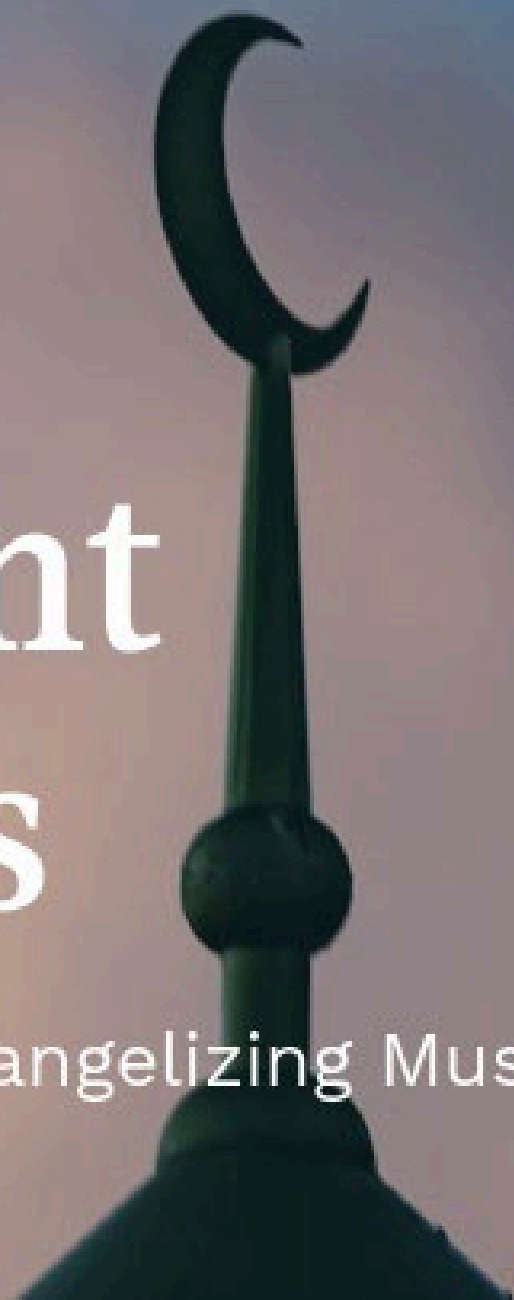


The Crescent or the Cross

Understanding Islam and Evangelizing Muslims



Shahada

Shahada

The Shahada, "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is His Prophet", is the Islamic declaration of faith.

Muhammad

Muhammad

- c. 570–632 AD
- the final prophet sent by Allah
- At 40, Muhammad received his first revelation from the Angel Gabriel
- He preached Tawhid (monotheism) and social justice, facing persecution from Meccan elites.
- Muhammad died in Medina in 632 AD

Scriptures

Scriptures

- Allah sent divine scriptures:
 - Torah (Tawrat) , Psalms (Zabur), Gospel (Injil), and the Quran (final revelation)
- Quran
 - revealed to the Prophet Muhammad over approximately 23 years (610–632 CE) through the Angel Gabriel.

Scriptures

- Quran
 - final and complete revelation
 - supersedes Torah and Gospel
 - 114 chapters (surahs) arranged roughly from longest to shortest (not chronologically)
 - divided into verses (ayahs)

Scriptures

- Hadiths
 - recorded sayings, actions, and approvals of the Prophet Muhammad
 - compiled by his companions and later scholars
 - Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim (most authoritative)

Theology

Theology

- Tawhid
 - foundational concept of Islamic theology
 - the absolute oneness and unity of Allah (God)
 - Surah Al-Ikhlās (112): “Say, He is Allah, [who is] One, Allah, the Eternal Refuge. He neither begets nor is born, nor is there to Him any equivalent.”

Theology

- Shirk
 - antithesis of Tawhid
 - associating partners with Allah
 - unforgivable if unrepented (Quran 4:48)
 - the most severe sin
 - Trinity doctrine is Shirk

Theology

- Jesus (Isa in Arabic
 - major prophet and messenger of Allah, but not as divine or the Son of God
 - one of the Ulul Azm along with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Muhammad
 - virgin born, performed miracles, preached Tawhid, Torah to Israel
 - not crucified

Theology

- Jesus (Isa in Arabic)
 - will return in end-times
 - will break the cross,
 - abolish jizyah (tax on non-Muslims),
 - eventually die a natural death
 - (according to Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim)

Fin