

## THE CROSS AND THE CRESCENT Evangelism or Jihad?

- Intro:
- A. Christianity and Islam are two conflicting religions.
  - B. Islam — a religion of works (Sura 101:6-9)
  - C. Islam guarantees Paradise to martyrs for their cause ( Sura 8:39)
  - D. Christianity is a religion of grace (Ephesians 2:8-10)
  - E. Salvation promised to those who obey the gospel (Hebrews 5:8,9)
  - F. Islam began and spread by violence.
  - G. Christianity began and spread through evangelism.

### I. JIHAD – STRUGGLE – A CONTRACT BETWEEN ALLAH AND MUSLIMS

*“Let those fight in the cause of Allah who sell the life of this world for the Hereafter. To him who fighteth in the cause of Allah — whether he is slain or gets victory — soon shall We give him a reward of great value” (Sura 4:74)*

- A. Jihad — struggle within
- B. A militant struggle

### II. QURAN DEFINITION OF JIHAD

- A. 114 verses in Quran speak of love, peace and forgiveness (—The Noble Quran—)
- B. These verses cancelled by (Sura 9:5) called the “verse of the sword.”  
*“But when the forbidden months are past, then fight and slay the Pagans wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem (of war); but if they repent, and establish regular prayers and pay Zakat then open the way for them; for Allah is Oft-forgiving, ost Merciful .”*
- C. 60% of the verses in the Quran talk about Jihad.
- D. Some examples
  - 1. Those who reject Islam to be killed (Sura 4:89)  
*“But if they turn renegades; seize them and slay them wherever you find them; and (in any case) take no friends or helpers from their ranks.”*
  - 2. Slay aggressors (Sura 2:190,191)  
*“Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress limits; for Allah loveth not transgressors. And slay them wherever ye catch them...”*
  - 3. Muhammad told to make war on unbelievers (Sura 9:73)  
*“O Prophet! Strive hard against the Unbelievers and thee Hypocrites, and be firm against him. Their abode is Hell, — an evil refuge indeed.”*

### III. THE SPREAD OF ISLAM FROM THE BEGINNING UNTIL THE PRESENT

- A. Muhammad and the Medina years.
  - 1 Raids to support the movement
  - 2. Muhammad personally led his followers into 26 battles.
  - 3. By the Medina years Jihad was the force by which Islam spread (Gabriel p 31)
- B. Early days until the present
  - 1. Jerusalem surrendered 678AD
  - 2. By 711 AD Islam controlled all of North Africa
  - 3. Constantinople fell in 453 AD and Islam moved into Southern Europe.
  - 4. Islam was finally stopped in 17th century
  - 5. A period of decline lasted into the 20th century
  - 6. There has been a resurgence of Islam during the last half of the 20th century

### IV EVANGELISM — LIFE BLOOD OF CHRISTIANITY

- A. Evangelism is a proclaiming of the good news of Christ.

- B Christianity was prophesied in the Old Testament
  1. Beginning of time (Genesis 3:15)
  2. The prophets (Isaiah 53)
  3. Psalms (Psalm 22-24)
- C. The birth of Christ was the beginning of Christianity.
- D The personal Ministry of Christ (Acts 1:1)
- E The great commission (Mark 16:15,16)
- F. The New Testament is a record of the spread of Christianity
  1. Book of Acts records the spread of the church
  2. The epistles record the teaching of the apostles.
- G. The church was established in Jerusalem (Acts 2)
- H. The church was scattered (Acts 8:1-4)
- I. Paul's missionary journeys also recorded in book of Acts)

V. THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY THE FIRST CENTURY TO THE PRESENT

- A. Christ's final instructions to his apostles (Acts 1:8)
 

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth".*
- B. So Christianity was spread throughout the earth by men preaching the gospel of Christ.
- C. The Bible is the authority by which Christianity has spread.
- D. God's revelation to man was completed at the end of the first century.