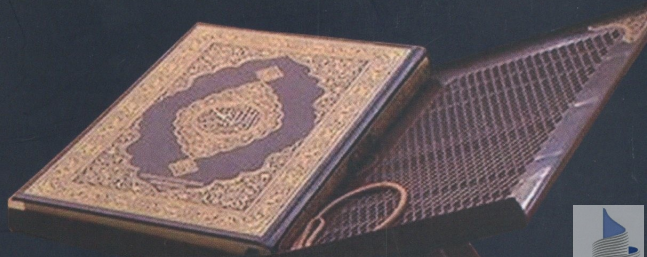


The Reality of Islam

According to Islamic Sources

Rev. Dr. Zakaria Botros





THE REALITY OF ISLAM
ACCORDING TO ISLAMIC
SOURCES

*WITH GUIDELINES
FOR DISCIPLINING MUSLIM CONVERTS*

REV. DR. ZAKARIA BOTROS

2018



PUSTAKA PERDANA



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Dedication

To my most beloved Redeemer, Jesus Christ, the incarnated God;
To the memory of my late wife, Violet, who helped me along the strenuous journey of our ministry;
To my daughter Janet, and my sons Fayez, Benyamin and Peter who supported me with their prayers;
To the Muslims who are seeking the Truth,
I dedicate this work.
May our Mighty God be glorified.



Preface

This study is focused on sharing the Good News with Muslims and is based on decades of continuous research and evangelism to Muslims. I was called to this ministry after losing my elder brother, Fouad, who was killed in 1948 by a group of radical Islamists. Since the 1950s, I have been evangelizing through publishing books, setting up Internet sites and a pal talk program (chat room), and countless one-on-one encounters with the sole purpose of bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Muslims. In 2003, the LORD gave me a new platform, and I began airing the Gospel on Satellite TV that reaches out to the world.

I will be discussing a number of approaches on how to reach out to Muslims with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and will share some stories on how millions of Muslims have turned to Christ and accepted the message.

The first step of evangelizing Muslims is removing the obstacles that prevent them from accepting Christ. Some of these obstacles are:

- The Trinity
- The Incarnation
- The Crucifixion
- The Validity of the Bible

After removing these obstacles, there are strongholds that should be destroyed that prevent Muslims from accepting Christ. These false beliefs include that:

- Mohammad is a prophet of God.
- The Quran is a revelation from God.
- The hadiths are inspired by God.
- Jibril is an angel of God.
- Allah of Mohammad is the true God.

The target of this approach is to shake the foundations of false beliefs and get Muslims to think objectively about the faith they have inherited so that they will be open to receive the message of the Gospel, accept Christ as their Lord and Savior, grow spiritually and serve the Lord.

I pray Muslims will find the Truth and be saved. I also pray that this book will serve as a guide for those who have a heart to evangelize among

Muslims, equipping them with practical methods to use as they share the Good News.

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Introduction:
PRINCIPLES OF EVANGELIZING MUSLIMS

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the city of Jerusalem until you are given power from on high” (Luke 24:49). He also told them, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

This is the greatest help God has given the disciples and has continuously been giving missionaries throughout history. That is why we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and depend on His power as we take the Gospel to Muslims.

Preaching the Gospel to Muslims

The research contained in this volume is founded on over fifty years of evangelism to Muslims. I will begin by briefly sharing why I am burdened to reach out to Muslims and explain the deep motives that encourage an evangelist to accomplish this mission. Then I will focus on the purpose of evangelism and follow with some recommendations concerning style and strategy necessary to achieve this sacred task of evangelizing to Muslims and winning them to Christ Jesus.

Motives

There are several factors that affected me and led me to evangelize to Muslims. It all started in August 1948 when my elder brother was killed by a group of radicals from the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamic sect, after sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them. I am grateful that, by God’s grace, I have lost all the anger and bitterness I once felt towards Muslims. In fact, my heart is burdened to minister to them so that they can be saved from the darkness of Islam that consumes them with hatred and revenge.

My eyes were opened to the importance of this ministry early on in my life. My father carried this great burden of encouraging and helping converted Muslims. My dad went as far as to open our home to them; and since my childhood, I have had the opportunity to witness, firsthand, Muslims coming to Christ and being saved.

I had an experience during my secondary school years that God used to prepare me for this ministry. One of my teachers continuously challenged

me and often embarrassed me in front of my colleagues by openly defying my Christian faith and raising doubts about the Trinity and the incarnation. When I quoted verses from Bible in response, he would question the validity of the Bible. This prompted me to study these topics in the Quran so that I could defend my faith. His attacks brought about the excellent result of planting the seed of intellectual apologetics in my mind and heart.

There was another transition in my life in which I moved from defending the Christian faith to exposing the false beliefs of Islam. God used a famous Egyptian novelist and playwright, Tewfik El-Hakim, to introduce me to the reality of Islam, the Quran and Mohammad the prophet of Islam. This inspired me to pursue a deeper understanding of the validity of Islam.

My real motive is a deep, sincere love to bring the Good News to Muslims: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Jesus loved sinners and brought the Good News to them. In Mark 2:17, we are told, “I [Jesus] did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Ultimate intention

In 1 Corinthians 9:22, the Apostle Paul writes, “To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”

My ultimate intention is to glorify God and bring people to Jesus, especially Muslims, whom I look upon as victims of Mohammad who deceived them just as Satan deceived him. Muslims still believe that Mohammad is the best prophet, the Quran is the only authentic book from Allah and Islam is the only religion from Allah. Muslims are in deep need to be saved from these false beliefs.

Another purpose behind this study is to share some practical tips on how to preach the Gospel to Muslims, based on my many years of experience of one-on-one and group encounters with Muslims; and on experience I gained through research, publishing, hosting radio programs, communicating through the Internet and presenting television programs.

INTRODUCTION

In fact, the ministry of preaching the Gospel to Muslims in the traditional way of face-to-face encounters may be life threatening. Christians who live in the Muslim world need to be very cautious about evangelizing to Muslims because it is forbidden by Islamic shari'a law.

On the other hand, Western evangelical endeavors to Muslim countries do not see the success expected. This is because of the vast difference in culture, language and mindset between the East and the West. Many missionaries do not fully understand how culture plays a key role in the formation of the Muslim mentality; and Muslims often link the Western evangelist with imperialism.

Muslims are imprisoned in darkness, distanced from the light of Christ. Worse, there has been a surge in radical Islamic movements such as the Wahhabi movement in Saudi Arabia, the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and Turkey, Hamas in Palestine, Al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Yemen, Khomeini in Iran, Hezbollah in Lebanon and ISIS in Iraq and Syria. All these movements present a radical approach (modeled by Mohammad the prophet of Islam) that breeds terrorism in hope of restoring Islam to the glory of its "good old days" in the Age of the Prophet, the Caliphates and Islamic Conquest.

This new wave of terrorism reached America in the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. Countries like Britain, France, Russia and Spain have not been spared the ravages of Islamic terrorism. The traditional methods of war used by the U.S., U.K., Australia, Canada and Europe have not succeeded in tempering this terrorist worldview. They have spent millions of dollars and lost hundreds of soldiers, yet their efforts have not brought terrorism to an end.

The words of Saint Francis of Assisi (13th Century) who opposed the wars of the Crusaders proved to be true: "You cannot overcome evil with evil but with love; and weapons cannot be a means to goodness because weapons kill the oppressor and the innocent alike. But love saves all." Saint Francis urged his disciples to invade the whole world peacefully and preach the Gospel everywhere."¹

The Muslim world today is thirsty for this message of love and salvation. Muslims who come to know Christ are freed from the power of anger and

hatred. Instead of posing a threat to the peace of others, they become a spiritual blessing to others.

Although it is not possible for me to evangelize to Muslims in the conventional ways, the Lord has opened a new door for me to preach to Muslims through satellite TV and the Internet. I started an online ministry, followed by a TV ministry in 2003 that has continued to grow until today. I pray this message will keep going out until all Muslims who are searching for the Truth find the way. This ministry has been made possible through programs such as *Questions about Faith, Fi Issamim (Straight to the Point)*, *Dialogue about Truth*, *Search for Truth* and *Knowing the Truth*, which are aired through several satellite channels in the U.S.A., Canada, Mexico, Europe, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and all over the Middle East.

A famous researcher named Joel Rosenberg in his book, “Inside the Revolution,”² in which he touches on evangelism through the means of satellite television and radio, writes, “Father Zakaria today is the evangelist with the greatest audience and fame in the entire Muslim world.”

I thank God who has caused this ministry to grow and bring forth fruit exceeding anything I could have ever imagined. This same writer attested, “Many leading Arab evangelists I interviewed for *Inside the Revolution* said that they believe God is using Father Zakaria Botros to help bring in the greatest harvest of Muslim converts to Christianity in the history of Christendom.”³

Style and strategy

Evangelizing to Muslims should be conducted with respect, patience, wisdom and love.

Respect

We should respect Muslims to win them to Christ. Let’s always keep in mind that we are not against Muslims, although we are against Islam as a false religion. We do not want to disgrace Muslims, but rather to expose Islam in order to bring them to the Gospel. In our discussions, we should discuss Islam objectively, not subjectively. 1 Peter 3:15 tells us, “Be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

Patience

Preaching the Gospel to Muslims is not an easy task. According to the Quran, Muslims are the best nation in the world and have the absolute truth. This explains why Muslims refuse to listen to any message other than the message of Islam. We need to have the virtues of patience and longsuffering as we preach to them the Gospel of Christ.

Wisdom

We should approach Muslims with wisdom to reach their hearts with the Gospel. Because Muslims are not prepared to accept the message of love and salvation, much foundational work precedes offering the message of Jesus as Savior. There are four strategic stages in evangelizing to Muslims:

1. Apologetics: Removing the obstacles that stand between Muslims and their salvation
2. Polemics: Exposing Islam
3. Evangelism: Presenting the biblical message of salvation through Christ
4. Discipleship: Following up and teaching what Jesus commanded

These four stages are the core of this study. The first stage, Apologetics, will be discussed in Part 1; the second stage, Polemics, will be discussed in Part 2; the third and fourth stages, Evangelism and Discipleship, will be discussed in Part 3.

And the greatest is love

The Bible tells us that God made Himself known by becoming one of us. In the New Testament, Jesus is God Incarnate, as He took on the form of a human being.

He, “being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.” (Philippians 2:6-7)

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.” (1 Timothy 3:16)

The apostles followed Jesus' example, as the Apostle Paul exemplifies.

“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” (1 Corinthians 9:19-22)

This sets the example of sacrificial love in ministry. Everyone called to evangelize to Muslims is called to a life of practical love in order to draw them through love to the person of Jesus Christ our Savior.

The Incredible Impact of this Ministry

I will mention only a few examples of how God is working among Muslims to describe the great impact of this ministry.

Testimonies of converted Muslims

There is nothing like personal stories told by real people about the transformation God has brought about in their lives. Muslims from countries such as Saudi Arabia have boldly given their full testimonies on live television and shared their journeys from the darkness of Islam to the Truth of Jesus Christ.

Published books and articles

One of the greatest fruits is that Muslim authors are publishing books and articles disapproving and critical of Islam, such as

- *The Fall of Islam*, a book by Dr. Hamed Abdel-Samad which discusses the end of Islam⁴
- “The Death of Islam,” by Wafa'a Salma, in which she explains that Islam is surrendering and succumbing to a bloody Allah created by Mohammad to rule the Arabs, and whom the Arabs are using to rule the world⁵

There are many other books and articles published along these lines.

TV shows and books

Islamic scholars and theologians on TV have often responded to my programs with weak arguments and defenses of Islam, giving me multiple opportunities to use their arguments to further expose the reality of Islam. Their superficial responses backfire, and many Muslim viewers lose their faith and realize that Islam is a false religion and decide to leave it.

Islamic media

Instead of attacking and criticizing Christianity, for the first time in modern history, Islamic media is criticizing Islam. For example,

- Rotana TV presenter, Mrs. Hala Sarhan, criticized adult breast-feeding.
- Orbit TV presenter, Mr. Amr Adeeb, discussed several topics of my TV programs, for example, “The Distortion of the Quran.”
- Iqra' TV presenter, Mrs. Basma Wahby, in her program, *Before the Judgment*, criticized capturing women in war and making them concubines.
- Many enlightened Muslim writers are exposing the reality of Islam on their websites, for example, *Civilized Dialogue* www.elaph.com.

Responses of Islamic scholars and theologians

Some scholars and theologians have begun to criticize the validity of the hadiths, while others have dismissed the whole of the hadiths. The King of Saudi Arabia, King Salman bin Abdul Aziz, has appointed a council of Islamic theologians to delete from the prophet's hadiths all the texts that bring shame on Islam.

Scholars and theologians are also amending Islamic fundamentals that have been well established in Islam for the past 14 centuries, such as the “Beautiful Names of God.” Based on the episodes I presented on TV about the horrible names of Allah, Al Azhar University amended these 99 names by deleting 29 ugly names and replacing them with 30 more attractive names.

Among all of Allah's 100 revised names, there is nothing close to “God is LOVE.”

Reaction from Muslim viewers

TV programs stimulate Muslim viewers to think and ask some core questions about fundamental beliefs. However, Islamic scholars fail to offer responses that satisfy their questions – especially for young people, which leads many to realize that the Islam they believed in was not what they had signed up for, and they decide to quit.

Muslims disgracing the Quran

A Muslim regards the Quran as Allah's inspired Holy Book. However, after watching some of my programs about the falseness of the Quran, a number of Muslims have lost their respect for it. Some of them have been tortured and others killed for openly defying the Quran. For example, a pharmacist in Saudi Arabia used to take a copy of the Quran to different mosques and defy it publicly. He was sentenced to death for challenging the Quran.

Other Muslims in several Muslim countries have dared to express their disbelief by burning the Quran. In Saudi Arabia, authorities found thousands of discarded copies of the Quran. They arrested some people they accused of tearing the book and discarding it. Videos of these incidents are posted on the Internet.

Islamic scholars lament the exodus from Islam to Christianity

In 2005 Sheikh Ahmad El-Qatani, Islam's most famous preacher, provided shocking but valid statistics of the numbers of converted Muslims on Al-Jazeera.⁶ He mentioned that the annual number of converts from Islam to Christianity was about 10,000 converts in Algeria, 45,000 in Morocco, 50,000 in Saudi Arabia and 6,000,000 in Africa. For more statistics from Muslim sources on Muslim conversions, visit <http://www.aljazeera.net/Channel/archive/archive?ArchiveId=89376>.

Joel Rosenberg, American author and researcher, cites on his blog a global census of believers in Christ from a Muslim background that concludes, "From 1960 to 2010, the number of Muslims that have converted to faith in Jesus Christ has grown from fewer than 200,000 to some 10 million people."⁷ Father Mitch Pacwa reports on "big numbers of conversions" among Arabs as a result of my television and Internet ministries.⁸ And reporter Raymond Ibrahim affirms my motive – "to draw Muslims away from the dead legalism of sharia to the spirituality of Christianity," my

method of asking questions arising from Islamic sources and inviting Muslim scholars to respond with supporting evidence, and the effectiveness of this method in “evangelizing many of the six million Muslim converts every year.”⁹

I give all praise and glory to our Almighty God, our Lord and our Savior, because there is continuous conversion from Islam, more thirst for the Bible and more Muslims accepting Christ.

Islamic Culture and Language

The great majority of Muslims are not encouraged to use analytical skills when it comes to religion and trained to accept what the sheikhs tell them as the absolute truth without arguing about it. Many Muslims are ordinary people absorbed day-to-day in securing the basic survival needs of life such as food and housing for themselves and their families, while the more rooted Muslims, such as the sheikhs and Islamic governments, are concerned with spreading Islam to attain worldwide dominion.

Many Muslims emphasize appearances and are very concerned about public opinion, so they portray an image of “righteousness,” most evident in publicly observing Friday prayers on street corners and fasting Ramadan. The “Pillars of Islam,” five rituals mentioned in the hadiths in multiple formats, were established by Mohammad.

“The messenger of Allah said, ‘Islam is established on five; A declaration that there is no god but Allah, that Mohammad is His slave and His Messenger, Prayer, Zakat [giving alms], Al-Hajj [pilgrimage] and Fasting (the holy month) Ramadan’.”¹⁰

Many Muslims are faithful to Islam as a religion with its rituals, traditions, principles and even its Shari'a law. Islam is not a message of salvation, new life in Christ or the work of the Holy Spirit; thus, even the more devout practicing Muslims remain slaves to their lusts and corrupt sinful nature and fail to change themselves. They do not love the “other” but hold grudges that often lead them to persecute and sometimes murder, as is the case with Al Qaeda, ISIS and other radical Islamic groups. These

teachings proceed from the Quran and hadiths of the prophet Mohammad. An average Muslim may be peaceful, but when he gets deeper into the study of Quran, being radicalized is inevitable.

Some Muslims suffer poverty, and many Muslim countries are poor and under-developed. Population increase and limited resources are factors contributing to poverty. Even oil-rich countries have a small privileged upper class while the masses suffer some degree of poverty. High birth rates, polygamy and lack of planning continue to cripple these countries.

Muslims have mixed feelings about the West, often connecting it with imperialism. They see potential imperialism in evangelists and missionaries from the West, but try to mask these concerns in order to enjoy favors such as humanitarian aid and immigration opportunities.

As for language, the order of a sentence in the Arabic language differs from the order in Latin languages. For instance, in Arabic the adjective comes after the noun, so we say, "The man tall." A big chunk of everyday conversation in colloquial Arabic consists of idioms. The extensive use of idioms means that translating word-for-word makes no sense. For example, a word-for-word translation of an appeal made by a former employee to his boss goes like this: "Why do you cut my bread? I am running over my mother and I am on iron." He is actually saying, "Why don't you let me keep my job? I am responsible for my mother and I am broke."

Missionaries need to learn about culture and language to communicate and preach the Gospel to Muslim Arabs. Arabic is the language of the Quran, and Arabic and the Quran cannot be divorced. Translating the Quran makes it lose a great deal of meaning since it contains a lot of idiomatic Arabic; Quran translations only give part of the meaning since there is much wealth in the cultural aspect of the language.

Despite Islam's unique defining characteristics, the Bible has one answer: to draw everyone, including Muslims, to the person of Christ.



Part 1:
APOLOGETICS:
Removing Muslims' Doubts
About Christianity



OVERVIEW

Those who are born and raised Muslim are continuously exposed to the teachings of Islam. They find it hard to accept Christ as their Savior because they struggle with false beliefs about Christianity. In Part 1, I will share what I have discovered through my research about how to confront and demolish the following false beliefs about the Christian faith so Muslims become open to the Truth.

God in a Trinity

Muslims assume that Christians have three gods, so refuse to engage with them. They are totally opposed to the concept of three gods, and a common question is “Which of the three gods are you referring to?”

The Incarnation

Muslims believe that Christians worship a human being – Christ, and cannot accept the incarnation of God in Christ.

The Crucifixion

Some verses of the Quran lead Muslims to believe that Jesus was not crucified, but that someone else who looked like Him was crucified in His place. This belief stops Muslims from partaking in the salvation made available to them through the Crucifixion.

The Validity of the Bible

Muslims believe that Jews and Christians distorted their holy books, so they guard themselves against what they call “falsified Scriptures.”

The False Gospel of Barnabas

Muslims believe that Jesus prophesied about the coming of Mohammad, the prophet of Islam. They find this prophecy in the so-called “Gospel of Barnabas.”



Chapter 1: THE TRINITY

The Meaning of the Christian Doctrine of the Holy Trinity

Christians believe in one infinite God who has no equal and who fills the heavens and the earth and is the creator of all; He is eternal before all creation and everlasting with no end to His Kingdom. This doctrine is clear in the New Testament and in the Nicene Creed: “We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible.”

The Lord Jesus clarified this when some people asked Him about the greatest commandment. He said, “The first of all the commandments is, ‘Hear, O Israel; The Lord your God is one Lord’ ” (Mark 12:29). The Apostle Paul said in Romans 3:29, “Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also.” James stressed this doctrine when he said, “You believe that there is one God. You do well” (James 2:19).

In these verses and many others, the doctrine of one God is clearly stated in the New Testament. As well, the Church has recited in the Creed for many generations, “We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible.” Evidently, Christians believe in one God and not three gods.

The Christian doctrine of the Trinity, by no means, teaches that there are three gods. The concept of the Trinity is that the one God is self-existent, expressing Himself through His Word and alive through His Spirit.

God is Self-existent

This means that God is a being with a self. He is not just an idea without a presence. In fact, this presence is the origin of all existence. God declares His presence as “Father” because He is the source of all existence.



The Reality of Islam According to Islamic Sources

About Rev. Dr. Zakaria Botros

God used Father Zakaria to achieve extraordinary results that have not been prec-
edented in the 1400 years of mission to Muslims.

Although one of his brothers was murdered for preaching the Good News of Jesus, Fr.
Zakaria developed a supernatural love for Muslims globally. He had an encounter with the
Holy Spirit in 1964, which altered the trajectory of his ministry. Compelled by the Great
Commission, Fr. Zakaria devoted decades of his life to present the Gospel to Muslims
through face-to-face interactions, visits to Egyptian Mosques, publications of apologetic
books, internet chat rooms and satellite television.

Fr. Zakaria has been awarded his doctorate in missiology from GMU University. In 2014
he was appointed as the President of Islamic Research at Grace Mission University.

Naming him World's 2008 Daniel of the Year, WORLD Magazine described the phenomenal
mission of Fr. Zakaria: "What happens when an elderly Coptic priest takes to the airwaves
and the internet to confront Islam? Death threats, conversions, and a global following."

"Father Zakaria Botros today is the evangelist with the greatest audience and fame in the
entire Muslim world... God is using him to help bring in the greatest harvest of Muslim
converts to Christianity in the history of Christendom."

Joel C. Rosenberg

Author of "Inside the Revolution"

"Rev. Dr. Zakaria Botros is the choicest person in the world who can provide Grace
Mission University with the apologetics and polemics tools for Muslim evangelism. He is
one of the best persons in the world who can provide GMU with the Bible teaching tools
for Muslims."

Dr. Kyunam Choi Ph.D., D.Miss.

President of Grace Mission University, America

"Rev. Dr. Zakaria Botros is not merely an arm-chair expert in evangelism; he has
pioneered a global rescue mission that has reached millions of Muslims in the Middle East
and around the world. For over five decades, Father Zakaria's passion, perseverance and
powerful evangelistic strategies have seen him endure persecution, imprisonments, exile
from his home country, death threats and a whopping bounty on his head. Imitating his
Savior, Father Zakaria chose to "pay the price" so that Muslims, globally, can enjoy the gift
of salvation. His unparalleled research, unmatched practical experience and unprec-
edented God-breathed fruitfulness will inspire a generation to believe that God can trans-
form Islamic nations."

Dr. Peter Botross (DEd)

Co-author of Defying Death

