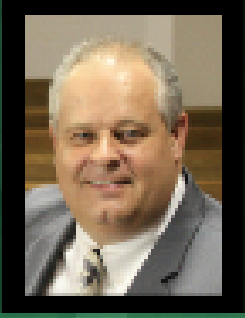


# **FORTRESS OF FAITH**

**Delivering a Christian approach to the Issues of Islam and Muslims**



**Tom Wallace**

**Tel: (800) 616-0082    Email: [tom@fortressoffaith.org](mailto:tom@fortressoffaith.org)**

## **The Two Islams**

Today I want to talk to you about the two Islams. As you know, Fortress of Faith is a Christian apologetic ministry. This doesn't mean we apologize, it means we give a defense for what we believe.

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (1 Peter 3:15)

The Greek word translated "give an answer" is apologia, which means to give a defense. This means we are to be ready to defend what we believe. Apologetics is not just used by theologians, it is also used when a lawyer argues the law.

When we defend our Christian faith, we are defending the truth from false doctrine, or against false claims charged against our faith. One of the ways we do this is by exposing the false teachings of others.

There is only one religion that comes from God. The Devil is the deceiver. He tries to keep people from the truth, and one of the ways he does it is by creating false religions. This is why we deal with the issue of Islam here at Fortress of Faith.

Today I want to talk to you about the two Islams. Many of you know that I spent 29 years of my life overseas, and because of that I came into contact with Muslims and Islam. Islam is a complex issue. My goal is to simplify the complexity of the subject and make it understandable. The more I do this, the more I learn the best way to say things.

This idea of two Islams is one of those new learning experiences for me. I want to start looking at this today. It will take a couple of days to deal with the whole subject.

I used to say that there is only one Islam, but the fact is there are two. There is the Real Islam and the Fake Islam. Like a counterfeiter, who must make his fake look as much like the real thing as he can, so the fake Islam counterfeits the source and tries to make their fake source look like the real one.

The real Islam follows closely the prophet Muhammad's teachings. You can't get a higher source for Islamic teachings than Muhammad. It started with him, and if you follow his teachings, you will be following the real Islam.

The real Muslims are literalists or the fundamentalists. They follow the Qur'an and the Sunnah. I am going to try to make this understandable for you over the next couple of days. Most Americans don't know what the Sunnah is, nor have they even heard of it.

The Sunnah are the words of their Prophet, Muhammad, and the Qur'an is the words of their god, Allah. The literalists or the fundamentalists refer to themselves as Salafi'ist, which means to return to the foundational teachings of Islam. It means to follow the teachings of Muhammad and his early successors, the caliphs. When you hear the word caliphate or caliph you should understand them as empire and emperor. Muhammad was setting up an empire, not a religion. He used his god to manipulate men to create his power and empire.

The word Muslim means the surrendered one, and the word Islam means to submit or to obey. The media describes those who follow the true Islam as the "radicals" or the "extremists." A better word to use is the "militant" Muslims. Muhammad taught his followers to take the sword and fight those who "believe not." This is also what he did. We will look more into that tomorrow.

Militant Islam is the face of real Islam. Those who are involved in jihad, whether it be on the battlefield, in cultural jihad, or in the support of jihad, are the real Muslims following the real Islam.

The Fake Islam is more popular today. About 80% of the Muslims would be in this camp. They are real Muslims, but they are following a fake form of Islam. There are many names we could give fake Islam, like moderate, reformed etc. The most popular name to day is Reformed Islam.

In my book, "[Refuting Islam](#)," I describe this camp as living in a Fantasy. They are making up an Allah of their own imagination. It is not the god of Muhammad. This new god, or new Allah, is preaching a peaceful Islam and a pluralistic Islam that is OK with other religions. I will explain how they do this in a moment.

They read the Qur'an like a buffet where they can pick and choose what they like and don't like. In fake Islam they cherry pick their doctrine. They follow those they like, and they reject what they don't like. They reject all of the passages on fighting and bloodshed, those that talk about jihad and killing non-believers.

There are many within Christianity that do the same thing. There is the real and the fake Christianity as well. Real Christianity looks to the scriptures. It is literalist and fundamentalist. The fake Christianity are those who make up doctrines. They treat the Bible like a buffet just like the Reformed Muslims treat the Qur'an. This kind of Christian says their god won't send people to Hell and won't judge homosexuals, etc. They are right, their god won't, but the God of the Bible will. If you are a true Christian, you will warn these people of their sin and preach to them so they can be saved and not suffer God's punishment.

How does the "Fake Islam" get a footing? How do they find a doctrinal basis for what they teach?

Most Muslims who come to the US are following fake Islam. They tell us the Islam is a religion of peace. If we know the truth about real Islam, we assume they are lying to us. We assume they know the truth, and they are trying to willfully deceive us. The fact is, they have been deceived themselves.

Muslims have not been very good about studying their scriptures. They don't have the study tools that Christians have. They don't have a Qur'anic scripture software program they can use to get into the depths of their scriptures. Not only this, but Muslims are not encouraged to study their scriptures, especially those of fake Islam. They don't want them studying because they will find out the truth if they do. The real Islam doesn't tolerate questions. They see those who ask the hard questions as troublemakers. The faithful just accept whatever they are told, and they move on.

The fake Islam started with the Ottoman Empire so it has been around for 2 to 3 hundred years. They only know what they have been told by their imams, and their imams cherry pick what they teach their flock. They only teach the early passages of the Qur'an, those that were written in Mecca when Muhammad was just starting out. During that time Muhammad was borrowing a lot from our Bible. On the surface, the early passages make Islam look like a nice and peaceful religion. It would be great if moderate or reformed Islam was all Islam was about, but it isn't.

The moderates and reformers will not turn to the Sunnah, the sayings of Muhammad. They reject them because most of the Hadith were not written until 200 years after Muhammad's death.

Some think the two major groups within Islam, the Shi'ites and the Sunni, make up the two Islams. Before I go on, let me address the subject of this division because a lot of people in the West don't understand this part of Islam. One of them is not the true Islam and the other fake Islam. Actually you will find both true Islam and fake Islam in both of these groups. The basic division between these two denominations within Islam is over the doctrine of succession. This division goes back to the early days of Islam after the death of Muhammad. The argument was over who should take Muhammad's place and be the religious ruler.

The Sharia says that only one person is to be the supreme leader. This is why any Islamic state is a dictatorship. Muhammad, himself, was a totalitarian. The question was, who is to be the emperor?

We must remember that Muhammad was not just building a religion, he was building an empire. Religion was just a tool he used to do so.

The Shi'ites believe that the person who should follow Muhammad should be related to him by blood. The Sunni believe that it should be whoever Allah wills. The truth of the matter is that Muhammad gave no instruction on this subject. When he became ill, it was clear that Abu Bakr became the go to person. He was the right hand man of Muhammad. He was Muhammad's first convert, and he became Muhammad's father in law. Bakr could see that Muhammad was fancying his daughter, Aisha, who was 6 years old, so he gave her to the Prophet for marriage. I have never heard a Muslim deny that Muhammad married a 6 year old girl. He didn't consummate the marriage until she was 9 years old.

Most of the disagreement between the Shi'ites and the Sunni is over this issue. About 80% of the Muslims in the world are Sunni Muslims.

Within the Shi'ites there are fundamentalists and liberals. Within the Sunni you have fundamentalists and liberals. The fundamentalists are true Islam and the liberals are fake Islam. The division between fake and true Islam is not about the two major denominations, it is about who is following the Islamic scriptures, and who is choosing from the buffet and only following what they like.

How do those who follow fake Islam come up with their doctrine? How do they legitimize their position, or what is their justification for denying major portions of Islamic scripture?

Fake Islam is earnestly trying to reform their religion, and reformed Islam is the name they like to use. They like to say reformed because they look at Christianity and see that there was a reformation. They think that Christianity was violent in the early days. The Catholic Church was killing the opposition, there was the Inquisition, it murdered many Muslims, etc. so they believe that Christianity was a religion of the sword, and it changed this at the Reformation. They believe that the Reformation is what made Christianity peaceful. They believe that they need to reform from the past violence of Islam. They don't deny that it happened, but they want to reform Islam so it can be a religion of peace. In so doing, they are actually perverting the teaching of Muhammad and the original teachings of Islam.

On the other hand, the Christian Reformation was a return to the truths of the Christian Scriptures. Perversion had crept into Christianity and the Catholic Church had taken up the sword to kill all of those who did not agree with their doctrine, and this is not a biblical principle. In a large way, the Reformation pulled things back closer to a biblical stance.

The efforts of the Islamic reformation movement is just the opposite. It is a movement away from the scriptural teachings of Islam.

I find it very interesting that most of the leaders of the reformed movement use language like, those verses that teach violence, "When you look at the context, are not for today, they belong in the 7th century." They always say the those verses are talking about them defending themselves. They say they had the right to fight to defend themselves. This sounds like a reasonable argument, doesn't it? The fact is, they are not looking at the context of those passages, because if they were, they would see that they were commands of conquest, not defense.

In the Qur'an, we find the doctrine of abrogation. It says that anything that was said earlier that, contradicts something that was said later, is abrogated, or superseded by that which comes later. One of the major contradictions is that early in Muhammad's ministry as a prophet, he taught that there is no compulsion in religion. After the Arabs and the Jews had rejected him, he started getting new messages from Allah that told him to kill those who didn't believe in Allah. He said fight those who believe not, strike them at their necks and strike terror in their hearts.

Chapter 9 of the Qur'an, which is the last chapter written, cannot be abrogated because nothing can come after it. The doctrine of abrogation is found in Chapter 2 of the Qur'an:

Surah 2:106 Whatever communications We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, We bring one better than it or like it. Do you not know that Allah has power over all things?

Their explanation is that Allah changed his mind. In the beginning Allah said there is no compulsion in religion, but today he says fight them that believe not.

If you follow the context of Chapter 9, you find that Muhammad was dying, and he was trying to find a way to finance his movement, so he started going after the Christians. He told them to fight them until they pay jizya, a protection tax to be protected from Muslims by Muslims.

Remember, the Sunnah contains the words of the Prophet. The real Islam will follow the teachings of Muhammad very closely. There is no higher authority in Islam than Muhammad. The fake Islam rejects a lot of the teachings of Muhammad because they come in the Hadith. There are over 600,000 Hadith that were collected by Bukhari, the most recognized collector. He put an abridged collection together, in 9 volumes, and is known as the Bukhari collection. This collection contains 60,000 of the most reliable Hadith. These are the testimonies of his followers, giving what they had heard him say.

It is important to know that Bukhari wasn't born until 178 years after Muhammad's death. The same is true of all of the other Hadith collectors. These collectors didn't hear from the horse's mouth, so to say. Their collections were actually from the grandchildren of Muhammad and his followers.

The argument of the reformers is that they reject all of these teachings because we can't trust their veracity, they came nearly 200 years after Muhammad. It is also important to know that the same thing is true about the Qur'an. It wasn't written down until 200 years after the death of Muhammad.

Let that sink in. All the scriptures of Islam were recorded 150 to 200 years after the death of the prophet and founder of Islam. Until then, it was all oral tradition. As you can see, Islam has a very shaky foundation upon which to stand, whether it be true Islam or fake Islam.

**Would you consider supporting this ministry on a monthly basis?**

**You can do so by going to our [donation page](#).**