

Review

- Gregory the Great was deeply committed to evangelizing the Germanic tribes who were still Pagan.
- Briefly describe the legend that tells how Gregory was originally motivated to send the Gospel to England (Angle-Land).
 - While Gregory was still a monk, he saw some boys being sold in the slave market in Rome.
 - He asked who they were, and was told that they were Pagan Angles.
 - Struck by the boys' great physical loveliness, Gregory replied, "They are not Angles but angels!"
- What strategy did Gregory follow in sending the gospel to England?
 - He sent missionaries to a king whose power extended over the whole of eastern England and whose wife was already a Frankish Catholic.
- What was the name of the missionary that Gregory sent to England? Hint: he has the same name as a well-known historical figure that we studied earlier in church history
 - Augustine

Review

- The native Celtic Christians did not look with favor on pope Gregory's mission to the Angles, Saxons and Jutes. Give two reasons why.
 - There had been 150 years of warfare in Britain between the native Christian Celts and the invading Pagan Angles, Saxons and Jutes.
 - The Celtic Christians did not like some of the religious beliefs and customs of Augustine and the Roman missionaries
- What **were** some of the theological differences between the Celtic and Catholic Christians?
 - When to celebrate Easter
 - The style of haircuts given to monks
 - The role and authority of bishops and abbots
- Give the name of the man who is our main source of information about the Christian faith in England from its origins until the 8th century, thus earning him the title: "the father of English history".
 - The Venerable Bede

The Rise of Islam



The Rise of Islam

- Muhammad was born in the city of Mecca, an important religious and trading center near the southwestern coast of central Arabia, in AD 570.
- He belonged to the powerful Quraish tribe.
- His father, however, died before Muhammad's birth, and his mother died when he was only six, so the young Muhammad was raised by his uncle, Abu Talib.
- Abu Talib belonged to a poor branch of the family, and Muhammad worked for him as a lowly shepherd.

The Rise of Islam

- But the hardships of childhood gave way to prosperity in adulthood: Muhammad became a very successful merchant, working for a wealthy widow named Khadijah.
- Their relationship blossomed and deepened, and despite the fact that Khadijah was 40 years old and Muhammad only 25, they married in the year AD 595.
- The marriage produced two boys and four girls; the youngest of the girls, Fatima, became Muhammad's favorite in later years, and married Muhammad's cousin, Ali, who was to be Islam's fourth **caliph** or leader ("caliph" literally means "successor").

The Rise of Islam

- Muhammad's commercial journeys from Mecca through Arabia to Syria brought him into contact with Jews and Christians, with whom he discussed religion.
- Although the prevailing form of Arabian religion was tribal Paganism, there was an economically powerful Jewish minority, and number of Christians as well.
- There were also in Arabia at that time various native groups who, under Jewish and Christian influence, had become dissatisfied with the Pagan idolatry of their homeland; they began to worship the Creator-God alone, but without embracing either Judaism or Christianity.
- Muhammad became one of these non-Christian, non-Jewish, worshippers of the one Creator-God.

The Rise of Islam

- When Muhammad was not away on a trading journey, he adopted a habit of meditating alone in a cave near Mecca.
- In AD 610, according to Muhammad, the angel Gabriel appeared to him while he was meditating in the cave.
- Muhammad was terrified at first. He did not know whether it was really the angel Gabriel or some demonic deception which had appeared to him.
- He rushed back home and told his wife what had happened.
- Khadijah believed that Muhammad's experience was from God, because she did not believe that God would not allow such a good man as Muhammad to be deceived.
- So Khadijah became, at the same time, the person who persuaded Muhammad to accept his revelation-experiences as coming from God, and also her husband's first convert.

The Rise of Islam

- Muhammad became the center of a new religious movement in Mecca, as he began criticizing Paganism and idolatry, and calling on people to worship Allah alone.
- The number of his converts grew; the most important of these earliest Muslims were:
 - His young cousin Ali,
 - His friend Abu Bakr (who would become Islam's first caliph),
 - His one-time deadly enemy Omar (who would become Islam's second caliph)
 - His son-in-law Othman (the third caliph).

The Rise of Islam

- The new faith, Islam (which means “submission”), had its roots in Muhammad’s overpowering conviction of the unity or oneness of God.¹
- Muhammad interpreted Allah’s oneness to mean that He, the Creator and Lord of the universe, was a single individual person, separated by an infinite distance from His creation by His unique possession of divine attributes – there could be no other gods.¹
- The divine attribute Muhammad emphasized most was power: Allah alone had power, and therefore He alone was the cause of all things, both good and evil.¹
- In Islam the supreme sin is ***shirk***. To commit shirk, means to commit idolatry and violate Allah’s oneness by acknowledging any other god besides Allah.²

¹Needham, Nick. 2,000 Years of Christ's Power Vol. 2: The Middle Ages

²James White – 2016 Church History Series #40 – Islamic Impact Part 2

The Rise of Islam

- Muhammad's concept of God's oneness (that God is one single person) ruled out any belief in the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, which Muhammad felt was no better than a Pagan idolatry of many gods.
- Muhammad regarded Jesus as his own forerunner. He believed that Jesus was sinless and virgin-born, a miracle-worker, and the greatest of God's prophets (apart from himself).
- But Muhammad did **not** believe that Jesus was God come in the flesh.
- Muhammad also refused to accept that Jesus had been crucified; because he did not believe God would allow one of His prophets to be treated so shamefully as to be crucified.

The Rise of Islam

- Muhammad's religious movement encountered increasing levels of opposition and persecution in Mecca from the majority of the city's inhabitants, especially the chiefs of the Quraish, the most important tribe.
- Muhammad's condemnation of idolatry threatened the economic power which the Quraish leaders derived from Pagan ceremonies and pilgrimages connected with the ***Kaaba***, an ancient Arab shrine in Mecca.

The Rise of Islam

- Pagans ridiculed Muhammad, accused him of being demon-possessed, and beat up, tortured, and killed his followers.
- Muhammad was protected by his uncle Abu Talib, but when Abu Talib died, Muhammad and his pioneer Muslims were forced to flee from Mecca to the more northerly city of Medina.
- This happened in the year AD 622, the year of the *hejira* (“emigration”).
- Today, the Islamic calendar starts from this event.

The *Hejira* from Mecca to Medina



The Rise of Islam

- The *hejira* marked the turning point in Muhammad's fortunes.
- His preaching met with almost total success in Medina.
- In fact, he became the political and religious leader of the city.
- Medina was thus the first independent Muslim community; it attracted more and more converts from the surrounding areas, even from Mecca.
- After several bloody battles between the Muslim forces of Medina and the Pagan Meccans, in AD 630 Muhammad was able to return to Mecca with an army of 10,000 warriors, a triumphant military conqueror.
- He won over most of the Pagan population by sparing their lives with a general amnesty, destroyed the images of Mecca's Pagan gods, and made the ancient Meccan shrine, the Kaaba, into the most holy place of Islamic worship.

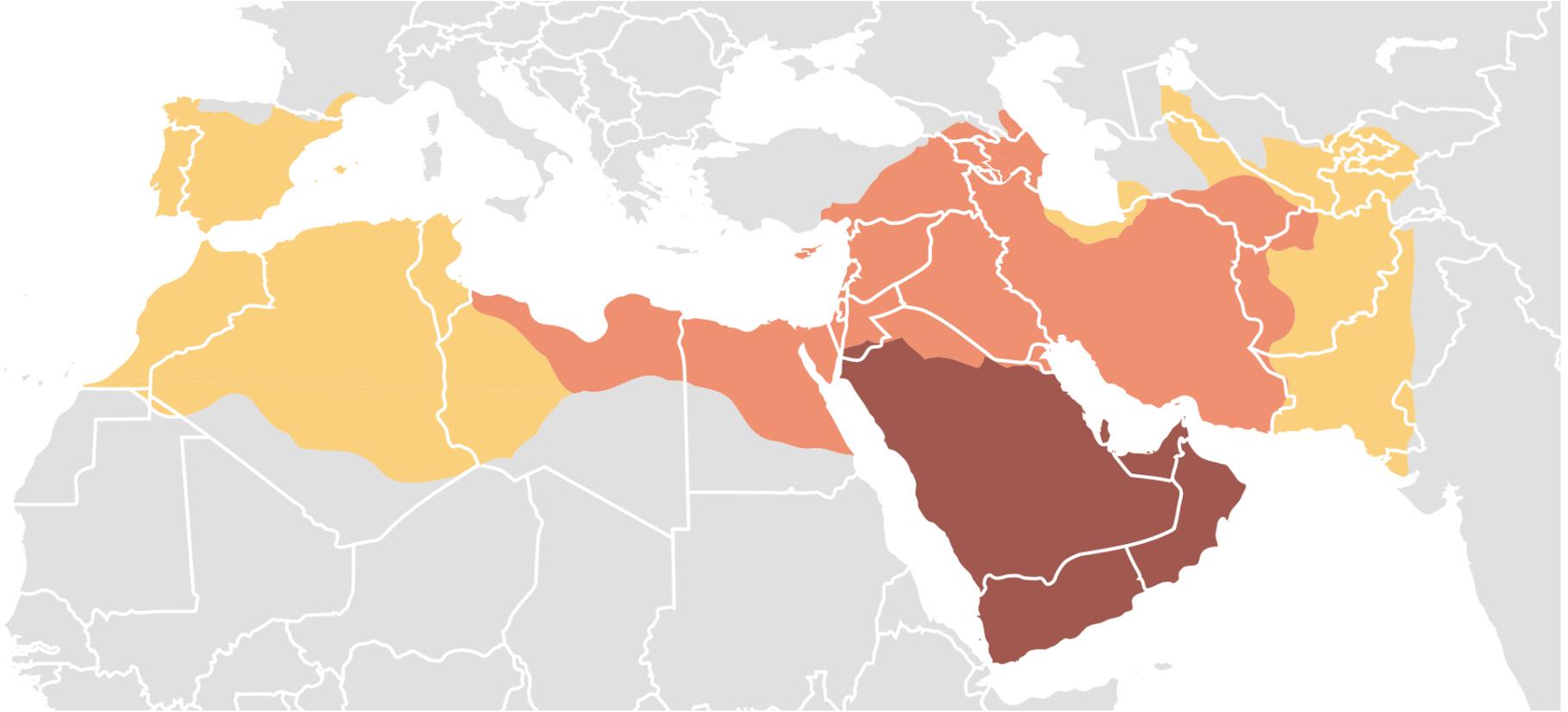
The Rise of Islam

- Before the rise of Islam, Arabia had enjoyed no political unity.
- It was mostly a patchwork of independent nomadic tribes.
- By the time of Muhammad's death in AD 632, he had unified the region both politically and spiritually under his own leadership.
- From the outset, Islam was a faith which spread its territory by the sword. Inspired by religious zeal, the Arabic Muslim armies under Muhammad's successors, the caliphs, embarked on a military campaign to extend their domain outside Arabia.

The Rise of Islam

- Within a hundred years, they had created a huge Islamic Empire, stretching from India to Spain.
- The world had rarely known armies like this before: brave, tough, completely sober (Islam did not allow Muslims to drink alcohol), and burning with a zeal for their faith which made them unafraid of death.
- They swept out of Arabia like a desert storm, swallowed up half the Byzantine Empire and the whole of the Persian Empire, descended on India in the far East, and were soon pouring through North Africa into Spain and France in the West.

Islamic Expansion



- Expansion under [Muhammad](#), 622-632/A.H. 1-11
- Expansion during the [Rashidun Caliphate](#), 632-661/A.H. 11-40
- Expansion during the [Umayyad Caliphate](#), 661-750/A.H. 40-129

The Basic Teachings of Islam

- Muhammad summed up the new religion in five main duties (the “five pillars” of Islam):
 - **Shahadah**, or the confession of faith – “There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is His prophet”.
 - **Salah**, or prayer five times a day, said facing towards Mecca.
 - **Zakah**, or giving charitable gifts of money as a welfare contribution to the poor.
 - **Sawm**, or fasting in the holy month of Ramadan.
 - **Hajj**, or the pilgrimage to Mecca, which a Muslim must try to make at least once.

The Basic Teachings of Islam

- Another sacred duty emphasized in Islam, although it is not one of the five pillars, is *jihad*, often translated “holy war”.¹
- The basic meaning of the word jihad is “struggle”.¹
- In Muhammad’s day, jihad was primarily a defensive term.²
- The original idea of jihad was to defend the Muslim community from attacks from the outside – particularly the Meccans.²
- But the meaning of jihad expanded over time and exactly how far it should be expanded is where all the controversy and argument is today:²
 - Some Muslims today say jihad can **only** be defensive.
 - Obviously Isis and others disagree with that.

¹Needham, Nick. 2,000 Years of Christ's Power Vol. 2: The Middle Ages

²James White – 2016 Church History Series #40 – Islamic Impact Part 2

The Basic Teachings of Islam

- The Muslims have two sets of holy writings: the **Quran** and the **Hadith**.
- **The Quran**
 - is divided into 114 chapters (called *surahs*) which are each divided into verses (called *ayat*)
 - The Quran is 55% of the length of the NT, 14% of the length of the Bible.
 - Muslims believe that the Quran is the word of God and that the original exists on a heavenly tablet.
 - The Sunni orthodox view is that the Quran is eternal and uncreated.
- The **Hadith** are the sayings and actions of Muhammad and his companions that have been compiled into various collections.

The Basic Teachings of Islam

- Muslims believe that the Quran was sent to Gabriel in the month of **Ramadan** and then revealed piecemeal to Muhammad over the next 22 years.
- The month of Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar – they don't use a **solar** calendar, instead they use a **lunar** calendar.
- Their year is 10-11 days shorter than our year. Therefore celebration of Ramadan moves forward each year by 10-11 days on our calendar.
- On Ramadan, the Muslims will not eat or drink (including water) from sunrise to sunset.

The Basic Teachings of Islam

- In the month of Ramadan, **Laylat al-Qadr** (Night of Power - Qadr means power or predestination) is the night Muslims believe that the Quran was first sent down via the Angel Gabriel.
- Muhammad would go into a trance and sweat profusely and when he came out of this state he had portions of the Quran that he would dictate and his followers would then memorize it (***not*** write it down).
- Prayers said on the Night of Power are thought to have ten times the worth and effect of prayers said on any other night.
- The problem is they're not sure exactly what night it is! They think it was probably the 23rd or 25th.
- So on those nights during the feast of Ramadan they stay up all night and pray.

Other Interesting Facts About Islam



VOLUNTEERS ARE LIKE BROWNIES!

B BEST OF THE BEST
R REALLY GENEROUS
O OUTSTANDING
W WONDERFUL
N NATURALLY NICE
I INVALUABLE TO HOPE
E EXCELLENT
S SWEET



Class Discussion Time



*Class Discussion Time

- Of the things you learned today about Islam what did you find to be the most surprising or interesting?
- From what you have learned about Islam to this point, what are some things that you think you might want to bring up if you were to have an opportunity to witness to a Muslim?
- At this point, how do you *feel* about the idea of witnessing to a Muslim?
- Do *you* have a topic or question that *you* would like to see us to discuss?