

CULTS

Lesson 6

Islam

Last week we looked at the religion and followers of Hinduism. We discovered it's the third largest religion in the world, sees its "god" as a single being that manifests itself in many forms, focuses on meditation, living a pure life, and reincarnation.

We saw that one of the things that distinguishes this religion from Buddhism is the fact that Buddhism does not have a god or gods it worships, and that the Hindu religion believes reincarnation can place your soul not just in humans but others as well, such as animals, where Buddhist believe it only continues from human to human until you achieve "enlightenment".

This week we'll continue on our study by looking at the second largest religion in the world - Islam. Perhaps having roots as far back as Abraham, we'll look closely at the religion, Islam and its followers the Muslims that today seem to be in the news everywhere we look.

Get your research tools handy, you might find the Internet extremely helpful this week as has it been in the past, as well as Dr. Martin's book, "The Kingdom of the Cults", and answer the following questions:

1. How many followers of Islam are there today?

2. Where was it founded and when?

3. What is Muhammed's background and history leading up to his vision?

4. What is the background of the growth of Islam?

5. What is their position on the Bible, God and Theology?

6. What are the Quran and the Hadith?

7. What are the Five Pillars of Islam?

8. What is a Jihad?

13. Who are “The Baha’i World Faith”, “The Black Muslims” and the “Ahmadis”

Again this week we look at a religion that offers its followers freedom from the pain and struggles of this life and a hope that a lasting peace and freedom can be found through following the teachings, practices and writings of one person professing to be God’s messenger. Again you’ll see a focus on mankind’s actions in achieving salvation through works and a message that perverts God’s Holy Word into looking like the truth, when in fact it’s all a lie inspired by Satan and created by man.

It’s always difficult for us to understand how so many people could follow the teachings of Islam – or any other religion we’ve studied these past weeks, but we know that Christ taught us many would follow the path that leads to destruction, it’s our responsibility to offer ourselves as God’s messengers of the Gospel of Christ to them – and to pray for their salvation.

In today’s local paper we read that a prominent Catholic Bishop in Washington now teaches it’s ok to accept evolution as a valid teaching of the church – so long as “God” is the creator, that a literal translation of the creation story is not necessary. Apostasy is all around us, both in the guise of “Christian Doctrine” and in the religions and cults of the world.

As Bible believing Christians we are challenged at every turn to know the truth and to guard the truth with all diligence. Christ tells us He is the truth, believe in Him and the Truth shall set you free. I pray our studies these past few weeks have helped you in this quest, and in the daily battle to keep God’s Word pure and in our hearts.

Thanks again for studying with us.

In Christ,

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