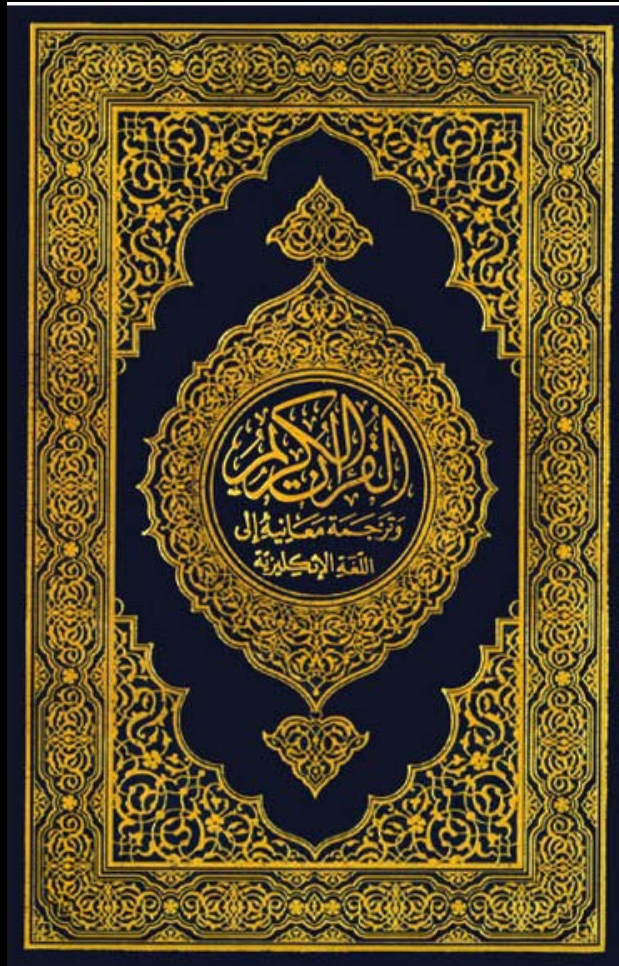


# Islam and The Qur'an



# Warm Up

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- What do you know about Islam and/or the Qur'an?

# THE QUR'AN

- God speaking to the prophet in his own words
- “the recitation”
- Labyrinth of language, more poetry than prose
- A unique layout - no chronology or narrative
- 114 chapters generally organized from longest to shortest



# WHAT IS IT?

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- × *A streaming of consciousness*
- × History
- × A Message
- × No Centralized Authority

# *The Age of Ignorance*



- 6<sup>th</sup> century Arabia
- Mecca
- Religion
- The Quraysh



# Enter Muhammad

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- ◉ Born 570 A.D. (Anno Domini) or C.E.
- ◉ Pictures/depictions of the Prophet
- ◉ Writings about Muhammad
- ◉ Early Life – Family, Tragedy, and Class



# Muhammad: Trader and Husband

- **At twenty-five**
- **Reputation**
- **Khadijah**
- **At Forty**
- **Divine Intervention**



# What happens next?

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- ◉ Muhammad's reaction
- ◉ Khadijah's reaction
- ◉ The revelations
- ◉ Preaching



# THE MESSAGE

- ◉ An Important Note
- ◉ Why again?
- ◉ An oral tradition
- ◉ Muslims



# *Who is attracted to Islam?*

- It appeals to the poor. Why?
  - Social justice
  - Freeing of slaves
  - Rich should give to the poor
- Why else is it appealing?
  - The beauty of the language

# *Who feels threatened?*

- The Quraysh
- Why? What 's their quarrel?





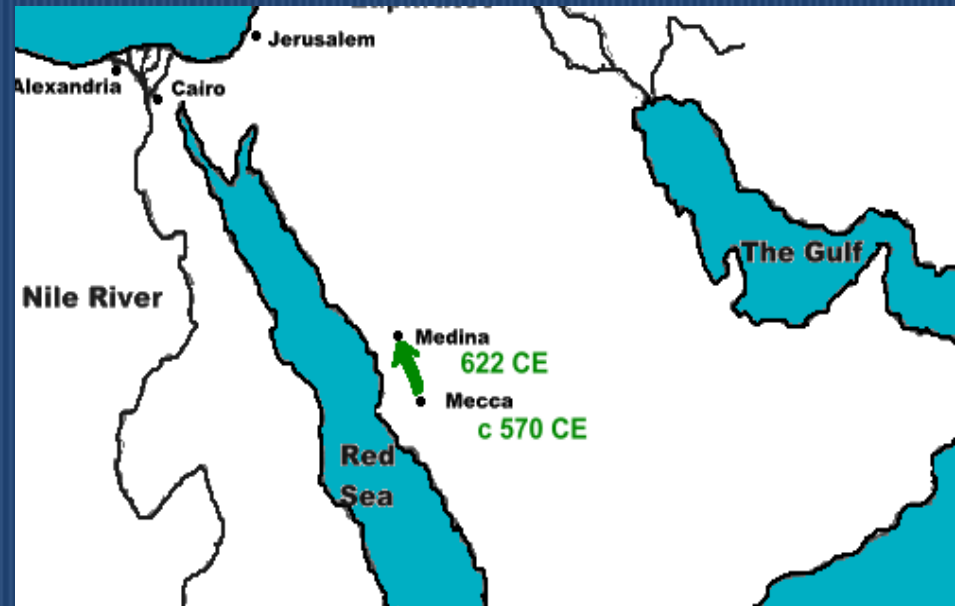
# Consequences and developments

- Persecution
- Protection
- 619 – The Year of Sorrows
- 620 – The Night Journey
- 622 – Hegira (First year of the Muslim calendar)



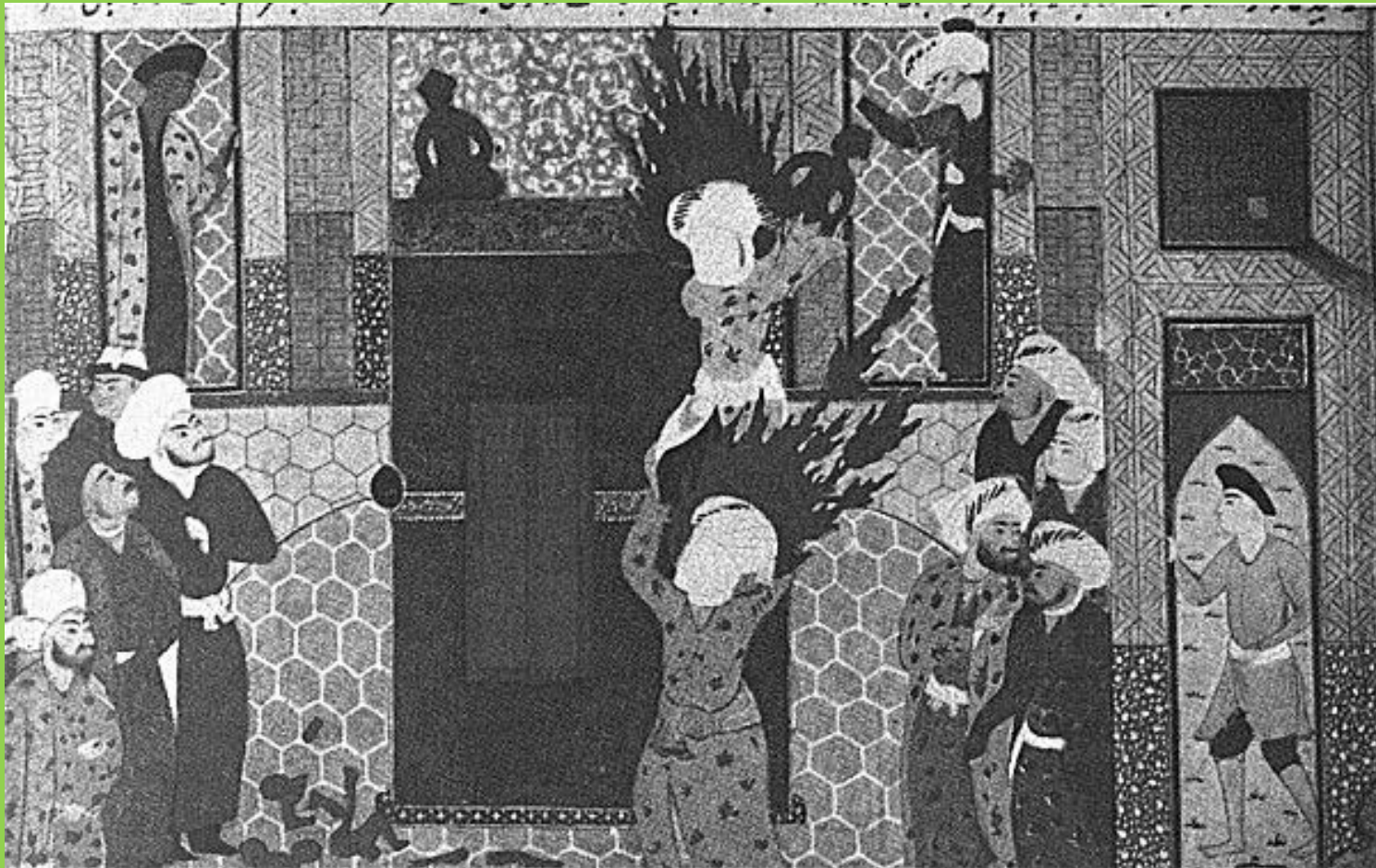
# Medina (*Medinat al-Nabi*, "City of the Prophet").

- Not just a prophet
- Law and War
- Every Aspect of life
- Eight years of War
- Muhammad's victory



# MUHAMMAD'S VICTORY

- **MERCIFUL**
- **DESTRUCTION OF THE IDOLS**





# Teachings of Islam

- *La ilaha illa Allah: Muhammadun rasulu Allah*
- Five Pillars:
  - 1) Belief in one God - revealed his message to Muhammad
  - 2) Pray five times a day facing Mecca
  - 3) Charity to the poor and the aged
  - 4) Fasting during the holy month of Ramadan
  - 5) The hajj, or pilgrimage to Mecca

# Succession and the Split

- 632 – Prophet dies at age 62
- Doesn't name a successor
- Ali – Cousin and son-in-law (Shia Muslims)
- Abu Bakr – Senior companion, friend, confidant (Sunni Muslims)
- The case for each
- Political Division
- Abu Bakr emerges as new leader



# The Rightly Guided Caliphs (*Rashidun*)

- Abu Bakr (632-634)
- Umar (634-644)
- Uthman (644-656)
- Ali (656-661)
  
- Ridda Wars
- Conquests
  - Keep the desert at your back
  - Organized venture
  - Expand and Survive

# PRESERVING THE FAITH

- What now?
- The writing of the Qur'an
- 651 – Qur'an completed
- 100% authentic





# What is the Qur'an?

- Why the Qur'an?
- The problem with previous scriptures
- Validation and correction (examples)



# INTERPRETING THE BOOK

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- ✖ Complex and controversial
- ✖ The Apocalypse is coming!
- ✖ Portrayal of Heaven and Hell
- ✖ No hierarchy or church
- ✖ Paradox
- ✖ An Elastic document



# Is Islam a violent faith?



**If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the LORD thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the LORD thy God, in transgressing his covenant, And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; ... Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die.**

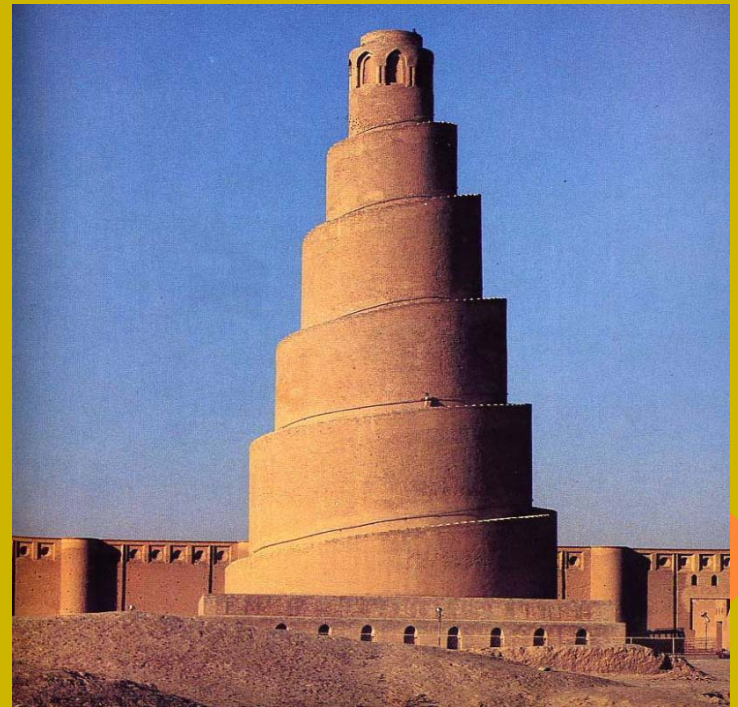
**- The New Testament**

# The Spread



# ABBASID EMPIRE

- 750 A.D. - Beginning of the Golden Age of Islam
- ILM
- Inspires the rulers and leads to a flourishing of the faith
- Science, math, technology
- Preservation of ancient texts



# JIHAD

- The struggle to be a good Muslim.
- Lesser jihad - physical (self-defense)
- Greater jihad- Internal struggle (more prominence)



# The Crusades

Europe - Dark Ages

Islam - Flourishing

- Qur'an – Religious acceptance

Muslims - Cultural disdain

- Crusades - Jerusalem held by Muslim Turks





# The 1<sup>st</sup> Crusade 1096-1099

- 1095 – Pope Urban II
- 1096 - First Crusade launched
- The journey
- 1099 - Attack Jerusalem
- Slaughter innocent people –  
Still with Muslims today!
- The word Jihad changes in  
meaning





# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Crusade 1147-1149

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- ▶ 1145 - Nur-a-din sacks Odessa and is intent on taking Jerusalem
- ▶ Pope calls for Crusade II
- ▶ 1149 - Nur-a-din defeats Christians in 2<sup>nd</sup> Crusade (disaster for Christians)
- ▶ Christian errors unite Muslim world
- ▶ Battle of Hattin
- ▶ Sal-a-din - 1187 – Takes back Jerusalem
- ▶ Allows many survivors to go free while others are ransomed



# The 3<sup>rd</sup> Crusade 1189-1192

- Frederick Barbarossa
- 1189 - Richard the Lion Heart (England) and Philip II (France)
- Philip gets sick – goes home
- 1191 – Christians take Acre (3 day massacre of prisoners)
- 1192 - A truce is agreed to - no decisive victory!
- Anti-climactic non-event

# The 4<sup>th</sup> Crusade 1202-1204

- Last one directed by Papacy
- Pope Innocent III
- Boniface of Montferrat (Egypt is the goal)
- Venice approached for transportation
- Doge Enrico Dandolo (crafty double-dealer)
- Christians attack Christians at Zara
- A chance encounter with a former emperor

# The Attack on Constantinople

- 2 assaults
- 1203 – Emperor back on throne (temporarily)
- 1204 – Sack, pillage, plunder the city
- Byzantium artwork – In Venice!
- Begins the decline of Constantinople







# THE DECLINE

- × 15<sup>th</sup> century - decline begins
- × Lack of resources, infighting, and stepping away from ILM
- × Growing power of Christian Europe
- × Ottomans - 1683 - Defeated outside Vienna – Beginning of the end





# The Roots of Fundamentalism

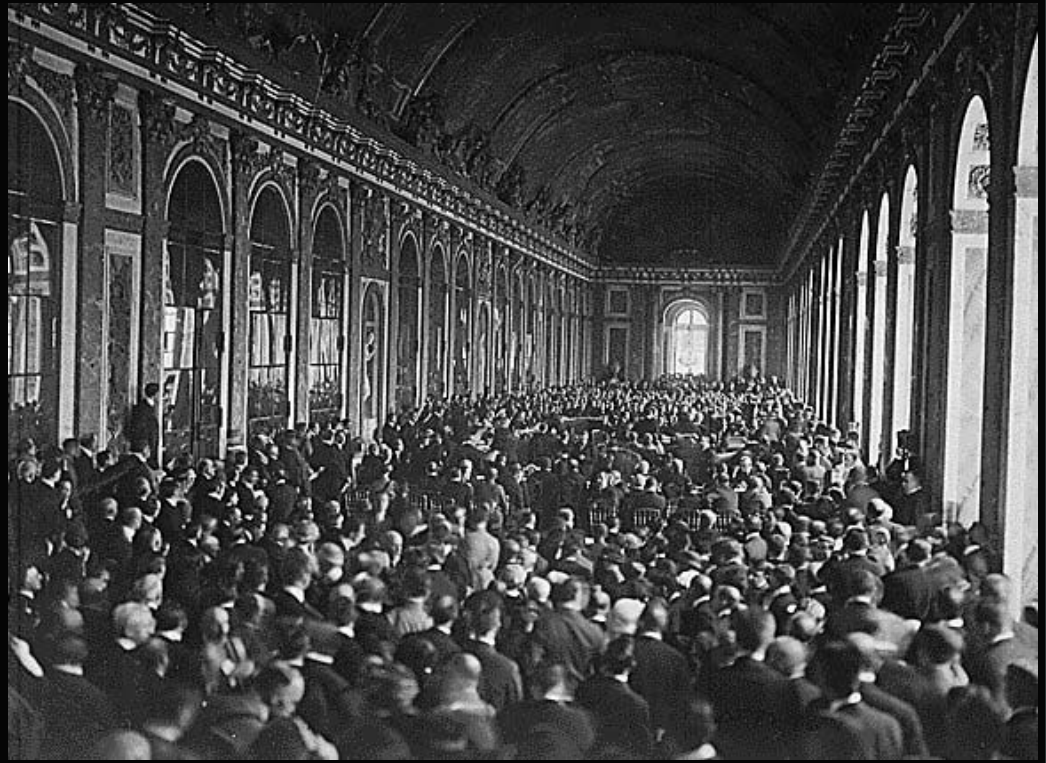
- ◉ Muhammad Ibn Abd-al-Wahab (1703-1792)
- ◉ Muhammad Ibn Saud (1765)
- ◉ 1924 - Decedents of Saud win control of Arabian Peninsula
- ◉ 1932 - Wahabism



# World War I



- A deal is brokered
- French/British Betrayal
- Treaty of Versailles
- Mandates



# Sayyid Qutb

- An early moderate
- 1948 - Travels to United States
- A radical in Egypt.



# Milestones

- Qur'an and knowledge
- Justification for armed struggle
- The failure of Muslim governments
- Individual responsibility



# Fundamentalism

- Inspired individuals like Osama Bin Laden - quotes from Qur'an (selective use)
- Struggle for the soul of Islam - Majority vs. minority (impact beyond its numbers)
- Once a time when there was one interpretation - Not true!
- How to maintain the status of your sacred text in a time of modernity that seems to deny its relevance? Tradition vs. Modernity. Fundamentalism a response to modernism?