

"I married Greg for better or worse,  
never having any idea that he  
could actually get any worse."

# UNDERSTANDING AND ANSWERING ISLAM

**Class #3**

**Overview of Islam &  
Muhammad's Life, Part 1**



# VARIETIES OF ISLAM

## Islam

- Muhammad
- Quran
- Hadiths
- Five Pillars

## Sunni

- Male Caliph
- Quraish Tribe
- 90 % Muslims

## Shia

- Family of M.
- Ali Bakr
- Hasan
- Iran & 10%

## Sufism

- Mystic
- Pantheistic
- Ascetic

**Black Muslim Groups  
(USA)**

**Folk Islam**

# THE FIVE PILLARS



1. Shahada (Witness/Confession)
2. Salat (Prayer)
3. Zakat (Alms)
4. Sawm (Fast)
5. Hajj (Pilgrimage)

# SIX FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS

- Allah is the Only God
- The Existence of Angels
- Many Prophets, Muhammad was the last
- The Quran Alone is Allah's Unerring Word
- Allah Will Judge Everyone
- Only Two Eternal Destinies: Paradise or Hell



# Muhammad's Life

- A.D. 570 - Birth in Mecca
- 595 Marries Khadijah (d. 619)
- 610 - Gabriel at Mt. Hira
- 620 - "Night Journey"
- 622 - Fled Mecca for Medina
- Consolidated Power
- 630 - Subdued Mecca
- 632 - Dies in Medina

# Arabia & the World

c. AD 600

- ❖ Arab territory flanked by Byzantium, Persia, and Ethiopia (Abyssinia)
- ❖ Byzantium war with Persia (until 627 when the Persians defeated at Nineveh)
- ❖ Visigoths in Spain being converted to Christianity



# The Roman Empire

c. AD 600





# Arabia & the World

c. AD 600

- ❖ Lombard sweep into Italy as barbarian conquerors (into Rome 572). They are converted around 600
- ❖ Pope Gregory the Great (590-604)
- ❖ Columban, missionary to Ireland (d. 615)



- ❖ High Byzantine architecture (Hagia Sophia, St. Vitale in Ravenna)

# Arabia & the World

c. AD 600

- ❖ St. Augustine lands in England, baptizes Ethelbert of Kent, founds Benedictine monastery in Canterbury, and in 602 estab. Episcopal see of Canterbury
- ❖ Smallpox spreads from India through China to Asian Minor to S. Europe



# Arabia & the World

c. AD 600

- ❖ Goldsmith's art refined in Frankish-Merovingian era
- ❖ Byzantine Architecture and Mosaic
- ❖ Architecture and sculpture in India
- ❖ Classic Buddha figures in yoga postures appear in N. India
- ❖ China invents book printing



# Arabia in the AD 600

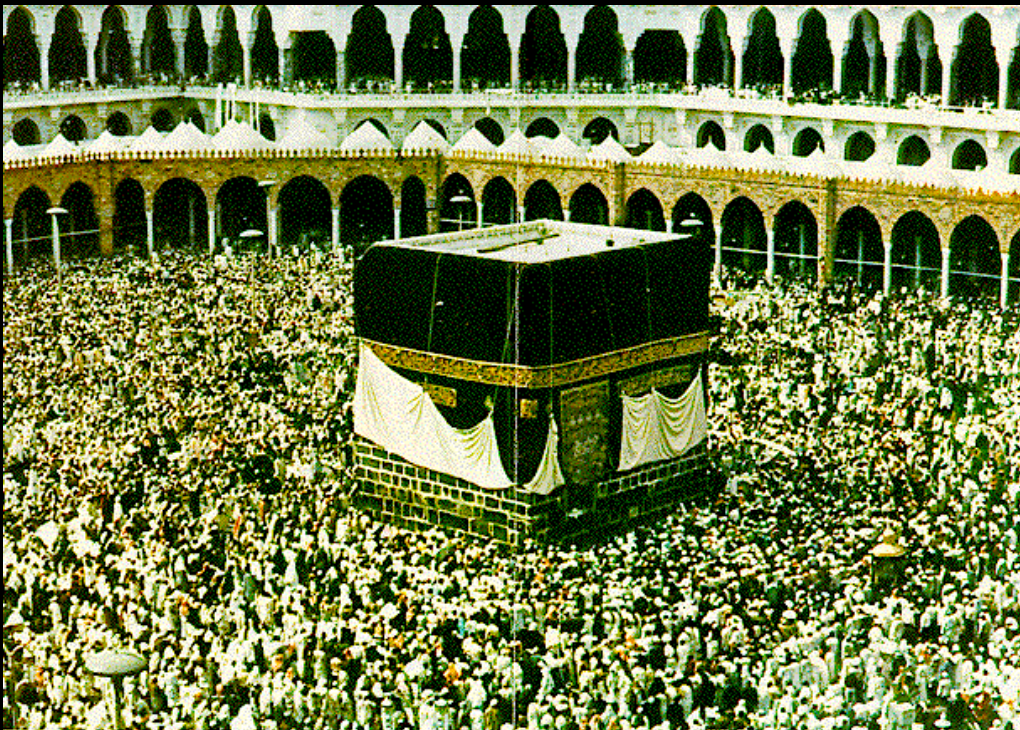
- ☉ Did not call themselves Arabs
- ☉ No nation or unified civilization



- ☉ No centralized power
- ☉ No shared ideals, culture, language, or religion
- ☉ A Mosaic of warring or cooperating tribes and families.
- ☉ Warlords competed for tribal loyalties and power

# Religion in Arabia

- ☉ Polytheistic with Moon god as highest
- ☉ In Mecca: the shrine of the black meteorite and the well of Zamzam. The shrine was/is called Kabah (Arabic = “cube”) and contained 360 idols. Religious pilgrimages made to Mecca and the Kabah.
- ☉ Arabic religion animistic (jinns), superstitious (evil eye), and tribal.



- ☉ Bible had not been translated into Arabic dialects
- ☉ Jewish tribes present (wealthy merchants)
- ☉ Christian communities in Ethiopia, Syria (Monophysite), Persia (Nestorian), but not Arabia.
- ☉ Persian Zoroastrianism to the East