

Notes for AFR show 05-06-2017



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Answers To Your Questions

Today I want to answer some of your questions. I have received these questions through email or voice mail from the listeners to our radio broadcasts.

How many wives did Muhammad have?

Shariah law allows a man to be married to 4 wives. He doesn't have to have 4 wives, but he cannot have more. The Prophet had exemptions from these limitations. There is not a clear number telling us how many wives Muhammad had. It is clear that he had at least 12 wives, but some suggest he may have had as many as 18. In addition to this he had a high number of concubines, or sex slaves. We don't know how many, but there are places where it is stated that he had over 6,000 slaves. Many of these would have been men and boys, but a great number of them would have been women.

There is a whole chapter in the Qur'an that deals with how you divide up the war booty. The Prophet received 1/5th of the war booty. The rest was divided among the other jihadis who fought with him.

They, then had to pay 1/5th of what they received to the Prophet. For example, if there were 50 women who were taken captive, Muhammad would get 10 of them, plus 5% of the rest.

Men would be given the option of becoming Muslim or being executed. A child under the age of 14 would be taken as a slave, as would the women. The women's marriages were immediately annulled, whether or not the husband became a Muslim. It is illegal for a Muslim to have sex with another man's wife, unless that marriage has been annulled. Once the woman is his slave, a Muslim can have sex with her.

We are not sure how many sex slaves Muhammad had, but he had many.

Where did the Qur'an come from?

It may surprise you to know that Muhammad did not write the words that became Qur'an. Muhammad was known as the unlettered prophet because he could neither read nor write. This didn't mean he was stupid or dumb. The people of Arabia in his day didn't have books so there was no need to know how to read or write. The Arabic alphabet was not yet developed. What little writing that was done, was written in a form of Phoenician text. It only had consonants, and did not yet have vowels.

Because of Muhammad's first wife, who was quite wealthy, he was able to hire a scribe. As a result, Muhammad didn't write down the Qur'an. It wasn't until 20 years after Muhammad's death, that they began the work of writing the Qur'an.

The reason it was not written is because "qura" means the reciting. The Qur'an was not supposed to be written, it was to be recited. Many of the early caliphs resisted the writing of the Qur'an because Muhammad had never ordered it to be written down. Those who did so were called the qura. During Uthman's reign there was a battle where 40 qura were killed. There was fear that they might lose the Qur'an, and Uthman ordered for it to be written down.

The Qur'an has 114 chapters. The larger chapters are in the front, and the smaller ones in the back. There is no chronological order to the Qur'an. There is very little narrative in the Qur'an except when they are telling stories from the Old Testament. It is a very difficult book to read.

The only way to understand the Qur'an is to put the life of Muhammad along side it. It is only by looking at how Muhammad practiced it, that you can understand what is meant.

What is the difference between the Sunni and the Shi'ite Muslims?

They are the two major groups within Islam, and there is still a lot of fighting between them. The difference goes back to the early caliphs, or successors of Muhammad. The Shi'ite Muslims make up about 12 to 14 percent of the Muslims in the world. Most of them live in Iran, some are in Yemen, Lebanon, and Syria. Shi'ite Muslims believe that the caliph must be a blood descendant of Muhammad.

The Mullahs in Iran that wear the black turbans are those that claim to be descendants of Muhammad. They could be the rightful caliph.

The Sunni Muslims believe that it is not a royal line, and whoever Allah wills can be caliph. Their position is the more accurate interpretation because Muhammad never gave any instructions on this issue.

It is very clear that Muhammad turned to his best friend, Abu Bakr, when he was not able to lead. When Muhammad died, it was determined that Abu should be his successor.

After Bakr, there was Umar, then came Uthman. The Shi'ites had enough of what they considered illegitimate caliphs and assassinated Uthman. They made Muhammad's nephew and son-in-law, Ali who was married to Fatima, the caliph. Ali was the 4th caliph, but in the eyes of the Shi'ites, he was the first legitimate caliph. It wasn't too long before the Sunni assassinated Ali. This is why there is the great division between the two groups.

There are some Hadith that the Sunnis hold to that the Shi'ites don't. There are a few other minor differences between the Sunni and the Shi'ites, but this is the major difference.

Why do you hate Muslims?

This question makes me laugh a little. I don't hate Muslims. If you want to know the truth, I love Muslims. I love Muslims enough to tell them the truth. Just because I speak against Islam, doesn't mean that I hate Muslims.

My problem is not with Muslims, and neither should yours be. My problem is with Islam. Muslims do what they do because of Islam. Islam has blinded their eyes to the truth. Islam tells Muslims that Jesus was just a man, that He wasn't God in the flesh. Islam tells Muslims that Jesus was not crucified and , therefore, you don't have the blood atonement for man's sin. It teaches that Jesus didn't rise from the grave.

If Jesus isn't God, if He didn't die on the cross, and if He didn't rise from the grave, you don't have the Gospel. Islam is sending Muslims to Hell, and I love Muslims enough to tell them the truth so they won't have to go there.

I don't hate Muslims. I have a problem with Islam, and I will speak the truth, but I will speak it with love.

Why do women convert to Islam?

This is a very difficult question to answer, but I will do my best. It doesn't make sense to me that women would convert to Islam considering the way Islam treats women. I can only make some suppositions from my observations.

The first thing I see is that some of these women are being duped. They are being charmed by some Muslims who have moved into their neighborhoods. Some of these men are looking to get a green card, looking to marry so they can secure their visas and their stay in America.

I don't really begrudge some of these Muslims trying to get out of their Islamic culture because Islam is oppressive. Some of them just want a better life. Who, in their right mind, would want to live under Islamic rule? There is no freedom and your prospects for a better life are minimal at best. Some of these Muslim men are looking to marry a western woman to gain an anchor in the West.

About eight out of ten of the Muslims coming to the West are not really practicing their religion. The problem is that Islam has apostasy laws. Anyone who leaves Islam (apostatizes) becomes subject to the death penalty. Many of the Muslims who come here are agnostics at best. They will never deny Islam because of the apostasy laws, which say they are to be killed. Any Muslim has the right to take the life of someone who has left the faith. According to Shariah law, they do not commit a crime when they kill an apostate. The paradox is that they come here to get away from Islam and have no intention of practicing the faith, yet they will not renounce Islam because of the threat of death.

Some of these women may be marrying these Muslim men, and becoming Muslims in the process. In Muslim countries you have the religious leaders pushing for everyone to get in line. There is the government pushing everyone to submit to Islam. There is also the pressure of family.

Some of those Muslims who have come here to get away from Islam, have come with their families. They only have one of the things pushing them to remain in Islam, their family. Even though their family may not be practicing their faith either, the pressure of family is very strong, so they won't leave Islam.

They want some structure to their faith so they buy into the reformed movement. The reformers treat their religion like a buffet, they pick and choose which parts they want to follow, and reject the rest. What they choose, they declare to be the true Islam, and say the rest was for the 7th century, and not for today.

So, one reason that some women may be converting to Islam to follow their husband's faith.

I had a young girl in my youth department when I was a missionary in England who, because of a rebellious attitude, became Muslim. Some people get into Islam because it is a badge of rebellion. I think this is why she did it.

She started dating a Muslim man, and she is still with him. They have two children, and I don't even think they are married.

If someone's heart is full of rebellion, Islam has a natural pull on them. I believe this is one of the main reasons some young women find themselves in Islam.

About 8 to 10 years ago I read an article that said some 100,000 British people had converted to Islam. The majority of them were women.

I am only making suppositions, but this is my answer to the question.

As I travel to churches, I often hear from someone whose daughter has married a Muslim. They say they fear that the Muslim will take her to visit his family in Iran, or some other Muslim country, and she will never be allowed to return to our country.

I will ask the following questions:

1. Has there been evidence of abuse? They often say no, but we suspect that it is there.
2. My next question is, do they have a child? If the answer is no, usually the abuse won't have started yet. The abuse usually begins after they have a child because the marriage is more solid and the man has leverage to force the woman to stay with him. We need to remember that in Islam, the child always belongs to the man. The woman has no rights over the child. Maybe you have seen the movie, "Not Without My Daughter." It is based on a true story of a Muslim man from Iran, who had married a girl from Michigan. They had a daughter, and in 1984, he wanted to take his wife and daughter to Iran and visit his family. Once they got there, the mother and daughter were held against their wills. They finally escaped and came back home to America. The girl has grown up and has written a book explaining in great detail how they were rescued, and how they escaped.

I am always concerned when I hear about women who are married to a Muslim and they take them overseas. I always ask, will we ever see them again