

ISLAM

Arabic spellings have been Anglicized differently over several decades.
Bibliography follows outline text.

PART I: ORIGINS AND EXPANSION

A. HISTORICAL SETTING late 6th Cent. A.D.

Eastern Roman Empire vs. Persian Empire (Iran) with Satellite states: Ghassanids vs. Lakhmids. Like the Cold War—rivals since 1st Cent. B.C. Fighting drained their treasuries and manpower, brought high taxation. Persia lopped off large part of ERE, captured Jerusalem in 614 (the True Cross, Holy Sponge, and Lance were taken to Ctesiphon as trophies). ERE rebounded in 622-24. Persia besieged Constantinople in 626. 627 ERE Emperor Heraclius defeated Persians near Nineveh, Peace Treaty in 630 restored to ERE territory including Egypt, Jerusalem, Armenia—and possession of the sacred relics.

ERE is also facing invasion by Germanic tribes in Spain, Italy, and Thrace, sit of the imperial capital Constantinople. Persia is facing invaders from central Asia, including Turks and Mongol tribes.

In ERE, Jews and non-“orthodox” Christians had been intensely persecuted for centuries and were ready to support any power that would relieve them of oppression. (forced conversion, couldn't testify in court or observe Passover, many occupations closed to them, etc.)

DISEASE. In 542 Plague hit the ERE, killing perhaps 20 million people, further depleting manpower that would be needed to resist Persians and Arabs in the next century.

Arabia Economy: Western length (along Red Sea) is trade route between Syria (part of ERE) and India, Far East. Mecca was the economic powerhouse, based on trade in gold, slaves, spices, textiles.

Religion: **1.** Arabs were polytheistic. *Ka'bah* in Mecca a major pilgrimage site for worship of 3 female deities (Al-Lat, Al-Uzzah, and Manat). *Allah* was the remote, undefined supreme force (*al-ilah*, “the god”). **2.** Individual “holy men” of Arab and Christian faiths, live in caves and desert seeking spiritual experience **3.** Many Jews and non-orthodox Christians lived in Arabia, escaping persecution from ERE.

Society and government Tribal organization, no central government. Women had some property rights, were not necessarily worse off than in other contemporary societies.

B. MUHAMMAD

570 born in Mecca in prominent family. Orphaned by age 6. Raised by uncle, a caravan merchant (like an inter-state trucking company). Traveled in Palestine and Syria.

595 married Khadijah, wealthy widow, 40 years old. His only wife until her death in 619. 4 daughters. Muhammad was prosperous, conventional Arab for 10 years.

610 In a hillside cave retreat, 26/27 Ramadan, Muhammad had vision of Angel Gabriel bringing a message from God/Allah. He thought he might be insane, but a cousin who knew the Bible and Torah helped him realize the visions were indeed from God—warnings against idolatry & superstition, usury; commands to have charity for poor and justice for slaves; some protection for women (the most liberal of that time—women could receive an inheritance in their own right and could secure a divorce). Khadijah became his first convert. He began telling others of his visions, gaining a handful of followers (Companions) and antagonizing the ruling families with social teachings of equality and justice for all. **ISLAM submission to God.**

Gabriel's messages were written down by various followers, but weren't organized into the **Quran** until after Muhammad's death.

622 Islam on the verge of extinction from persecution in Mecca—some companions had fled to Africa. M. told of his mystical journey from Mecca to Jerusalem, then into heaven. Followers fled Mecca, went to Yathrib (Madina). **The Hegira (hijra-migration) to Yathrib marks Year 1 in the Muslim calendar. [Madina was formerly spelled Medina.]**

Islam organized in Yathrib: FIVE PILLARS, M's. teachings and his interpretations of the revelations, as well as his personal actions were recorded. Muhammad took several wives after Khadijah's death in 619. JEWS 3 tribes in Madina worshiped with Muslims for two years, Muslims prayed facing Jerusalem! Jews didn't help Muhammad in battle against Meccans; he began persecution based on suspicion of their loyalty and disrespect to the Prophet.

- April 634 Muhammad ordered one tribe be exterminated; allowed merciful expulsion instead—forfeit their property in Madina. Muhammad's claims about Islam's primacy and uniqueness became grander and more strident.
- March 635 Jews refused to fight in a battle that Muhammad lost. Revelation that Jews were willful people who had dishonored the word of God and rejected Moses and now Muhammad, God's last messenger. Christians were also offensive because they misrepresented God by teaching that Jesus was God and part of a Trinity. Fall 635 second Jewish tribe expelled from Madina and their property confiscated.
- March 627 Muhammad won a major battle with help of the remaining Jewish tribe, but he believed they were treacherous and had a revelation about unbelievers that resulted all men of the Qurayza tribe (about 700) being killed in the central market—a day-long process. Women and children were sold as slaves and all their

goods and property were spread among the “believers”. Muhammad took one woman as a concubine. [Lewis, 41-47]

630 Triumphant return to Mecca. Military battles had forced a treaty, allowing Muslims to worship at the *Ka'bah*, which Muslims viewed as the sacred rock on which Abraham was prepared to sacrifice Ishmael (not Isaac, as the Jews believe) as a test from God.

632 Muhammad died in Madina on June 8.

C. FIRST 4 SUCCESSORS TO MUHAMMAD: CALIPH

632–634 Abu Bakr, Muhammad's friend and father-in-law (daughter married M. after 619), early convert to Islam. Collected hundreds of revelations recorded by Muhammad's scribe Zayd ibn Thabit to compile *Quran*. Unified Arabian peninsula under Islam (about 2/3s was Muslim at M's. death). Died of natural causes.

634–644 Umar ibn al-Khattab, Muhammad's father-in-law

- Set date for Muslim calendar to begin on *Muharram* I (July 16,622), the date of Muhammad's arrival at Yathrib (Madina)
- Completed gathering the revelations and organized them in final scriptural form as **suras** (chapters)
- Assembled reports, recollections, and memories of Muhammad's words and deeds, the *ahadith*
- Instituted segregated worship of the sexes
- established Arab/Islamic Empire by conquest. [Part A gives key reasons for the apparent collapse of both Christian and Persian empires that succumbed to Arab/Muslim conquests.]

Syria / Damascus 635 Jerusalem 638 Egypt 642

These were lopped off the Eastern Roman Empire. Jerusalem's surrender after siege included guarantee of no compulsion in religion. Generous peace induced other peoples to surrender rather than fight.

Persia 637 India 643

Assassinated in 644, stabbed by an Iranian slave.

644–656 Uthman ibn Affan, son-in-law of Muhammad.

- **650 Authoritative Quran compiled and organized** into *suras*; destroyed variant texts
- Spread Islam to North Africa, Armenia, Afghanistan
- Lived luxurious lifestyle, ignored charity obligations; seen as subverting the true faith of Islam. ASSASSINATED, beaten and stabbed by a mob

656–661 Ali ibn Abi Talib cousin & son-in-law of Muhammad (husband of Fatima, daughter of Khadijah).

- First male convert to Islam

- Fought rebellions from other contenders—had to justify killing other Muslims. (*Quran* 4:93 killing a believer by design sends killer to hell) Rebellion led by A'isha (Muhammad's 3rd wife) suppressed—she in house arrest but led to harsher restrictions against women. **Reinforced patriarchal ideas of Arab society.**

- Hesitancy to deal forcefully with Islamic enemies only enraged his supporters. **Assassinated** stabbed on the steps of al-Kufa mosque by a fundamentalist *Kharijite*. **ORIGIN OF SHI'!** (*Shi'ite*, *Shi'a*) branch of Islam that believes that only a blood relative of Muhammad could be his legitimate successor as Caliph.

D. Umayyad Dynasty 661-750 (Umayya was family/clan name)

Sunni aristocratic rule

Spread Islam to North Africa, Spain, Persia, penetrate India

Foreigners convert or pay *jizya* tax to observe “pagan” religion

Mu`awiya (Caliph 661-80) founded dynasty; moved capital to Damascus

Abd al-Malik (685-705) introduced coins with Arabic text to replace Byzantine & Persian coinage. Sponsored construction of the DOME OF THE ROCK in Jerusalem 685-91.

In Damascus, Christians and Muslims worshipped in the same building—the former Roman Temple of Jupiter—in which Christians had built a church dedicated to St. John the Baptist. With Christian consent, the temple was demolished to allow construction of the Great Mosque, which introduced the innovation of having the prayer axis on the long wall rather than on a narrow end (apse).

Policy of perpetual jihad: Territorial conquest became the means to keep power—combine traditional Arab militarism and desire for plunder with religious motive to spread Islam. As subjugated peoples converted to Islam, Caliphs faced 2 problems: 1. tax revenues declined because Muslims didn't have to pay the non-believer fees that Jews, Christians, and other non-Muslims paid – had to keep expanding to keep collecting tax revenues.

2. Converts demanded the same rights as Arab Muslims who did not mingle with native ethnic believers and had more political and economic privileges than native people.

Policy of “no compulsion in religion” (toleration)

JEWS and CHRISTIANS had to pay “non-believer” taxes but were not forced to convert to Islam. They suffered many liabilities, including not being allowed to build new houses of worship, hold public processions, and bell-ringing restricted [people used bells as call for services]. Proselytizing was a capital offense. Neither could give evidence against a Muslim in court [denied any legal recourse]. In some areas had to wear specified colors or style of garment. *But, for Jews this was an improvement over the sanctions imposed on them in the Christian ERE.* [Lewis, 98-9]

Rather than exterminate Christianity, Muslims were willing to allow it to wither. Dr. Paul Stenhouse ("The Crusades in Context") shows the decline in number of bishops, reflecting the decline in Christian activity:

| | | |
|------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| early 400s | 700 | Catholic bishops in Africa |
| mid-900s | 40 | |
| 1050 | 5 | |
| 1076 | 2 | not enough to perform a valid consecration of a new bishop, and one had to come from Rome for the ceremony |

E. ABBASID DYNASTY 750–1268 (Clan of al-`Abbas)

Non-Arab converts in eastern regions felt they were not treated fairly by Umayyad-Arab Muslims. In 747 Abbasids launched campaign against Umayyads, killing most of them by 750. Took control of Caliphate and moved the capital to a new city named *Madinat al-Salam* (City of Peace)—now **BAGHDAD**.

750 – 754 Caliph Abu al-Abbas

754 – 775 Caliph Al`Mansur moved capital to Baghdad

775 – 785 Caliph Al-Mahdi Persian court & cultural practices

833 - 842 Al-Muta`sim Recruit Turks as mercenaries.

1055 Turks conquer Baghdad 1055 Abbasids are figureheads in Iraq; Turks take control of Middle East including Palestine. Turks establish Sultanate as political office.

1268 Mongols end Abbasid Caliphate

F. ISLAM in EUROPE

1. IBERIAN PENINSULA: Spain & Portugal

711 Tariq ibn Ziyad invaded Spain at Gibraltar (*Jabal Tariq* "Mount of Tariq")

732 Muslims armies defeated at Tours, near Paris.

756–788 Abd Al-Rahman I escaped Abbasids' slaughter of Umayyads, established Umayyad *emirate* at Córdoba. Very liberal religious toleration for Christians and Jews (great contrast with Christian policies after 1492)

912–961 Abd Al-Rahman III adopted title of Caliph and severed political ties with Baghdad. **ISLAM FRACTURED, in politics as well as succession of caliphate.**

RECONQUISTA Christian kingdoms had been campaigning since late 700s to regain territory from Muslims. *11th Century, Umayyad Caliphate collapsed, Muslims fragmented into petty kingdoms, which made it easier for Christians to rival Muslim leaders.* (Muslims in Iberia were called Moors because they had come from NW Africa, an area the Romans called Mauretania.)

1085 Toledo fell to Christians. Southern Iberia was in Muslim control.

NASRID DYNASTY consolidated southern Spain by 1232, built Alhambra at Granada.

1236 Córdoba fell to Ferdinand III of Castile in Christian *Reconquista*. He converted the Great Mosque, decorated by Byzantine Christian mosaic artists, to the cathedral. Muslim city had the largest library in Europe, 400,000 volumes including Greek classics, Roman law and literature, history, and science. **"Arabic" numerals and decimal system introduced here by Muslims.**

1340 Nasrids defeated by Christians but allowed to remain in Al-Andalus (southeast Spain), paying tribute to Christian rulers. Last Nasrid ruler Abu `abd Allah surrendered to Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492. The treaty guaranteed religious toleration for inhabitants of Granada—until fanatical cardinal in 1499 demanded expulsion of Muslims and Jews.

PORTUGAL push out Moors, establish Christian kingdom in 1147.

2. SICILY and ITALY

827 Conquer Sicily ► rule until Normans in early 12th century

846 attack ROME, burn St. Peter's (original) and other churches

935 Capture Genoa

1015 Capture, control Sardinia

ATTACKED PISA, destroyed the church and bell tower Christians rebuilt the tower beginning in 1173 (the famous "Leaning Tower")

G. ISLAM in AFRICA

909 Egypt Fatimid tribe established Independent caliphate at new city of *al-Qahira* (now Cairo)

B. North Africa emirates in Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco

4. TURKS

833 Abbasid caliphs began employing Turks as mercenaries

1055 Turks capture Baghdad, gain more power through **Sultanate**

1071 Capture Jerusalem, defeat Byzantines at Manzikert

1076 Capture Damascus

Al-Ghazzali ► forms basis of modern Sunni Islam

Hasari Sabbah ► Shi'ite-organized terrorist movement

- anti-Turk/ anti-Sunni

- *assassins* (hashish eaters)

c. 1100 Seljuk Sultanate breaks into local states

SALADIN -- Crusades

OTTOMAN TURKS emerge by 1453, end Byzantine rule

- Rule Turkey, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon until 1918

PART II: TEACHINGS AND CULTURE

A. TEACHINGS

FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM required observances for all Muslims

Shahada, recite the creed, “There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His Prophet.”

Prayer 5 times daily, facing Mecca, cleansing before prayer essential. Praying together is required only at noon on Fridays.

Almsgiving Must give to charity to help the poor, widows, orphans, etc.

Fasting totally from dawn to dusk every day in month of *Ramadan*

Hajj, Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in lifetime (almsgiving helps less fortunate make this trip)

No formal priesthood Imams are prayer leaders, not priests.

Resurrection Many promises of reward in heaven or punishment in hell, determined by one’s actions in this life.

Angels Angel Gabriel appropriated from Judaism/Christianity. Others depicted in older art work.

Images Religious use of images forbidden, but some were used; Many older Islamic objects, as well as objects from other religions, have been defaced by “traditionalists” (what is the real *tradition*?)

ALLAH is the only God. Ultra monotheistic. Totally rejects Christian concept of Trinity, but many times in the *Quran* Allah speaks of Himself in the plural. Interestingly, Muslims have not debated the nature of God as Christians have the nature of Jesus.

“We have revealed Our will to you as We revealed it to Noah and to the prophets who came after him; as We revealed it to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and David, to whom We gave the Psalms.” [Nawood, *Koran*, 373]

There is no god but Him. Exalted be He above those whom they deify beside Him!” [Nawood, *Koran*, 317]

QURAN (*Koran*) is the revealed, infallible word of Allah. It is valid only in Arabic—a translation in any other language is not authoritative. It is not a narrative, and is quite repetitive. It has no chronological order and contains many references to Jews and Christians (“*people of the book*”), including Noah, Abraham, John the Baptist, Jesus and the Virgin Mary without any explanation of who they are or their Biblical story—seems to assume that readers are familiar with the Bible.

1. Condemns People of the Book for being divided into sects, but ignores the sects in Islam—written and compiled before Islam fractured, but couldn’t Allah have foreseen that and dealt with it?

2. Mentions **Angels** delivering Allah’s messages to humans and they will receive the souls of good men into Paradise.

3. Is repetitious and sometimes contradictory, such as saying that Allah made man from “potter’s clay” in one passage and from “clots of blood” in another.

4. Mentions Satan many times. “And tell of Our servant Job. He called out to his Lord, saying: ‘Satan has afflicted me with sorrows and misfortunes.’” [Nawood, *Koran*, 281]

5. Sometimes unclear whether Allah is speaking only of the Prophet’s rights and responsibilities or those of all believers.

MUHAMMAD is the last prophet of Allah; revelations to him are final revelation of God, superceding Jewish and Christian teachings, as neither of these religions had fulfilled the commands of *Allah*.

“Muhammad is Allah’s apostle. Those who follow him are ruthless to the unbelievers but merciful to one another.” [Nawood, *Koran*, 272]

WOMEN Islam didn’t introduce a new form of subjugation for women.

Multiple wives offers some protection for wives

Subordinate role of women not a lot different from other societies of its foundation years. Veils were worn in the Fertile Crescent, Arabia, India, and North Africa for cleanliness—protect the hair and body from sand and dust. Women in Athens under a “Law of Seclusion” 6th Cent. B.C. Arab culture strongly patriarchal as were most ancient cultures.

“Prophet, enjoin your wives, your daughters, and the wives of true believers to draw their veils close round them. That is more proper, so that they may be recognized and not molested.” [Nawood, *Koran*, 289]

Some interpretations became more rigid after Muslims saw immodesty of Christian women.

FIGHTING FELLOW MUSLIMS “If two parties of believers take up arms the one against the other, make peace between them. If either of them commits aggression against the other, fight against the aggressors til they submit to Allah’s judgement. . . .The believers are a band of brothers. Make peace among your brothers and fear Allah, so that you may be shown mercy.” [Nawood, *Koran*, 268]]

DIETY OF CHRIST, TRINITY, SON OF GOD

“Jesus was no more than a mortal whom We favoured and made an example to the Israelites. . . . And when Jesus worked his miracles, he said: ‘I have come to give you wisdom and to make plain to you some of the things about which you differ. Fear Allah and follow me. Allah is my Lord and your Lord; therefore serve Him. That is the right path.’” [Nawood, *Koran*, 149-50]

“Those who say: ‘The Lord of Mercy has begotten a son,’ preach a monstrous falsehood, as which the very heavens might crack, the earth break asunder, and the mountains crumble to dust. That they should ascribe

a son to the Merciful, when it does not become Him to beget one!" [Nawood, *Koran*, 37]

[misrepresents both Judaism and Christianity] "The Jews say Ezra is the son of Allah, while the Christians say the Messiah is the son of Allah. Such are their assertions, by which they imitate the infidels of old. Allah confounded them! How perverse they are! They worship their rabbis and their monks, and the Messiah the son of Mary, as gods besides Allah; though they were ordered to serve one God only. There is no god but Him. Exalted be He above those whom they deify beside Him!" [Nawood, *Koran*, 315-17]

BIRTH OF CHRIST "We sent to [Mary] Our spirit in the semblance of a full-grown man. . . 'I am the messenger of your Lord . . . and have come to give you a holy son' . . . she conceived, and retire to a far-off place. And when she felt the throes of childbirth she lay down by the trunk of a palm-tree, crying: 'Oh, would that I had died and pass into oblivion!' . . . [Jesus lying in his cradle] spoke and said: 'I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the Gospel and ordained me a prophet. His blessing is upon me wherever I go, and he has commanded me to be steadfast in prayer and to give alms to the poor as long as I shall live'. . . . **Such was Jesus, the son of Mary. That is the whole truth, which they [Christians] are unwilling to accept.** Allah forbid that He Himself should beget a son! When He decrees a thing he need only say; 'Be,' and it is." [Nawood, *Koran*, 33-34 and see 399-401]

LAST JUDGMENT "Yes, you deny the last Judgement [sic]. Yet there are guardians watching over you, noble recorders who know of all your actions. The righteous shall surely dwell in bliss. But the wicked shall burn in Hell-fire upon the Judgement-Day: they shall not escape. Would that you knew what the Day of Judgement is! . . . It is the day when every soul will stand alone and Allah will reign supreme." [Nawood, *Koran*, 16]

HEAVEN "But for those that fear the majesty of their Lord there are two gardens. . . Each is watered by a flowing spring . . . [those in heaven] shall dwell with bashful virgins. . . Virgins as fair as corals and rubies . . . And beside these there shall be two other gardens of darkest green . . . In each there shall be virgins chaste and fair . . . Dark-eyed virgins sheltered in their tents . . ." [Nawood, *Koran*, 20-21]

UNBELIEVERS AND PEOPLE OF THE BOOK "The unbelievers among the People of the book [Jews and Christians] and the pagans did not desist from unbelief until the proof was given them: an apostle from Allah reading sanctified pages from eternal scriptures. [People of the Book] were enjoined to serve Allah and to worship none but Him, to attend to their prayers and to pay the alms-tax. That surely, is the true faith. The unbelievers among the

People of the book and the pagans shall burn for ever in the fire of Hell. They are the vilest of all creatures. But of all creatures those that embrace the Faith and do good works are the noblest. Allah will reward them with the gardens of Eden, gardens watered by running streams, where they shall dwell for ever." Nawood, *Koran*, 29; also 378-79 and other passages]

WAR AGAINST UNBELIEVERS "Fight for the sake of Allah those that fight against you, but do not attack them first. Allah does not love the aggressors. Kill them wherever you find them. Drive them out of the places from which they drove you. Idolatry is worse than carnage. But do not fight them within the precincts of the Holy Mosque unless they attack you there; if they attack you put them to the sword. Thus shall the unbelievers be rewarded; but if they mend their ways, know that Allah is forgiving and merciful. Fight against them until idolatry is no more and Allah's religion reigns supreme." [Nawood, *Koran*, 343]

"Prophet, make war on the unbelievers and the hypocrites and deal sternly with them. Hell shall be their home, evil their fate." [Nawood, *Koran*, 430]
. . . "If you do not fight he will punish you sternly and replace you by other men. . . . fight for the cause of Allah with your wealth and your persons . . ." [Nawood, *Koran*, 317]

B. CULTURE OF ISLAM SEVERAL MAIN BRANCHES AND NUMEROUS SMALLER DIVISIONS (like Christianity). The Sunni-Shi'a split occurred during the term of the 4th Caliph, 656-61.

| <u>Sunni</u> | <u>Shi'ite</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Elect caliph by tribal tradition | Caliph direct descendant of Muhammad |
| Accept <i>Sunna</i> , traditions of Muhammad + <i>Koran</i> | Accept only <i>Koran</i> |
| <i>Majority of Muslims</i> | <i>Majority in Iraq and Iran</i> |

Sufi

Rebel against Ali's autocratic rule, assassinate him
Accept only revelation
Mystical religious experience & ascetic ideals:
fasting, purification, simple life
Adopted local customs of conquered people into Islam

1. SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND LEARNING

Baghdad and Córdoba centers of learning. Córdoba's library of 400,000 volumes preserved Greek and Latin classics
Algebra, algorithm, "Arabic" numerals (1,2,3, etc., borrowed from India)
Engineering and hydraulics, waterwheels for power & irrigation
Developed hospitals with wards for specific health issues
Orthopedic surgery and use of anesthesia

2. AGRICULTURE

Irrigation systems in arid climates produced abundant crops with almost no lost water

Introduced crops into Europe through Iberia: cotton, rice, hard wheat, sorghum, sugarcane, saffron, lemon, lime, & orange citrus fruits, apricot, fig, pomegranate, banana, watermelon, spinach, artichoke, eggplant

3. LIFESTYLE

Enjoyed huge variety of food, with dietary restrictions much like Jews
Cleanliness very important, towns and villages had public bathhouses (900 in Córdoba!). Used toothpaste and deodorant.

Architecture and design very important, great works of art

4. CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

Both religions were “tolerated”, but adherents paid high taxes and had few civil rights (couldn’t testify in court against a Muslim, couldn’t build new synagogues or churches, couldn’t conduct public processions, etc.). Islamic rule was far more beneficent to Jews than Christian rule had been. Christians, however, had mixed responses to Muslim rule. Many easily became Arab-speaking and adopted lifestyles to fit in. MANY, HOWEVER, RESISTED ASSIMILATION INTO DOMINANT MUSLIM CULTURE Paul Alvarus, a mid-9th Century Andalusí Jew who converted to Christianity, complained: “My fellow Christians love to read the poems and romances of the Arabs; they study the Arab theologians and philosophers, not to refute them, but to form a correct and elegant Arabic. Where is the layman who now reads the Latin commentaries on the Holy Scriptures, or who studies the Gospels, prophets, or Apostles? Alas! All talented young Christians read and study with enthusiasm the Arab books; they gather immense libraries at great expense; they despise the Christian literature as unworthy of attention. They have forgotten their language. For every one who can write a letter in Latin to a friend, there are a thousand who can express themselves in Arabic with elegance, and write better poems in this language than the Arabs themselves.” [O’Shea, p. 89-90]

BIBLICAL INJUNCTIONS TO KILL ALL INHABITANTS OF A CITY

Joshua 6:17-24 Israelites ordered to kill all inhabitants of Jericho except Rahab and her family.

Joshua 8: 1-8, 20-26 Israelites destroyed Ai, killed all 12,000 inhabitants.

Joshua 10: 30 Israelites killed all inhabitants of Libnah.

Joshua 10: 32 Israelites killed all inhabitants of Lachish.

I Samuel 15: 3, 7-9 Saul ordered to strike Amalek and utterly destroy it—men, women, children, and livestock

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<http://answering-islam.org/Authors/Stenhouse/crusades.01.htm>