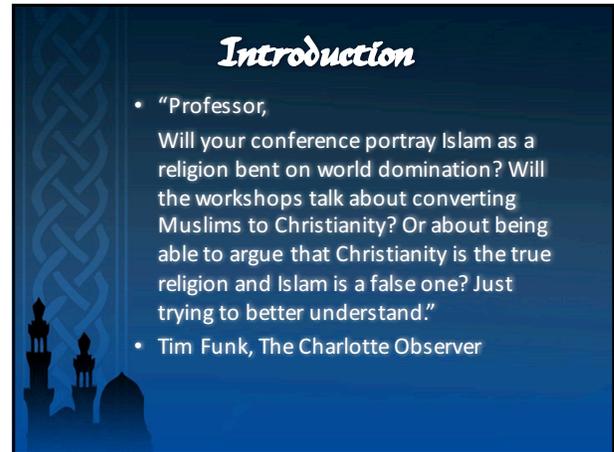


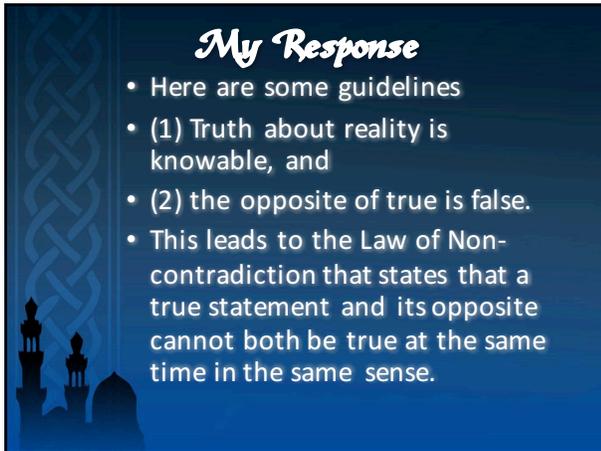
The Challenge of
ISLAM

Western Seminary
Grace Academy, Charlotte
Daniel Janosik, Ph.D.



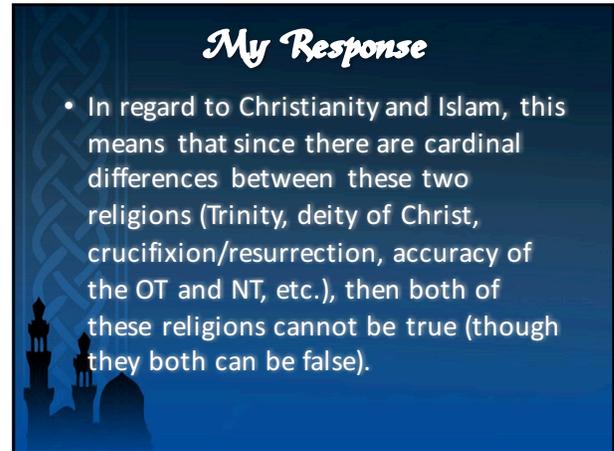
Introduction

- “Professor,
Will your conference portray Islam as a religion bent on world domination? Will the workshops talk about converting Muslims to Christianity? Or about being able to argue that Christianity is the true religion and Islam is a false one? Just trying to better understand.”
- Tim Funk, The Charlotte Observer



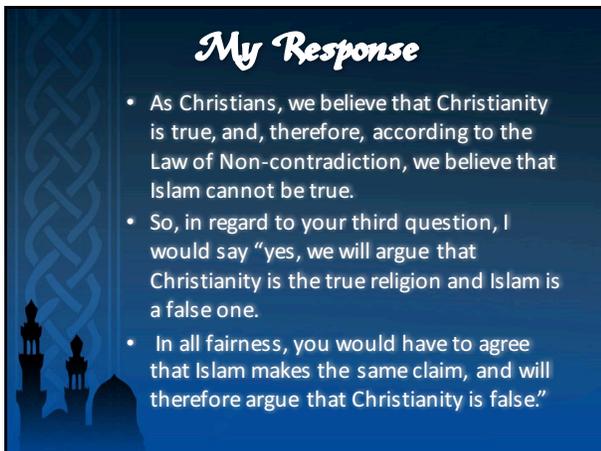
My Response

- Here are some guidelines
- (1) Truth about reality is knowable, and
- (2) the opposite of true is false.
- This leads to the Law of Non-contradiction that states that a true statement and its opposite cannot both be true at the same time in the same sense.



My Response

- In regard to Christianity and Islam, this means that since there are cardinal differences between these two religions (Trinity, deity of Christ, crucifixion/resurrection, accuracy of the OT and NT, etc.), then both of these religions cannot be true (though they both can be false).



My Response

- As Christians, we believe that Christianity is true, and, therefore, according to the Law of Non-contradiction, we believe that Islam cannot be true.
- So, in regard to your third question, I would say “yes, we will argue that Christianity is the true religion and Islam is a false one.
- In all fairness, you would have to agree that Islam makes the same claim, and will therefore argue that Christianity is false.”



Law of Non-Contradiction

- *You cannot have two different religions saying the Same Thing in the Same Sense at the Same Time*

*Law of Non-Contradiction:
Both Cannot be True*

Islam	Christianity
Tawhid	Trinity
Jesus only a Prophet	Jesus is God
Jesus taken into heaven	Jesus actually died on the cross
The Bible has been corrupted	The Bible is the trustworthy Word of God

Ground Rules

- Most Muslims in the world want the same things that we want: peace, prosperity and a chance to pursue positive goals
- About 15% are said to be “Radical Muslims” (around 180 million)*
- Most victims of Radical Islamic terrorism are Muslims

*Bridgette Gabrielle estimates 15-25%, or up to 250 million

Think Islam.

Think Opportunities!

- There is a new wind blowing in the House of Islam
- More Muslims have come to the Lord in the past 20 years than the previous 1400 years put together!

Think Islam.

*Think Opportunities!
Muslims are not the
problem,*

Islam is

Ideas have Consequences

*Bad ideas have
bad
Consequences*

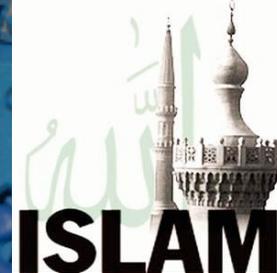
Islam is the Veil!

- Islam is keeping 1.6 Billion people from seeing the beauty of the Lord - the one person who can truly open their eyes and make them see the Splendor of Eternity!

Islam is the Veil



Brief History of Islam



Exposing Myths of Early Islam

- Forensic science, archaeology, and first-hand written documents are revealing a very different picture of the first 100 years of Islam.
- The Traditional Islamic view states that an Arab named Muhammad received revelations from Allah through the angel Gabriel in a city called Mecca, and within 20 years after Muhammad's death these revelations were written down in a book called the Qur'an.
- However, new information is turning this traditional view upside down.

Exposing Myths of Early Islam

- We are learning that the Muhammad of traditional Islam was possibly an invention of a later Arab leader,
- that the Qur'an may not have been collected and written down until the early 8th century (from many sources, including Christian and Jewish liturgy),
- and that the city of Petra in Northern Arabia may have been the birthplace of Islam instead of Mecca, which may not have been established as a city until after the death of Muhammad.

"The more one looks at the origins of Islam, the less one sees."

Robert Spencer; Did Muhammad Exist?, p. 2

Claims by Muslims Islam

1. Mecca was the birthplace of Islam

Islam Exposed

- 1. the actual birthplace of Islam may have been in northern Arabia – perhaps Petra



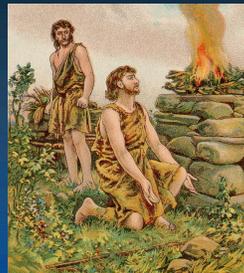
Claims by Muslims

Islam

- 2. Islam began through a series of revelations to Muhammad

Islam Exposed

- 2. A number of scholars believe that Islam began out of apocalyptic Judaism – at least an intermediate monotheism that was neither Judaism or Christianity
-- Centered on Abraham and his son Ishmael



Claims by Muslims

Islam

- 3. Islam as a religion was fully formed by the time Muhammad died

Islam Exposed

- Islam is very much a political religion and some scholars claim that it was fashioned for political reasons.
- In the time of Abd al-Malik, the need of legitimacy for their government was understood.
- To be a credible government they needed a formalized religion, a scripture and a prophet



Intermediate Monotheism

- In the early 700s some scholars say there was an intermediate monotheism forming that was an amalgamation of Jewish and Christian influences that over time, because of influence from heretical/unorthodox Christian views (Monophysite and Nestorian) incorporated a strong animosity for central Christian doctrine such as the deity of Christ and the Trinity.

Intermediate Monotheism

- There was also a stronger Jewish element that pushed this agenda, but, after the conquests started up, was also marginalized and in time vilified in later writings.

Islam Exposed

- The Intermediate monotheism could have risen out of an Ebionite influence or from a form of Arianism.



Claims by Muslims

Islam

4. The Arabs were pagans before Muhammad came to convert them to Islam

Islam Exposed

- Inscriptions from the 7th century demonstrate that many Arabs were not pagans, but monotheists who believed in one God, the Creator of heaven and earth (DME, x)



Claims by Muslims

Islam

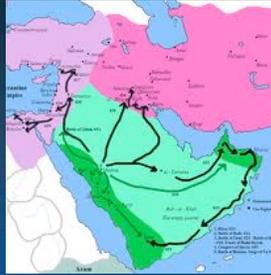
5. Islam began with the "Hijrah" (flight) of Muhammad from Mecca to Medina in 622 AD

Islam Exposed

- "Hijrah" also means "emigration" and in 622, after the Byzantines conquered the Persians, they abandoned some of the land back over to the Arabians, who began to emigrate northward into Syria.

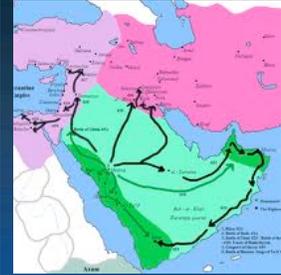
Early Conquests

- The early conquests of the Negev, Egypt, Palestine and southern Syria were possibly growing raids and emigration of the Arabs into those areas due to the pulling out of the Byzantine troops (laying the land wide open)



Early Conquests

- and the abandoning of the *foederati*, who were no longer receiving tribute from the Byzantine government for guarding the borders.



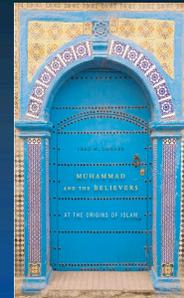
Claims by Muslims

Islam

6. The words "Islam" and "Muslim" are part of the inscription around the Dome of the Rock, built in 691 AD

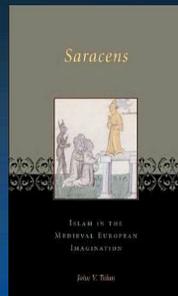
Islam Exposed

- They were called "Mahgraye" for the Arabic term, "Muhajirun," or "emigrants."
- They were also known as "mu'minin," or "believers" (believers in what?)



Islam Exposed

- The Arabs were not called "Muslims" until the middle of the 8th century.
- They were known as the "Muhajirun," "mu'minin," "Saracens," "Hagarenes," or "Ishmaelites."



Islam Exposed

- The Dome of the Rock inscriptions "could be" an expression of a theologically uncomplicated Arab monotheism that is deeply concerned with Christ and Christianity – to the point of polemicizing against claims of Christ's divinity.
- This preoccupation with Christ leaves us far short of Islam in any clearly recognizable form as the religion of Muhammad and the Qur'an.
- By that point in history, the specifics of that religion still had been nowhere elaborated." (Spencer, 57)

Conclusion

- The best evidence we have today seems to reveal a slow development of the Qur'an from non-Muslim sources, primarily Syriac, that were adopted and incorporated into an intermediate monotheism that was neither Christian nor Jewish, but which was influenced by beliefs from both.

Conclusion

- At first it was the religion of the elite, but as the Arabs became more successful and began to settle in their conquered cities, the leaders recognized that they would need to fortify their hegemony by establishing their religious beliefs, authorizing their own scriptures and supporting their own prophet.

Conclusion (cont.)

- For many Christians at that time, like John of Damascus, this new religion was understood as just a heresy of Christianity with anti-Christian beliefs and a false prophet.

Conclusion (cont.)

- As time went on, however, written Arabic, as well as the scripture written in Arabic, became standardized and Muhammad became established in a religion that would soon rival Christendom.

A Good book for the Background on Islam

