

## The Cross & the Crescent Historical Background

**Matthew 24:4-13** *"and many false prophets shall arise and will mislead many..."* (Verse 11)

I. Birth & call of Muhammad to be the last prophet.

**570 AD** = Birth of Muhammad = Mecca, Arabia

No parents, raised by an uncle

Illiterate throughout his life.

Worked in traveling caravans, tending camels.

**Age 25** = Met and married wealthy 40 year old widow.

**Age 40** = said to have had a vision from the Angel Gabriel and received the truth of the Koran, and the call to be a prophet & an apostle. He had continued visitations by this "spirit" and it would throw him into a trance, and scribes would write down his utterances.

**Koran:** all these sayings were not compiled until after Muhammad's death. There is no chronology in the compilation of these sayings.

Frequent contradictions in the Koran.

Sura 53 & 81 = God personally appeared to Muhammad to call him to be a prophet.

Sura 16 & 26 = the call was from the Holy Spirit.

Sura 15 = Angels called him.

Sura 2 = Gabriel was the one who appeared to him.

### II. Historical Setting of the birth of Islam. (Late 6th century)

1. 6th cent. Arabia = polytheistic, 100's of gods worshipped in Mecca.

2. Worship @ the Ka'aba shrine in Mecca. Allah the moon god was worshipped there among many others.

3. Muhammad had limited exposure to Jews & Christians as "people of the Book."

4. Muhammad's vision and election of Allah as the one true God.

The Crescent symbol = the god of the moon.

5. Muhammad rejected by people of Mecca.

Muhammad hoped to win the Jews & Christians to his cause = Sura 5:82

Later, he turns against them = Sura 5:51, Sura 9:29, & Sura 2:65-66.

His own tribe rejects him, so he agrees to let his tribe worship the three daughters of

Allah = Al-lat, Al-uzza, & Ma-nat. These verses are now deleted from the Koran.

622 AD = Muhammad forced to leave Mecca and goes to Medina, 250 miles away.

622 AD = beginning of the Islamic calendar.

6. Distorted & superstitious Christianity = worship of Mary was on the rise. Muhammad only knew "bits & pieces of the Bible, he could not read!

7. 632 AD = Muhammad's death. Soon afterward those followers of Islam broke into warring factions, conquering most of the Middle East by 700 AD.

710 AD = Islam march into Europe