they are taught. (Actually this is not just true of Israel, where Mosab lived, but of nations around the world. Many of Islam's adherents are illiterate. The Qur'an is to be learned in Arabic, they are told. Even fewer can understand Arabic but they learn to recite the sounds, so it is hardly surprising that the meaning of the words is largely unknown to them. Even those who can read Arabic obviously cannot have studied the book closely or they would recognise its amazing source, which it readily admits!)

Higher up the ladder are the moderates who cling to the faith, but with deep reservations about the Jihadists who believe in violence, though they have to admit such verses exist in the Qur'an. At the top of the ladder are the hypocritical leaders who encourage violence for their own ends, power,

riches and control, and who think nothing of cynically standing safely aside while inciting deceived innocents to give their lives as suicide bombers in the hope of going “straight to heaven.” These evil men believe that all kinds of evil, torture and killing are necessary for the end goal of a worldwide caliphate, without other religions, with themselves, of course, at the top.

This is, as we have seen, is not just restricted to Islam, but is a pattern mirrored in other religions too, to a much lesser extent. Even the sincere moderates in most religions are not deeply aware of their own ‘Holy Books’. They believe what they are told by their ministers or mullahs, who themselves often tend to concentrate on the added ‘traditions’ of their culture and religion, rather than the original documents.

Ask the average ‘Christian’ what Christ taught, what Christianity is about, and they will mention Christmas, Easter, maybe ‘baptising’ infants with a few drops of water from a font, none of which are found in the Bible!

What all this boils down to is deception. Deception on a worldwide scale! Delusion follows, and in Islam this has resulted in the **death of millions**. Who is responsible for that? Revelation 12:9, ‘*So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the **Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.***’

Satan lies behind all false religion, and he has had his success with false Christianity, but at this time there is no doubt that his most successful ploy is found in Islam, because he cares not who he kills, just as long as he kills as much of humanity as possible, for he greatly envies our place in God’s Plan.

Unsuccessful in his battle with the Almighty, Satan was cast down to the earth with the one third of the angels who followed him in his rebellion. Here, God has allowed him and his demons to test humanity to see just who will resist his evil influence. With false religions and equally false theories which divert people from God, Satan has cast a veil of deception over the whole world.

2 Corinthians 4:4, ‘*whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*’

Our Heavenly Father is a master planner. He, with His Son Jesus Christ, is working on a plan that will result in the resurrection of just 144,000 saints (Revelation 14:1) when Christ returns for them, half way through the coming seven years of tribulation before the establishment of God’s Kingdom here on the earth for 1000 years. Only after their role during the millennium will the rest of humanity be resurrected - all who have ever lived, at last to have their chance to know God and gain eternal life.

Revelation 20:4,11-13. ‘*I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*’

*Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.<sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.*’

Forget false religions ideas about martyrdom being the only sure way to heaven, or fiendish tortures in Hell. Forget the 70 virgins, or being reincarnated as a mosquito or a frog, or playing harps in the clouds! They don't exist in the Bible. The only True Religion is the oldest, which started by God teaching Adam and Eve back in the Garden of Eden, and continued when the one who became Jesus Christ worked with Abraham's descendents as the God of the Old Testament, and was finalised with the New Testament's elucidation of the establishment of God's Kingdom, here on the earth – the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

That was the message brought by Christ Himself, which is a message of God's mercy and love for all mankind, freely available for all to read in the pages of the Bible. Here, there is no mention of punishment in hell, everlasting torment, the requirement to force others to convert, but rather the admonition from our Saviour for all leaders to emulate His pattern of service, rather than the dominion and control of men over God's people. Matthew 20:25-27.

*But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. <sup>27</sup> And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave.'*

All that is required of those who seek to worship the True God is to believe the Bible, to live their lives by its laws, and accept Jesus Christ's sacrifice as source of forgiveness of our sins, for His death paid the penalty once and for all, for all humanity. Acts 2:37-38.

*'Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"*

<sup>38</sup> *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,'*

No wonder both of the authors of the books mentioned at the start of this article are now Christians, having recognised from the inside, the bitter fruits of a religion the Qur'an itself admits came from Satan!

First understand that the Bible tells us that men and women will bow before Jesus Christ on Judgment Day, (*'for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, .. says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God- Romans 14:10-11*)

Remember too that **the Qur'an clearly warns all Muslims** in Surah 14:22, "Satan will [then] say, 'God gave you a true promise. I too made promises [in the Qur'an] but they were false ones: I had no power over you **except to call you, and you responded to my call**, so do not blame me blame yourselves. I cannot help you, nor can you help me. I reject the way **you associated me with God** before. For wrongdoers there must be a Grievous Penalty.'" (Surah 14:22)

May the God of Abraham help you to receive your Saviour's **true** words and recognise the boasting of the evil one who has deceived the whole world!