Compass Life Adult Sunday School

Pastor Pete

March 11, 2018

**“Who was the Real Muhammad”**

**I. Muhammad (570-632 AD)**

After 10 years of persecution and resistance in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Muhammad and the early Muslims moved to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, where Muhammad served as prophet, political ruler, military commander, chief judge, and lawgiver. Muhammad is considered by Muslims to be both God’s human instrument in receiving and reporting His revelation and the model or ideal for all believers, what some have called the “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Information about Muhammad’s life, deeds, and teachings is contained in the Quran, biographies, and the hadith (“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”) literature. The religious message that Muhammad preached grew out of and responded to the realities of seventh-century Arabia. Religion in pre-Islamic Arabia was tribal in its religious, social, and political ideas and institutions and home to a variety of religious traditions and practices. Pre-Islamic Arabian religion was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, reflecting the tribal nature and social structure of society. Mecca, a rising commercial center, was the main site of a great annual pilgrimage to honor \_\_\_\_ different patron deities. The supreme god, Allah, was understood to be the creator and sustainer of life and the universe but was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from everyday concerns. Pre-Islamic Arabian religion had little sense of cosmic moral purpose or of individual or communal moral responsibility or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Mecca was emerging as a major mercantile center at the heart of a new political, social, and economic order. New wealth and the rise of a new commercial class led to the greater \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between social classes and a growing disparity between rich and poor. Amidst this environment, Muhammad was born a member of the most prominent and powerful tribe in Mecca, the Quraysh. He was orphaned at an early age and raised by his uncle, Abu Talib, a well-respected and powerful tribal member who provided Muhammad and, later, his community with protection in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Before becoming a prophet, Muhammad earned his living as a business manager for the caravans of a wealthy widow named Khadija, whom he married. Khadija was also the first person to believe in the revelation Muhammad received, making her the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Muslim convert. During the 24 years of their marriage, Khadija was Muhammad’s only wife. In 610, on a night remembered in Muslim tradition as the Night of Power and Excellence, Muhammad, a Meccan businessman, was called to be a prophet of God and, later, religio-political leader of the Muslim community-state. He heard a voice commanding him to “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”; this revelation was the first of what would be many revelations from Allah, communicated by the Angel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Muhammad continued to receive revelations over a period of 22 years, until his death in 632. These would later be collected and compiled into the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Muhammad’s reformist message posed an unwelcome challenge to the religious and political establishment, the priests, tribal leaders, and businessmen of the community. Muhammad’s prophetic call summoned the people to strive and struggle (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) to reform their communities and to live a good life based on religious belief, not loyalty to their tribes. Muhammad’s claim to be God’s prophet and the divine revelation he proclaimed undermined traditional tribal political authority and sources of revenue (accrued during the annual pilgrimage and festival at the polytheistic shrine, Kaaba, in Mecca). The first 10 years of Muhammad’s preaching in Mecca were marked by resistance and persecution and produced \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ results. Faced with ever-increasing threats and persecution, in 622, Muhammad and 200 of his followers emigrated to the town of Medina. This event, called the hijra, is the beginning of the Muslim calendar and the creation of the Islamic community. Having established his community at Medina, Muhammad and his followers continued to experience bitter conflict with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Several key battles occurred. The Muslims of Medina continued to coexist with smaller \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tribes who honored the covenant and would go on doing so in later centuries in the Ottoman Empire. Finally, in 628, a truce was struck between the Meccans and the Muslims, granting the Muslims the right to make the pilgrimage to Mecca. After establishing his leadership in Medina, Muhammad and his followers subdued Mecca and consolidated Muslim rule over the rest of Arabia through a combination of diplomatic and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ means.

**II. Islamic Creation Story**

The Quran states that Allah created the sun, the moon, and the planets, each with their own individual courses or orbits. "It is He Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon; all (the celestial bodies) swim along, each in its rounded course" (21:33). After completing the Creation, the Quran describes that Allah "settled Himself upon the Throne" (57:4) to oversee His work. A distinct point is made to counter the Biblical idea of a day of rest: "We created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them in six days, nor did any sense of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ touch Us" (50:38). The Quran describes that Allah "made from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ every living thing" (21:30). Another verse describes how "Allah has created every animal from water. Of them are some that creep on their bellies, some that walk on two legs, and some that walk on four. In short, the life of human beings began with the creation of two people, a male and a female named Adam and Hawwa (Eve). The Quran describes how Allah created Adam: "We created man from sounding \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, from mud moulded into shape..." (15:26). And, "He began the creation of man from clay, and made his progeny from a quintessence of fluid" (32:7-8). While the creation of Eve is not described in detail, the Quran does make it clear that a "mate" was created with Adam, from the same nature and soul. "It is He Who created you from a single person, and made his mate of like nature, in order that he might dwell with her in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_" (7:189).

**III. Jerusalem the Holy City of Islam**

Muhammad’s night journey (isra’) to Jerusalem (Masjid al-Aqsa) and ascent to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (mi`raj) occurred in 620. Sura 17:1 may refer to this incident. The angel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ came in the night and put Muhammad on a winged donkey named Buraq that carried him to Jerusalem. Tethering Buraq on the wall of the ancient Jewish temple mountain, Muhammad then ascended up through the heavens from the place where \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ almost sacrificed his son and the Jewish temple had once stood. After being shown the torments of hell, Gabriel led Muhammad up through the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ heavens, each of which was guarded by angels. In each heaven, different prophets, such as Adam, Moses, and Jesus, met Muhammad. Finally, beneath the throne of God, Gabriel could go no further and Muhammad proceeded by himself into the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God. After his return to earth, Buraq brought him back to his bed in Mecca in the same night.

**IV. The Rashidun Caliphs and the Islamic Empires**

The Four \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Caliphs were the first four Caliphs that ruled after the death of Muhammed. It was a period during which Islam flourished and spread widely beyond Arabian peninsula. Their importance to the unity of Islam was critical, because they provided \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after Muhammed's death. They largely preserved his cause and grew the Muslim territory and following, although the last two caliphs were also the cause for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between Muslims. The first Caliph who helped spread Islam was Muhammed's father-in-law, Abu-Bakr (A’ishah). He served for only 2 years, from 632 to his death in 634, but is considered by many as an ideal Muslim caliph. His most major accomplishment during his rule was unifying the various Arab tribes at a critical time. In 633, he defeated the Bedouin revolt, after which he was able to convince the whole Arabian Peninsula to accept him as their Caliph. He not only secured Islam, but spread it to Syria, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Iraq. The second Caliph was named Umar, another father-in-law of Muhammed (Hafsa). His reign lasted from 634 to 644. He conquered Damascus in 635, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 637, Babylon in 641 and Alexandria in 642, adding lands in Syria, Egypt, Persia and North Africa. He introduced the Islamic calendar to be used by all Muslims, ran public census, and started he construction of public facilities.  Umar also established the departments of military, education, jails, taxation, police, public treasury and regulations on how regional rulers should interact with their citizens, organized the armies, appointed judges. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Quran became more widespread. Umar used a policy of religious tolerance so that his newfound subjects would remain loyal to him. This attracted especially the People of the Book, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who had until recently been under the reign of the Byzantines. They were allowed to worship their own religion in exchange for acceptance of Muslim governance and a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Jizya). The third Caliph was a member of the Umayyad family. His name was Uthman, and he served for 12 years, from 644 to 656. Uthman continued the policies of the previous caliphs, such as impartial justice for all, mild and humane policies, and the expansion of Islam to Libya, Cyprus, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Most significantly, he created a single definitive piece of text for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in one dialect. He was killed in a rebellion, starting the end of unity among Muslims. The fourth and final Caliph was Ali, Muhammad’s son-in-law (Fatimah) and cousin, who ruled from 656 till 661. He was selected to be a Caliph by the opponents of Uthman. As a result, his election was not recognized by Uthman’s supporters in Syria, and a civil war broke out. When Ali tried to make a compromise with them to keep peace and unity, a group of his supporters (led by Aisha) called the Kharijites turned against him and assassinated him.

**3/18 “The Five Pillars of Islam”**