

### 33. MOHAMMED, THE FALSE PROPHET

Arabia's vast desert lies scorching under the sun's heat. The white desert sand reflects the sun's intense rays.

It is a barren, desolate loneliness. There is no sign of life — no trees, shrubs, plants, or grass. There's nothing to see except sand shimmering in the heat.

Oh yes, there is something! A group of camels is coming, led by a few drovers. Some of the camels are laden with heavy packs full of merchandise. Without pausing, those strong animals plod along for hours and hours with their heavy burdens through that barren, inhospitable sandy desert and do not seem troubled by the almost unbearable heat. It is incomprehensible that those animals can tolerate such conditions for a long time.

The leader sits on one of the camels and observes the animals carefully. He tells the drovers what to do and cares for man and beast. He carries the responsibility of making sure all goes well. He is still a young man but has wandered through the desert for years. He is thoroughly acquainted with those vast, sandy plains. He knows the dangers which threaten him. When he was only eleven, he was already travelling across the desert with caravans, bringing merchandise from one country to another. Through many years of experience, he is at home in the desert.

At first, he was a helper or servant. Because he did his work well, he did not remain a servant. When he became older, he gradually advanced in rank until he became a leader. See him sitting high up on the back of one of those camels. From time to time, he looks around to make sure all is going well. Then he looks straight ahead of

him again and thinks and thinks!

He wanders through the deserts of Arabia, Egypt and Syria.

He visits large, prosperous cities and does his work well and with pleasure.

He is not only charged with travelling through the desert, but when they have reached their destination, it is also his job to sell the goods they brought along at as high a price as possible, and when he succeeds, he must purchase other goods at a reasonable price. That way, he makes many trips.

Who is that young man who, at such a young age, is already the leader of this caravan? His name is *Mohammed*! We'll tell you a few things about Mohammed in this chapter.

#### MOHAMMED'S YOUTH

Two large Arabian cities are situated on the west coast of Arabia. They are still there. The name of one of them is Mecca. To the north of Mecca lies the city of Medina. These two cities are not part of the desert.

On the contrary!

There we find thriving sugar cane farms.

There they cultivate coffee, dates, and pomegranates. Those crops can grow there because there is sufficient rainfall on the coast.

In the year 570, Mohammed was born in the city of Mecca. He spent the first years of his life there. Mohammed did not have a happy childhood. He never knew his father because he died before

Mohammed was born. His parents were not wealthy but were of good standing and highly respected. When Mohammed was six years old, his mother also died, so that little boy was an orphan at a very young age. This orphaned boy



*'Strong animals plod along for hours...' <https://edition.cnn.com/>*

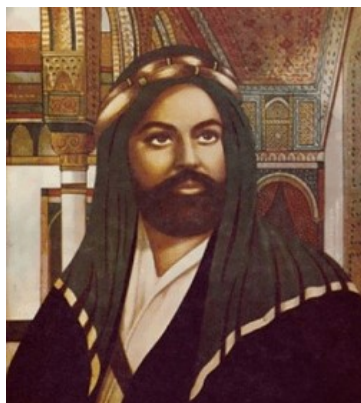
moved into the home of his grandfather, who brought him up. But his grandfather also died, and the youthful Mohammed had to change homes again. He went to live with his uncle, who would care for him and his further education.

Mohammed did not go to school. In those days, there were not many schools. He was still a child when he began caring for his uncle's camels and sheep, just like Moses did in Midian. When he was eleven, he asked his uncle if he could go with the caravans that constantly departed from Mecca. His uncle gave his consent immediately. Perhaps he was glad he would no longer have to take care of Mohammed.

How this boy must have missed true parental love.

A wealthy widow lived in Mecca. She had many camels. Her name was Khadija. At the age of twelve, Mohammed began to work for that widow. He started as a lowly camel drover. Later he became a leader, for Khadija soon noticed that she had found an excellent worker in that young boy. For thirteen years, he served her faithfully. He poured all his energy into his work. She could rely on him. He looked after her interests as if they were his own business. At the age of twenty-five, he married Khadija. He suddenly became wealthy through that marriage because all her possessions had become his. So he no longer had to work for a living.

*Before* Mohammed married, he was super busy. But now he had lots of spare time. *After* his marriage, Mohammed stayed home when the



Mohammed 570-632.  
<https://www.javatpoint.com>

caravans departed to foreign countries and cities. Then he often found a lonely spot and could sit and stare for hours without getting bored. Then he thought, contemplated, and meditated.

On what did he meditate and think? About his gloomy, difficult youth?  
No! What then?

## THE HISTORY OF ARABS

Mohammed was an Arab.

Arabs are descendants of Ishmael, the son of Abraham and Hagar.

They were pagans. However, the true knowledge of God *had* been in Arabia. We may be sure that Abraham had told Ishmael about God's covenant promises and miracles. Hagar and her son were not pagans. They heard the truth from Abraham. Later, when God scattered the Jewish nation during the captivity, many dispersed Jews went to live in Arabia.

At Pentecost, there were also Arabs among the crowds in Jerusalem. We do not know whether the Pentecost message converted any of those Arabs. It is possible. One day, God will reveal that.

Finally, after his conversion, the Apostle Paul lived in Arabia for three years. We can read this in Galatians 1:17. He would have preached there. There have even been Christian churches in Arabia. But sadly, God's people in Arabia eventually strayed from the pure doctrine. During their rapid decline, they revered Mary, Jesus' mother, as a goddess. Priests offered wafers to her. How silly!

In Mecca was a large square temple covered with a black curtain.

They called that temple 'The Holy Kaaba.' That word means 'Cube.' That temple was full of idols during Mohammed's lifetime - three hundred and sixty idols! Appalling!

Indeed, nothing was left of the pure knowledge of God in Arabia. That fact depressed Mohammed and filled him with concern. When he was alone and sitting, staring at nothing while reflecting and meditating, he thought about the sad religious state of his people. He concluded that it could not stay like that and had to change. But how!? What has to change? Mohammed did not know the answer. He thought about and meditated on this for hours.

Because Mohammed had made extensive journeys for many years and had visited many countries and cities, he had been in contact with many people. He had got to know people who were pure pagans.

But preach to the pagans? Oh, no, Mohammed wanted nothing to do with *them*. He despised pagans.

During his extensive travels, Mohammed also learned to know many Christians. If they had been God-fearing people, they could have led Mohammed on the right path. But alas, he had come into contact with the Christians we told you about earlier - the ones who believed the lie. Mohammed wanted nothing to do with that type of Christianity. He detested it.

During his travels, Mohammed also learned to know Jews. But Judaism could not captivate Mohammed either. He rejected the Jewish religion. But what then?

The religion in Arabia was no good.

The type of Christianity he knew was no good.

The Jewish religion was no good.

But what then?

## A NEW RELIGION

Mohammed did not know either! He pondered on it day and night. He lay thinking about it during

long, sleepless nights, and...a new religion was born. *Mohammed made a new religion!*

He had enough time for that.

His new religion became a mixture of Christianity, Judaism, and paganism. There was a bit of everything in it.

He named this new religion after himself.

It was called '*Mohammedanism*' but was also known as '*Islam*'.

So, what kind of religion did Mohammed make?

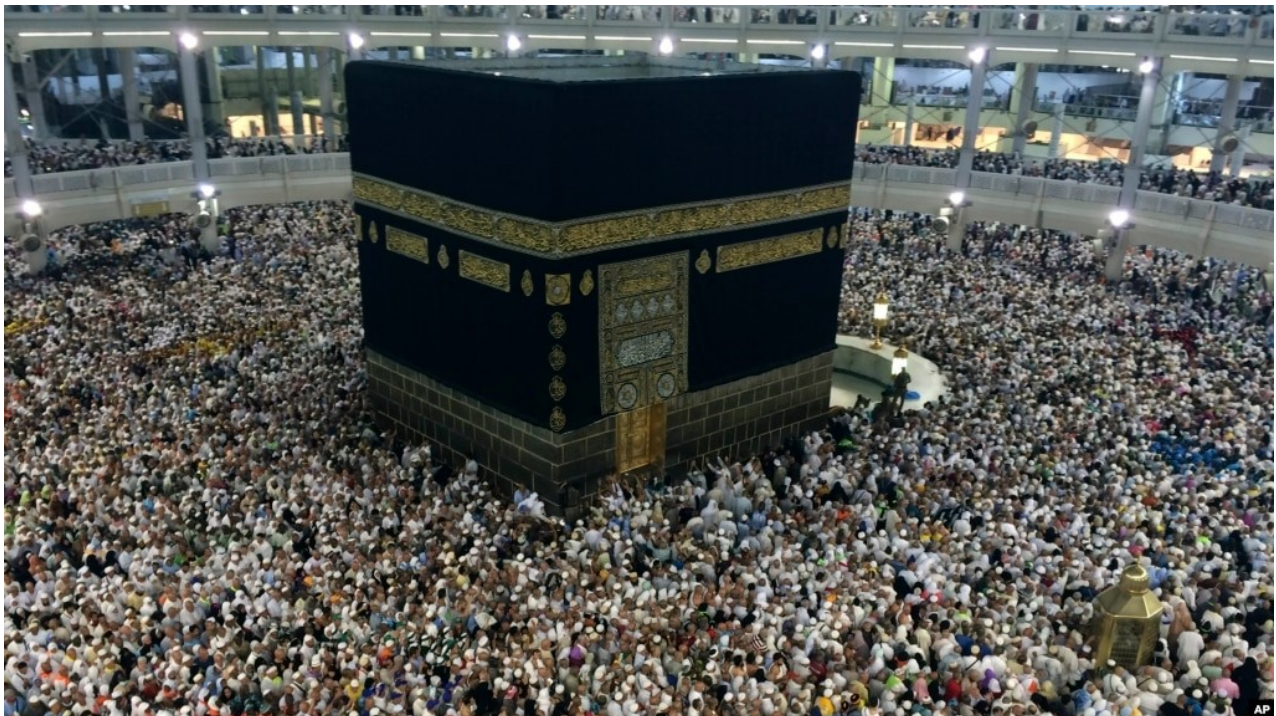
As explained, Mohammed didn't want a bar of paganism with its many idols. He genuinely disliked polytheism (the worship of many gods) and believed only one God existed. He thought the priests made the people believe in many gods. That was better for them because then the people would bring many offerings. That's why Mohammed said:

"There is only one God!"

He called that God: 'Allah.' He taught:

"All people on earth must honour and worship Allah!"

Mohammed suffered from epileptic fits, sometimes causing violent attacks. During those fits, he saw strange, odd things that made him kick frantically and stomp around, often foaming at the mouth. When he recovered, he would be afraid and run to his wife. In nervous excitement,



Muslim pilgrims circle the Kaaba, the black cube at the centre, inside the Grand Mosque during the annual pilgrimage, known as the hajj, in the Muslim holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. <https://www.voanews.com/>



he would tell her what he had seen in his dreams. He imagined devils tormenting him and evil spirits chasing him and trying to send him to hell. Then Khadija, his wife, tried to comfort and encourage him. She said:

"It's not evil spirits that alarm you, but angels that you see."

Eventually, Mohammed began to believe it himself. Of course, that must be it! His wife must be right. God's angels were appearing to him! It was obvious! It couldn't be anything else!

Mohammed began to believe that he was an exceptional person. He saw the most amazing things in his confused dreams and thought they were heaven's revelations. Misled by his feverish notions, he imagined that the angel Gabriel often appeared and revealed many heavenly things to him.

One day, Mohammed had another epileptic fit, and he dreamed he was standing near the Kaaba or the temple in Mecca. The inhabitants of Mecca were asleep because it was midnight. Suddenly a horse with wings stood next to him. He mounted that winged horse and was hardly in the saddle when the animal flew off at an incredible speed. He could feel the cool night air brush past his face. In an unbelievably short time, the horse brought him to Jerusalem. When he arrived, the angel Gabriel was waiting for him. With the angel, he ascends into the seventh heaven. In his dream, he notices that he has *entered* heaven. All the saints and thousands of angels come to meet him. They greet him reverently. Slowly, majestically, he walks on till he is before the throne of Allah!



*Mohammed on the winged horse.*  
<https://truthsnitch.com/>

He hears the voice of the Lord! His knees knock together, but the hand of the Lord touches him, and new life and strength flow through his trembling body.

In heaven, Allah charges him to be God's prophet on earth. He must become God's messenger. Then the angel Gabriel takes him back to earth again. The winged horse is waiting for him in Jerusalem. He mounts the animal for the second time and is brought back to Mecca at the same speed.

Many of you may be thinking:

"Is that true? Did Mohammed really have those revelations?"

The answer is easy.

Of course it was not true! It was all nonsense and imagination! None of us may ever believe a word of it. But Mohammed did! Overjoyed, he hurried to his wife and told her those incredible heavenly revelations. Immediately Khadija also thought that God had assigned her husband to be His prophet. From that moment, Mohammed was one hundred per cent sure that there was only one God, 'Allah', and he, Mohammed, was His prophet. True, there had been other prophets, even great prophets. Adam, Noah, Abraham, and Moses were all prophets. Jesus of Nazareth was also a great prophet, but he, Mohammed, was the greatest and the last prophet. His task was to preach that all people, young and old, big and small, had to submit themselves to Allah. Everyone had to believe that he, Mohammed, was the greatest and the last prophet. And *that's* what Mohammed preached.

#### **A SELF-APPOINTED PROPHET**

There he walks through the streets of Mecca, his birthplace. Everyone hears his monotonous, repetitive cry:

"Allah is great, and Mohammed is his prophet!"

The inhabitants of Mecca hear and understand those words. They look incredulous, astonished, and unbelieving, but then they laugh.

At first, Mohammed did not get much fruit on his preaching. Only his wife Khadija and his cousin Ali accept that preaching as true and believe in him. But Mohammed perseveres, one year, two years, three years ...ten years! After preaching for ten

years, only about forty people believe in him. All the other inhabitants of Mecca laugh in his face, especially his relatives. They mock and jeer him. And finally, they become hostile. They scornfully remark:

"Who does that fellow think he is? He must be going crazy!"

Eventually, that enmity turns into hatred! They call him names and finally hatch a plot to murder him. It becomes dangerous for Mohammed in Mecca because now he is not sure of his life for a moment.

In 622, he flees to Medina, the city north of Mecca. Mohammed does not want to speak of "fleeing" because that sounded humiliating. He said:

"I don't want to know my relatives, associates and people anymore. If they refuse to believe in my mission, I no longer acknowledge them as my relatives and people. I break all bonds with them. They are strangers to me."

He enters the gates of Medina, and now the streets there echo with his repetitive, monotonous cry:

"Allah is great, and Mohammed is his prophet."

In Medina, the inhabitants do not know him as well as in Mecca, and the people believe him. In a relatively short time, he has gathered several followers. Day after day, he continues his preaching and the number of those who believe him continues to increase. Perhaps he hoped they would call him back to Mecca, but that didn't happen. Then Mohammed's patience is at an end. He takes up arms and declares the Holy War (Jihad) to all who don't believe in him! He wants to *compel* them to obey! Mohammed is not afraid. He marches at the front of the battle and leads his brave soldiers in the fight. His courage is contagious. In 630, eight years after he had

to flee from Mecca, he returned with an army of faithful followers and conquered his birthplace. Now he is the boss! He compels them to believe in his religion. And? The inhabitants of Mecca give up the struggle. They also become Mohammedans and follow him. Mohammed has gained a splendid victory. But he is not satisfied yet. Not only Mecca and Medina, but the whole world must believe in him! He will not rest until he obtains that object, so he calls his soldiers to battle.

Fear? No, the Mohammedan soldiers do not fear! Without fear of death, his followers throw themselves into a fierce struggle.

Mohammed had taught them that Allah has determined everything. They need not fear death. If Allah has decided that they won't die, nobody will kill them in battle, and if the 'enemy' does kill them, well, it is Allah's will, and they may not resist that will. Besides, dying is not alarming, for they will go straight to heaven! There they will be honoured and praised as heroes. There they will thoroughly enjoy everything they so often had to go without here on earth.



Muslims fighting the Jihād  
<https://i-hls.com/archives/67023>

Mohammed conquers one tribe after another. One by one, the nations subject themselves to the intruding Mohammedans. The Islamic armies compel them.

### MOHAMMED'S DEATH

When Khadija, his wife, who has followed and believed in him from the beginning, dies, Mohammed marries again.

But he is not satisfied with one wife. He takes several wives at once.

Meanwhile, he continues the 'Holy War' with undiminished intensity.

Two years later, he has subdued all of Arabia.

Within a few years, he has established a mighty empire that continues to expand.

According to some writers, Mohammed died from poisoning. One of his many wives wanted to see if he really was the great prophet he claimed he was. She thought:

"If he speaks the truth, a little poison will not harm him; Allah will watch over him. However, if he dies from it, he is a liar."

To test her theory, she poisoned his food.

Mohammed died a few hours later.

This happened in 632.

The religion of Mohammed is wicked. He did not believe that the Lord Jesus was the Son of God, nor that He came to deliver His people from sin by carrying God's anger against sin in our place. Not Jesus of Nazareth, but Mohammed is the greatest, the last prophet. Mohammed believed he did not need redemption. He rejected the revealed way of salvation: Jesus Christ and Him crucified. That's why the Mohammedan religion is false.

### SOMETHING ABOUT ISLAM

The central point for all of Islam is the Kaaba in the famous temple of Mecca. There are some incredible stories about the Kaaba that the Mohammedans readily believe. They believe that Adam built the first Kaaba or temple in Mecca. But that first temple was destroyed by the great flood. Then Abraham, assisted by his son Ishmael, built the Kaaba for the second time. While building it, Abraham received a beautiful white stone from the angel Gabriel, which he cemented into the temple. However, that stone is no longer



*Muslim ladies must wear a burqa. Afghanistan times*

white but black. How come? The Mohammedans are happy to explain. They say that the beautiful white stone has become black from *sin*.

From *sin*?

How is that possible?

Every Mohammedan who comes to Mecca and visits the temple kisses that stone. When they do that, Allah forgives their sins. That stone has become black from all those sins, as black as night.

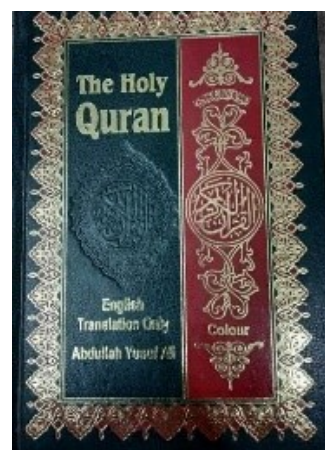
Of course, that's a lot of nonsense. God's Word teaches us differently. The saddest of all is that millions of Mohammedans still believe this.

Mohammedans must also pray to Allah several times a day. During prayer, they must stand or kneel, facing Mecca, just like Daniel prayed in Babylon with an open window towards Jerusalem. Another doctrine is that the Mohammedans must regularly fast. That means they are not allowed to eat at certain times.

The Mohammedans are also obliged to give money to the poor.

Finally, if possible, every Mohammedan must travel once during his life to Mecca to pray to Allah. Then they can also kiss the Kaaba to receive forgiveness of sins. They call those journeys 'pilgrimages'. Whoever has made that pilgrimage to Mecca is called a *hadji*.

The Mohammedans also have their Bible. No, not our Bible, but a very different one. The Mohammedan Bible is called '*The Holy Quran*.' Mohammed convinced his





followers that he received the Koran from God.

Of course, that is not true. The Koran is a tedious book, full of all sorts of sayings and incredible stories that Mohammed supposedly experienced. All Islam children must memorise texts from the Koran.

I could tell you much more about Islam and the Koran, but that would make this chapter too long.

We know the main things—one more thing. We must not think that Islam is only a small group. That would be a huge mistake! Mohammed's followers are estimated to be more than 1.9 billion.

Isn't it terrible that Mohammed's fantasies and false religion mislead so many millions of people?

We are so blessed to have the pure Word of God. If we lived in Mohammedan countries, we would also be followers of Mohammed! The Lord has spared us from that. Do we appreciate it?



*All Islam children must memorise texts from the Koran.  
Encyclopedia Britannica*

## QUESTIONS

1. What was the task of the leader of a caravan?
2. Describe the area surrounding Mecca and Medina.
3. Summarise Mohammed's early life, including his marriage.
4. From whom did Arabs descend?
5. How did the Arabs know the truth under the Old Testament dispensation?
6. How was the truth brought to the Arabs in the New Testament dispensation?
7. What happened to the church of God in Arabia?
8. Which three religions did Mohammed include in the new religion of Islam?
9. Who is the God of the Mohammedans?
10. How were Mohammed's seizures regarded?
11. How did he become 'God's prophet'?
12. Did Mohammed acknowledge Biblical prophets? Explain.
13. How did he regard the Lord Jesus?
14. How did he regard himself?
15. What message did he bring in his preaching?
16. How was his message received?
17. What did he resolve to do?
18. What is a holy war called?
19. How did Allah encourage his soldiers?
20. Prove that Islam is a false religion.
21. List six of the essential elements of Islam worship or customs.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. What prophecy did God make concerning the descendants of Ishmael? See Genesis.
2. Ishmael was part of the covenant and was circumcised. What did this mean for Ishmael?
3. Did Ishmael remain in the covenant when he rejected this relationship? Explain.
4. Do you know of Arabians who learned the truth in Biblical times?
5. Relate what you have learned in this section to present-day Arab- Israeli conflicts. Why do both groups claim areas of Jerusalem?
6. Find a text in God's Word that shows that any religion denying Jesus to be the Son of God is a false religion.
7. Allah's dying soldiers were to enter heaven as heroes. Will God's people enter heaven in this manner? Explain.
8. What will the elect do in heaven? How is this vastly different from Mohammed's view?