

Introduction to Islam

Level 1

Mohammad Al-Bedaiwi
Austin Network for Islamic Studies ANIS
http://www.AustinMuslims.org
mohammad@AustinMuslims.org

The Opening



Surat Al- Fatiha (Chapter 1, The Opening)

1. In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

2. All Praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

3. The Beneficent, The Clement;

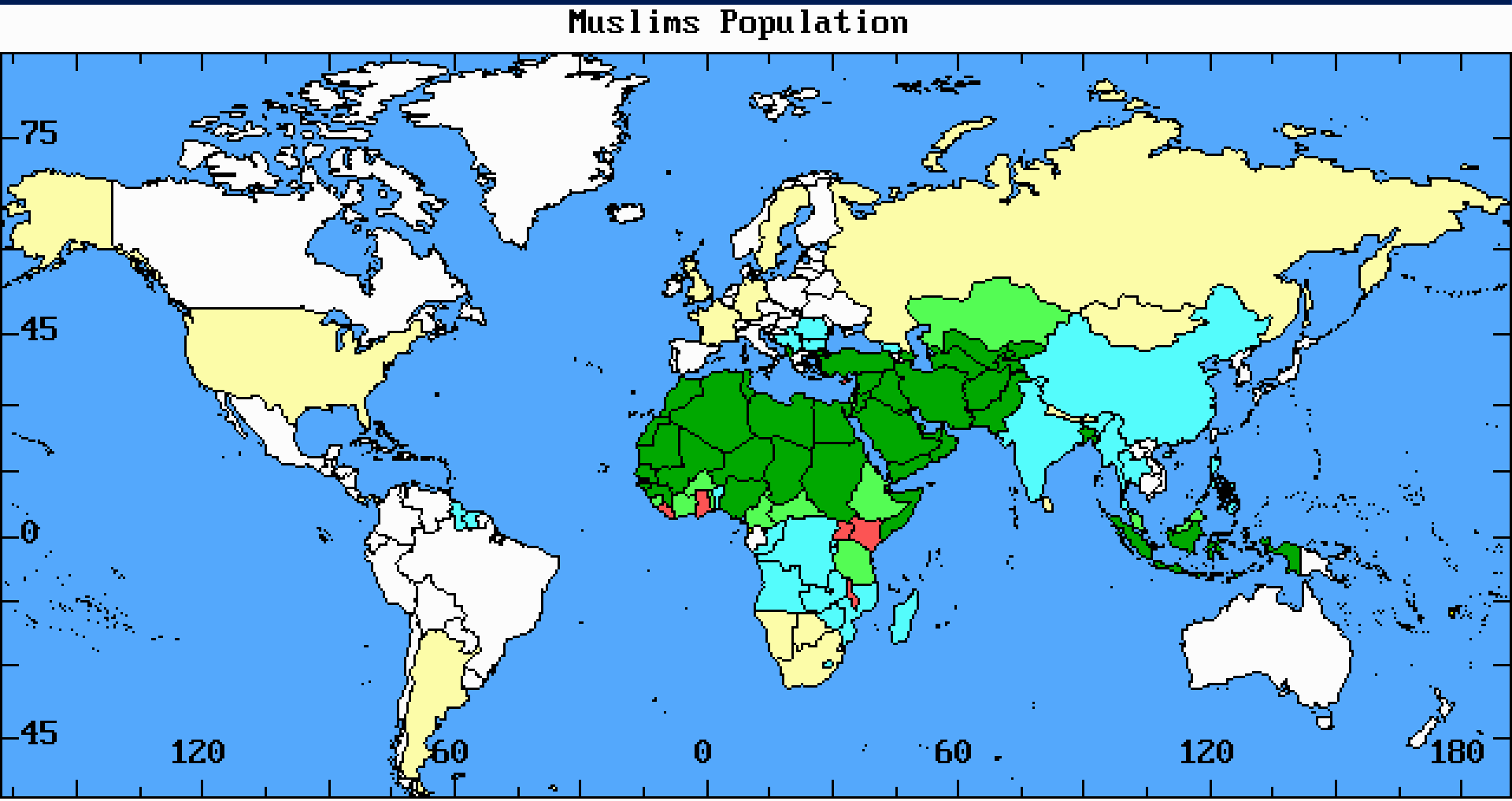
4. Master of the Day of Judgment.

5. You alone we worship, and you alone we seek for help.

6. Guide us to the straight path

7. The path of those upon whom you bestowed your favors; not the path of those upon whom your wrath is brought down, or those who went astray

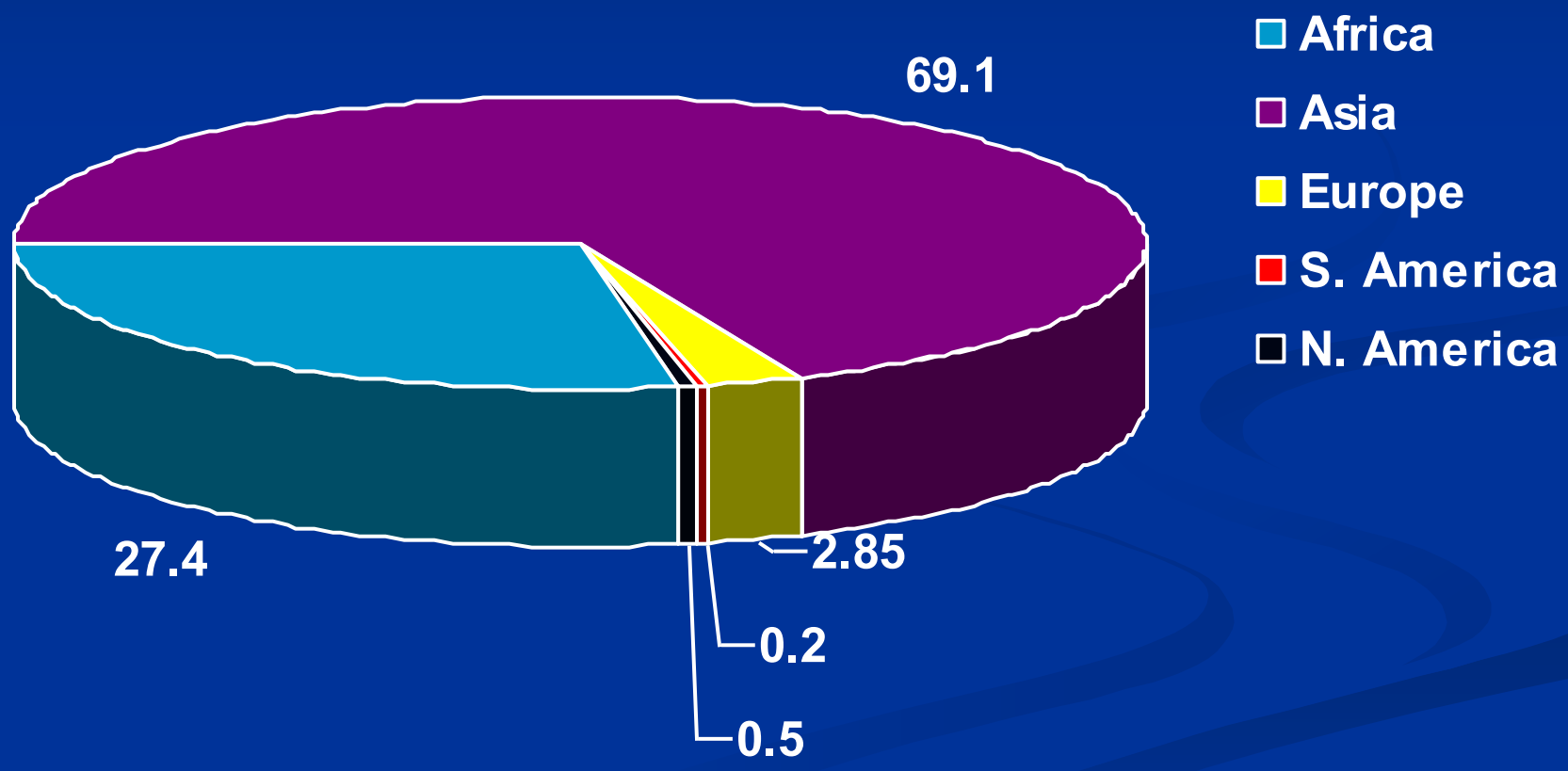
Muslims – World Wide



Muslims – World Wide

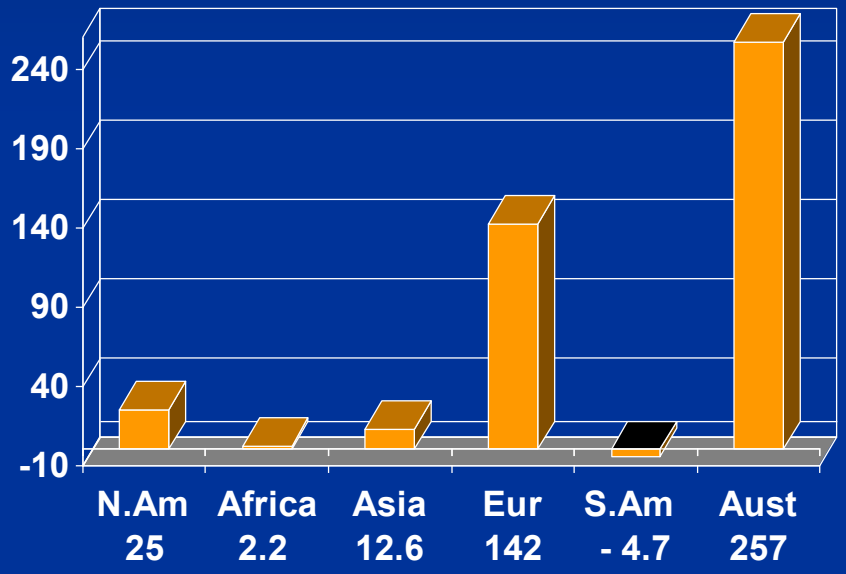
India/Pakistan/Bangladesh	380 M
Africa	250 M
Arab countries	240 M
Southeast Asia	220 M
Central Asia	80 M
Iran	60 M
China	50 M
Europe	30 M
North America	10 M
South America	3 M
Australia	2 M
Worldwide	**1.6 B (~ 26%)**

Muslims – World Wide

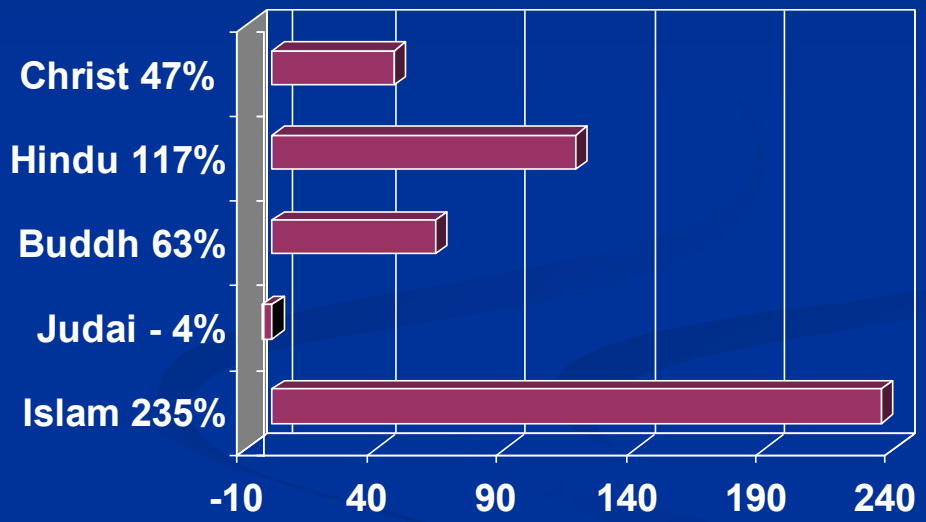


Muslims Growth Rate

Annual ~ 6.4%

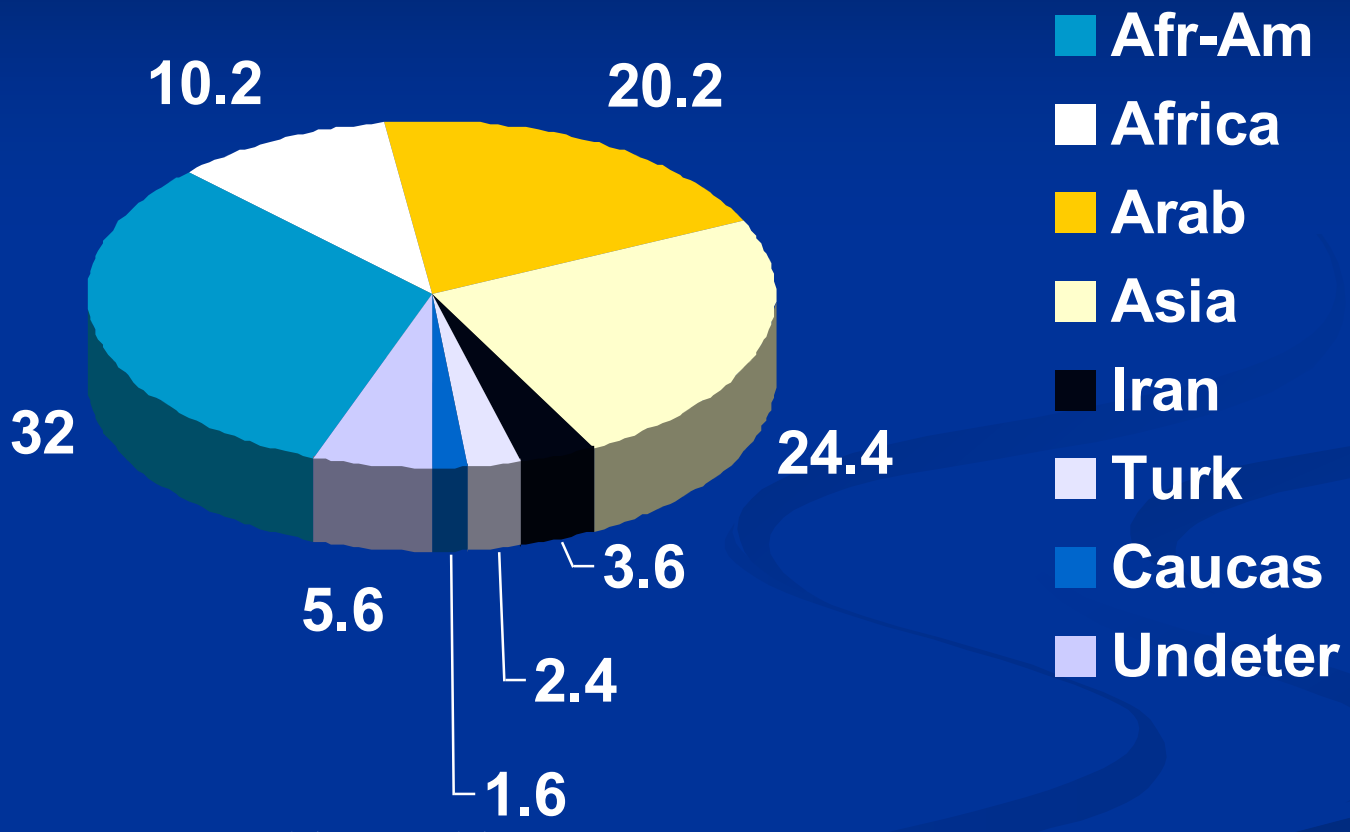


1989 - 1998



50 year growth rate

Muslims in America



- 6 million The NY Times, Feb. 21,1989
- 10 million CIA World's Facts Book
- Most Muslims are Immigrants: 77.6% versus 22.4% USA born

Muslims in America – contd.

- 800 AD Moorish & Mali traders
  - Settlements in Caribbean.
- 1527 first trans-continental crossing
  - By Moroccan Azemmouri from Florida to West Coast then to Texas
- Slaves
  - About 20% of slaves during 18th/19th century were Muslims
- Immigrants from the Ottoman Empire, Africa & Asia
  - 1880 first Muslim Syrians immigrated to the Midwest.
  - 1915 first known mosque Biddeford Maine by Albanians.
  - 1934 first in Midwest & only surviving Mosque (Cedar Rapids, IA).

Muslims in America – contd.

- Islamic Centers & Mosques in North America
  - Less than 200 in 1964, 2,000+ in 2001
  - Focus on Islamic Institutions: Schools, Universities, Clinics…
- ISNA, CAIR, MAYA, MAS, & AMC
  - The most popular Islamic organizations working in North America
- In Austin
  - Islamic Center of Greater Austin (2 Locations)
  - North Austin Muslim Community Center
  - Masjid Ibrahim
  - Al Mahdi Center (Shia)
  - Islamic Center of Round Rock.

The Mother Mosque



1934

What is Islam



- Islam: a word that comes from the Arabic root verb SILM
  - Silm means Peace & Submission
- Islam is not based on a name of a tribe, a locality, or a geographical location.
- Everything in this universe submits to God.
- Islam: to achieve Peace with God, self and other creation of God through Submission to Him
- Submission to God by choice, in trust & love that is affirmed by acceptance & obedience to God.
- Islam is a complete Way of Life. Islam is not new. What is the goal of other religions?

What is Islam - Continued

- Islam is a monotheistic faith. The belief in One God.
  - Not just unity - because many parties can be involved in unity.
  - It's Absolute Oneness of God
    "Say, He is Allah: the One, the Only. Allah: the Eternal, the Absolute. He begets not, nor is He begotten; and there is none like him" Chapter 112

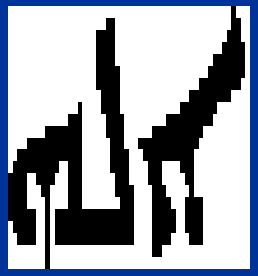
Allah



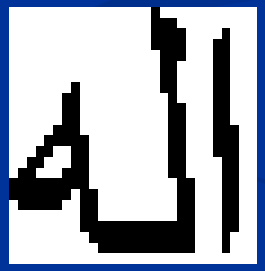
GOD



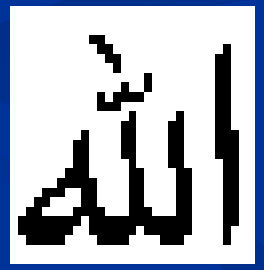
Eloh
Hebrew



Elahh
Aramaic



Ilah
Arabic



Allah
His Name

Allah



- The Arabic word for God
  - *How do you think God is translated in an Arabic Bible?*
- The word has nothing to do with a tribe, the Arabs, or the Lord of the Arabs.
- It's a unique word; it has no plural.
- The One True God.
- Nothing is like him:
  "No vision can grasp him, but his grasp is over all vision" (42:11)
- No particular image or physical shape

Allah

- He has the Most Beautiful Names/Attributes (Al-Asma' Al-Husna).
  From his Attributes:
  Al-Rahman : The Most Merciful
  Al-Raheem : The Most Gracious
  Al-Baqee : The Ever Lasting
  Al-Aleem : The Most Knowledgeable
  Al-Malek : The King / The Owner
  Al-Salam: The Peace
  Al-Awal : The First
  Al-Akhir : The Last
- These attributes compel the Muslim to live in peace and tranquility through out his/her life

Names / Attributes of Allah

1. The Most Compassionate
2. The Merciful
3. The King
4. Most Holy
5. All Peaceful
6. The Granter of security
7. The Protector
8. The Mighty
9. The Compeller
10. The Majestic
11. The Creator
12. The Maker
13. The Shaper
14. The Forgiver
15. The One Who Subdues
16. The One Who Bestows
17. The Provider
18. The Opener
19. The All-Knowing
20. The Withholder
21. The Expander
22. The One Who Abases
23. The Exalter
24. The One Who Bestows Honor
25. The One Who Humiliates
26. The All Hearing
27. The All Seeing
28. The Judge
29. The Equitable
30. The Gentle

Names / Attributes of Allah

31. The All-Aware
32. The Forbearing
33. The Incomparably Great
34. The Forgiving
35. The Appreciative
36. The Most High
37. The Most Great
38. The Preserver
39. The Sustainer
40. The One Who Reckons
41. The Majestic
42. The Generous
43. The Watchful
44. The Responsive
45. The All Embracing
46. The Wise
47. The Loving One
48. The Most Glorious
49. The One Who Resurrects
50. The Witness
51. The Truth
52. The Ultimate Trustee
53. The Most Strong
54. The Authoritative
55. The Protector
56. The Praiseworthy
57. The Appraiser
58. The Originator
59. The Restorer of life
60. The Giver of life
61. The Causer of death
62. The Ever Living
63. The Self Existing
64. The Self Sufficient
65. The Glorified
66. The Unique

Names / Attributes of Allah

67. The One
68. The Eternal
69. The Able
70. The Powerful
71. The Expediter
72. The Delayer
73. The First
74. The Last
75. The Manifest
76. The Hidden
77. The Governor
78. The Most Exalted
79. The Source of Goodness
80. The Acceptance of Repentance
81. The Avenger
82. The Pardoner
83. The Most Kind
84. The Eternal Owner of Sovereignty
85. The Lord of Majesty and Honor
86. The Just
87. The Gatherer
88. The All Sufficient
89. The One Who Enriches
90. The One Who Prevents
91. The Afflicter
92. The One Who Benefits
93. The Light
94. The Guide
95. The Originator
96. The Ever Lasting
97. The Ultimate Inheritor
98. The Guide
99. The Patient

Allah

- Allah is not a philosophical concept, or a deity that is far removed!
- One can think of God as a "Personal God" – that is readily approachable, loving, caring, and merciful
- Ones relationship with God is direct.
  - No hierarchy in Islam.
  - "When my servants asks you about me, tell them that I am Close, I reply to the supplications of those who asks me" (2:186)
- *Why do Muslims refer to Allah as a "He" and not as a "She"?*

Mohammad

- The message of Islam came to us through Prophet Mohammad; peace be upon him.
- Born in Mecca, SA. in 570 CE ~ 600 years after Jesus, peace be upon him.
- Started the message of Islam when he was 40 years old
- The message continued for 23 years 13 in Mecca and 10 in Madina
- Lived for 63 years
- Died in 632 CE and buried in Madina, SA.



Mohammad - Continued

- He was knows well before Islam as Al-Ameen: The Trustworthy one.
- Known with his excellent moral character well before Islam.

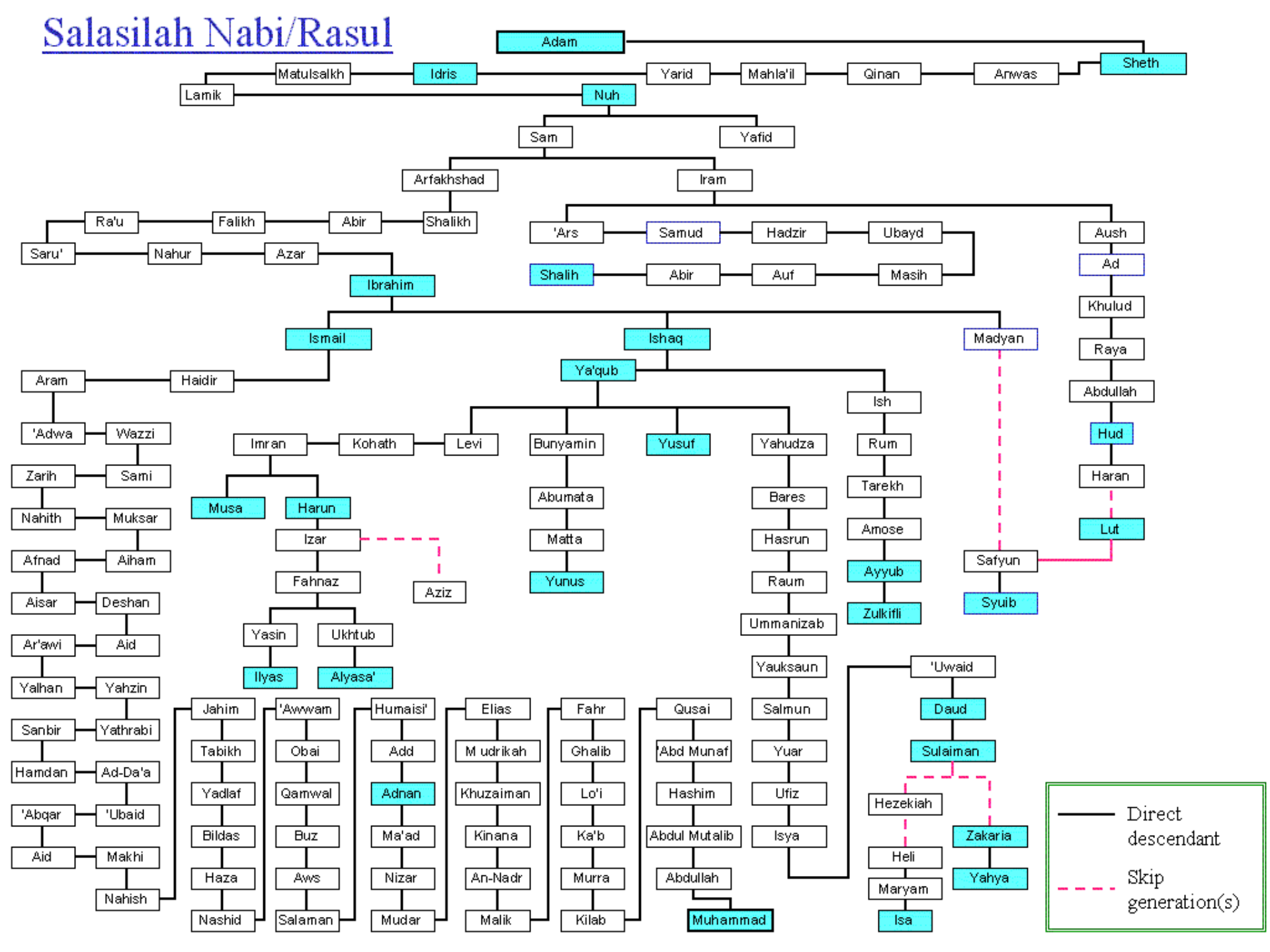
  "I was sent to perfect moral excellence"
- *"My example to the rest of the prophets before me, is like a person who built a beautiful building and left one brick out. The people visit this building and wonder: how beautiful this building is - if he just finishes the last brick. I am, to the rest of the prophets, like that brick."*
- Mohammad, peace be upon him, is the seal of the prophets
- Mohammad is not the founder of Islam.
- Mohammedans is an offensive term to Muslims.

  - *Muslims do not worship Mohammad!*

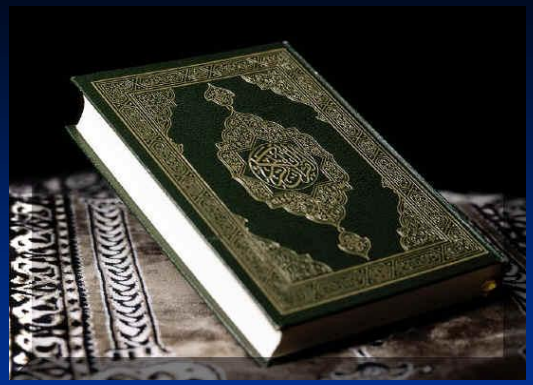
Mohammad - Continued

- Muslims believe in all the previous Prophets:
  Adam, Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Jesus, David, Salamon …
  - 23 Names mentioned in the Quran!
  - Muslims do not distinguish between the prophets – they are all respected Messengers of Allah.
- Greatest Five (Ulu Al-Azm): Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus & Mohammad
- Muslims also believe other Holy Books *were* also revealed by God. Al-Zapoor (Psalms), Al-Tawrah (Torah), Al-Injeel (Gospel)
- Mohammad: the last prophet of this purified caravan. He was sent to All Mankind:
  " Oh, Mohammad: We have sent you mercy to All Mankind" (21:107)
- It's important that people study his life, and what he called for.

Salasilah Nabi/Rasul



Al-Quran



- Al-Quran: Islam's Holy Book
- It's the literal word of God
- It was revealed to prophet Mohammad via angel Gibreel (Gabriel) over 23 years
  - *Mohammad was illiterate!*
- It's 114 Chapters, vary in length. (604 pages, 6,236 verses)
- It's in Arabic. There are translations in all different languages.
  - Translation is not a Quran!
- Al-Quran and the Sunnah (Tradition) of the prophet are the sources of Sharia (Islamic Law).

سورة الفاتحة

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم ۝١
الحمد لله رب العلمين ۝٢
الرحمن الرحيم ۝٣ ملك يوم الدين ۝٤
إياك نعبد وإياك نستعين ۝٥ اهدنا
الصراط المستقيم ۝٦ صراط الذين أنعمت
عليهم غير المغضوب عليهم
ولا الضالين ۝٧

سورة البقرة

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
الم ۝١ ذلك الكتب لا ريب فيه هدى
للمتقين ۝٢ الذين يؤمنون بالغيب ويقيمون الصلوة
ومما رزقنهم ينفقون ۝٣ والذين يؤمنون بما أنزل
إليك وما أنزل من قبلك وبالأخرة هم يوقنون ۝٤
أولئك على هدى من ربهم وأولئك
هم المفلحون ۝٥

Muslims



- A Muslim: the one who submits to God by choice. "There is no compulsion in religion" (2:256)
- A Muslim does not mean an Arab! An Arab does not mean a Muslim!

  - Did you know that:

  - Arabs account only 18% of the Muslim population! 82% are Not Arabs!

  - Largest Muslim Country in terms of populations is Indonesia!
- Are the actions of a Muslim = Islam?
  Are the actions of a Christian = Christianity?
  Are the actions of a Jew = Judaism?
- Islam is the fastest growing religion.
- Islam is the second largest religion in the world

Muslims - Continued

- Muslims are about 1.6 Billion world wide

  - that is 1 in every 5 people on earth is a Muslim!
  - 95% are Sunni, and 5% are Shia

- Muslims in America:
  - About 1/5 of the slaves who came to US are Muslims!
  - Started to arrive in 1875
  - Many are born Muslim
  - Today, estimated 6-8 million Muslims in America

Muslims – World Wide

Africa	308,660,000	27.4 %
Asia	778,362,000	69.1 %
Europe	32,032,000	2.8 %
Latin America	1,356,000	0.1 %
North America	5,530,000	0.5 %
World	**1,126,325,000**	100 %

Source: *Britannica Yearbook, 1997*

Latest Count: 1.6 Billion & in the USA ~ 6M.

Muslims – World Wide



Five Pillars of Islam

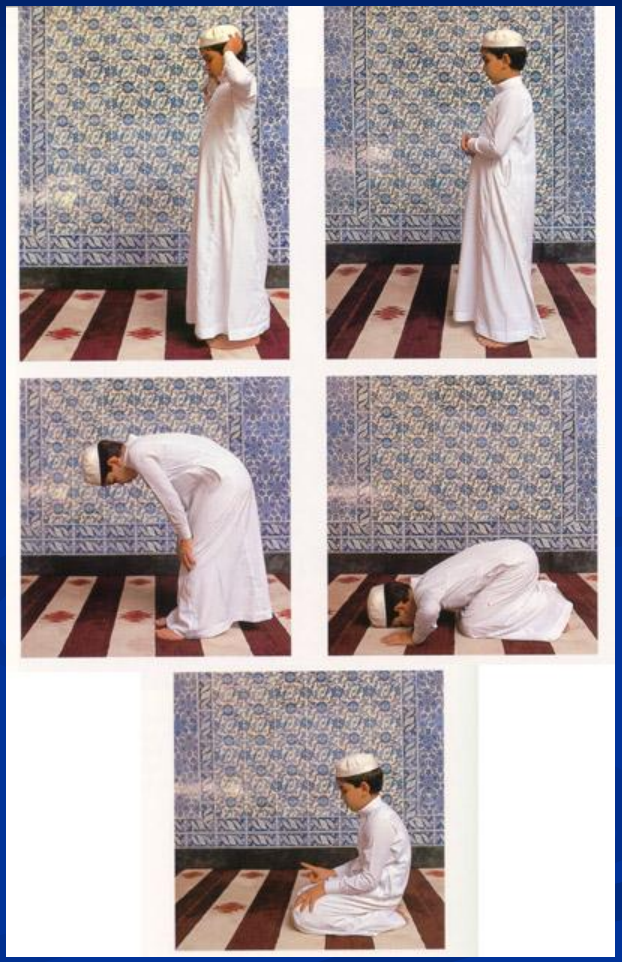
Five Pillars of Islam - 1

- Shahada : Testimony that there is no God except Allah, and Mohammad is his Messenger

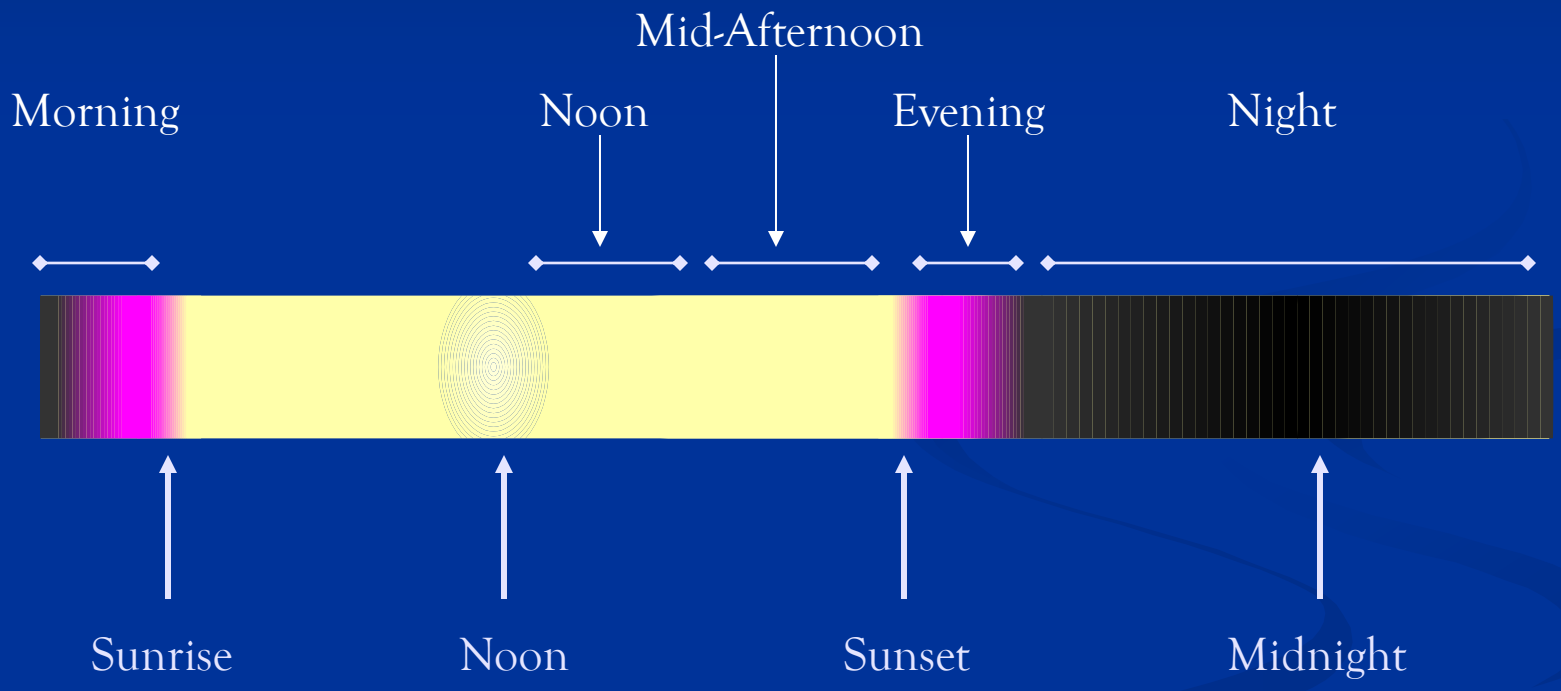


Five Pillars of Islam - 2

- Iqam Al-Salat: Perform the Prayers
  - 5 daily Prayers
    - Fajir / Down
    - Zuhur / Noon
    - Asir /Afternoon
    - Maghrib / Sunset
    - Isha / Night
  - Friday Prayer



Prayer Times



Athan – Call to Prayer

God is great. (x4)

I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except God. (x2)

I bear witness that Mohamed is the Messenger of God. (x2)

Come to prayer. (x2)

Come to felicity. (x2)

God is great. (x2)

There is none worthy of worship except God.



Five Pillars of Islam - 3

- Iyta' Al-Zakah: Give Charity

~ Specific law about its value based on ones profession.

~ About 2.5% of the savings annually.

~ Islam uses the Lunar Calendar



Five Pillars of Islam - 4

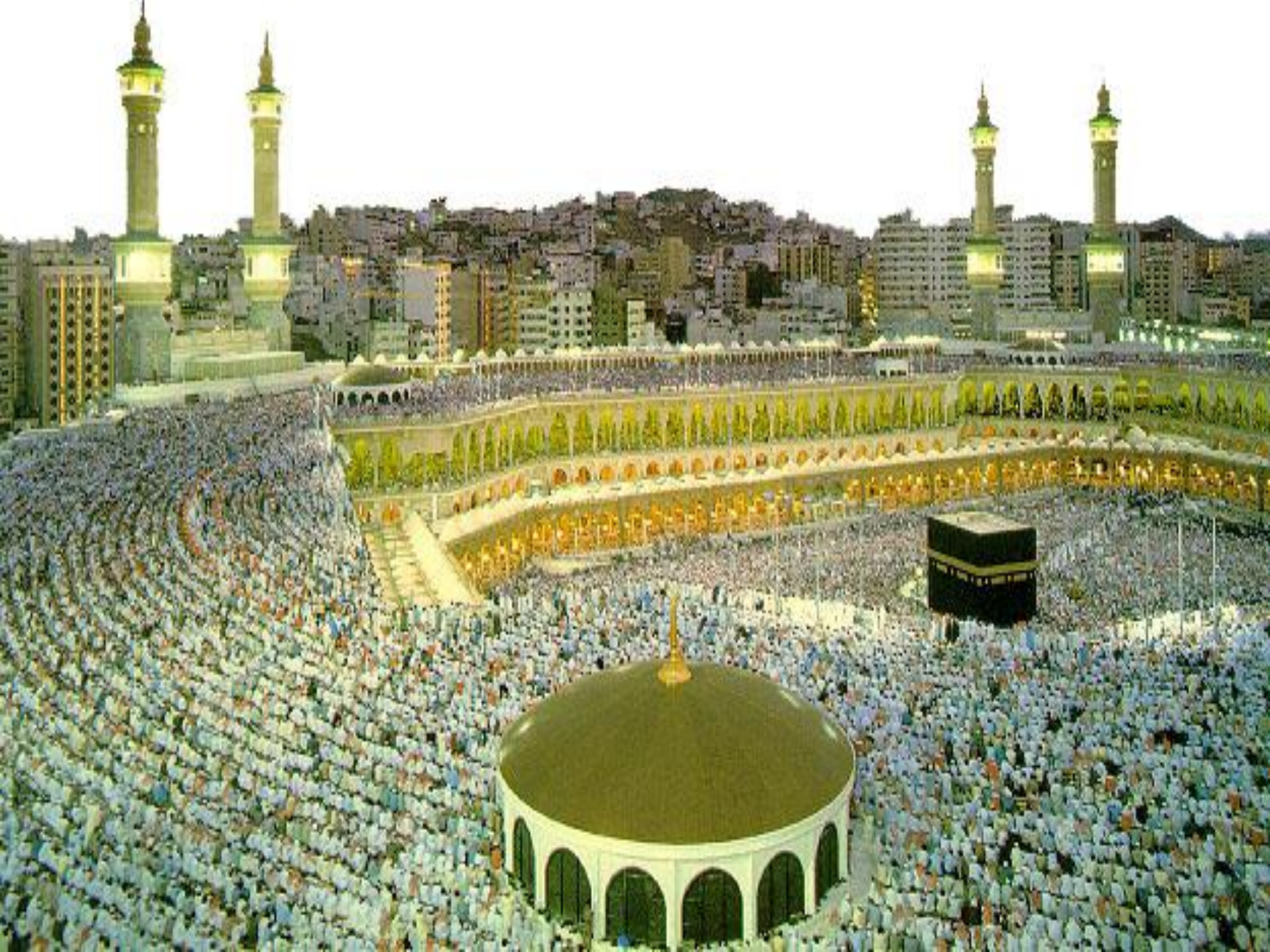
- Syamo Ramadan: Fasting the Month of Ramadan
- The Quran was revealed in the Month of Ramadan
- Muslims fast by abstaining from Food, Drink or Sexual Activity from Dawn to Sunset
- Ramadan is the 9th Month of the Muslim Calendar (Hijri Date). It's 29 or 30 days
- Eid ul Fitr at the End of Ramadan



Five Pillars of Islam - 5

- Hajj: Perform the Pilgrimage once in a life time for those who can afford it.
- Mecca is the First Place on earth to worship God.
- Walking in the footsteps of prophet Ibrahim (Abraham)
- Eid ul Adha at the End of Hajj







Other General Topics

- *Islamic Law – Sharia Law*
- *Food*
- *Dress Code*
- *Human Rights*
- *Jihad*
  - *The meaning of Jihad*
  - *Islam relations with other communities*
  - *Muslim conduct in the battlefield*
  - *Jihad against terrorism*
- *Pictures of some Mosques*

Islamic Law – Sharia Law

- Islamic Law Objectives
  - Safeguard Faith , Life, the Mind, Honor, and Property
- *"There is no compulsion in religion. True guidance is distinct from error." Quran 2:256*
- *"We decreed for the Children of Israel that whosoever killed a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whoso saved the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind." Quran 5:32*
- *"Allah enjoins justice and kindness, and giving to kinsfolk, and forbids indecency and wickedness. He admonishes you so that you may take heed." Quran 16:90*

Food



- "O you who believe! Eat of the good things that We have provided for you, and be grateful to God, if it is Him ye worship." Quran (2:172)

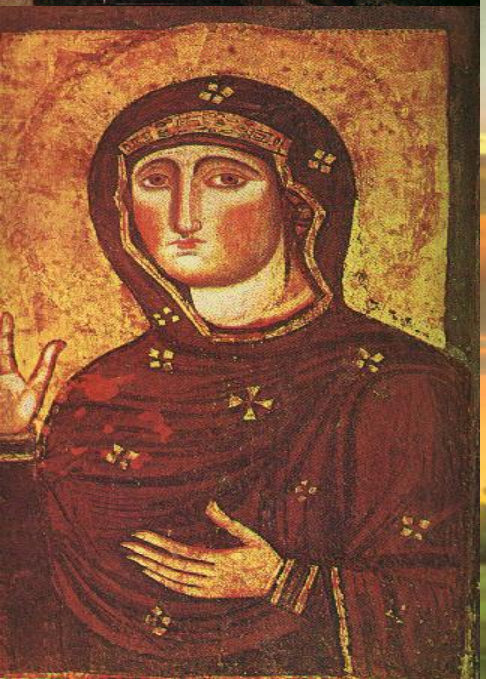
- "He Has only forbidden you dead meat, blood, the flesh of swine, and that on which any other name has been invoked besides that of Allah. But if one is forced by necessity, without willful disobedience, nor transgressing due limits,- then is he guiltless. For God is Oft-forgiving Most Merciful." Quran (2:173)

Dress Code

- Protection
  - "O prophet! Tell your wives and your daughter and the women of the believers to draw their cloaks all over their bodies, that will be better that they should be known so as not to be annoyed. And Allah is Ever Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful" Quran 33:59
- Modesty
- Self-respect & Identity
- Obedience
  - "Tell the believing men to lower their gaze (from looking at forbidden things), And protect their private parts (from illegal sexual acts.) that is purer for them. Verily, Allah All-Aware of what they do. And tell the believing women to lower their gaze and protect their private parts and not to show off their adornment except that which is apparent (face and hands)……." Quran 24:30-31











1894 - 1995
SACRED HEART CHUR
















1894 - 1995



Human Rights

- The life & property of all people in Islam are considered sacred whether a person is Muslim or not.
- No supremacy: All people are equal. (Piety not racism)

- Prophet Mohamed (PBUH) said:

"No Arab has any superiority over a non Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab. Nor does a white man have any superiority over a black man, or the black man any superiority over the white man. You are all the children of Adam, & Adam was created from clay"

Jihad –Its meaning

- It is not Holy War!
  Holy = Muqaddas War = Harb
  Holy War = Harb Muqaddasah
- Linguistic meaning: Striving - Struggling.
- Islamic meaning:
  - Non-violent struggling within oneself for a life of virtue. (Al-Jihad Al-Akbar) [22:77-78 and 29:5-6]
  - Fighting to establish justice (for self defense or against tyranny), which is a supreme goal. (Al-Jihad Al-Asghar) [2:190-193 and 60:8-9]

Jihad

- Rules of Fighting In Islam as Commanded by Prophet Mohamed (PBUH):
  - Never Kill Innocent People
  - Never Injure Prisoners of War
  - Never Kill Animals
  - Never Destroy Crops or Infrastructures
  - Never Mutilate Bodies of Enemies dead or alive
  - All Prisoners Should be Given Fair Treatment
  - Women & Children Should be Protected From Harm
  - Always Bury the Dead With Respect

Note: 1,400 Years Before Geneva Convention

Jihad – Relations with other communities

- *Peace is a Central Theme in Islam*
- *Islam: Peace through submission.*
- *Core teachings for all prophets [3:19]*
- *Peaceful coexistence [60:8-9]*
- *Universal Brotherhood [49:13]*
- *Acceptance of Plurality [10:19, 11:118]*
- *Seeking common ground – Interfaith Dialog [29:46]*

Jihad – Conduct in the Battlefield

- Purity of intention
- Declaration by a legitimate authority
- Responding to just peace initiatives
- Sparing non-combatants, especially men and women.
- Humane treatment of injured, POW
- Last resort
- Killing animals is not allowed
- Destroying the infrastructure or destroying crops is not allowed
- Mutilation of the enemies bodies - dead or alive – is not allowed
- Always bury the dead with respect

1400 years BEFORE Geneva Conventions!

Jihad Against Terrorism

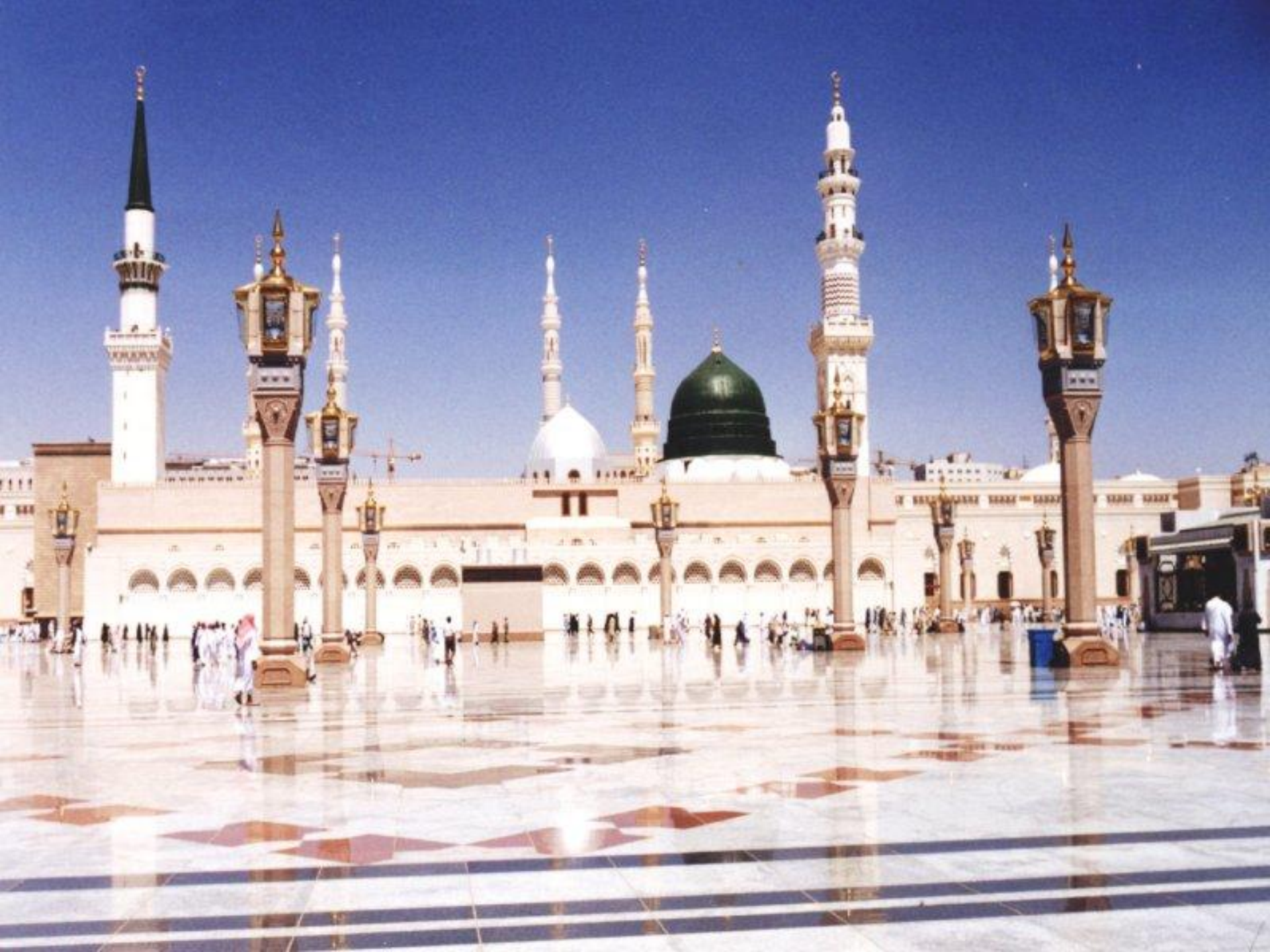
- There is never a political or a religious justification for terrorism
- Terrorism is a crime in explicit violation of Islam
- Many crimes are committed in the names of other religions
- Don't let the hijackers of an airplane also hijack the faith!
- Need better communication and fairness


Islamic
Architecture
Kullu-am wantu bi-khair















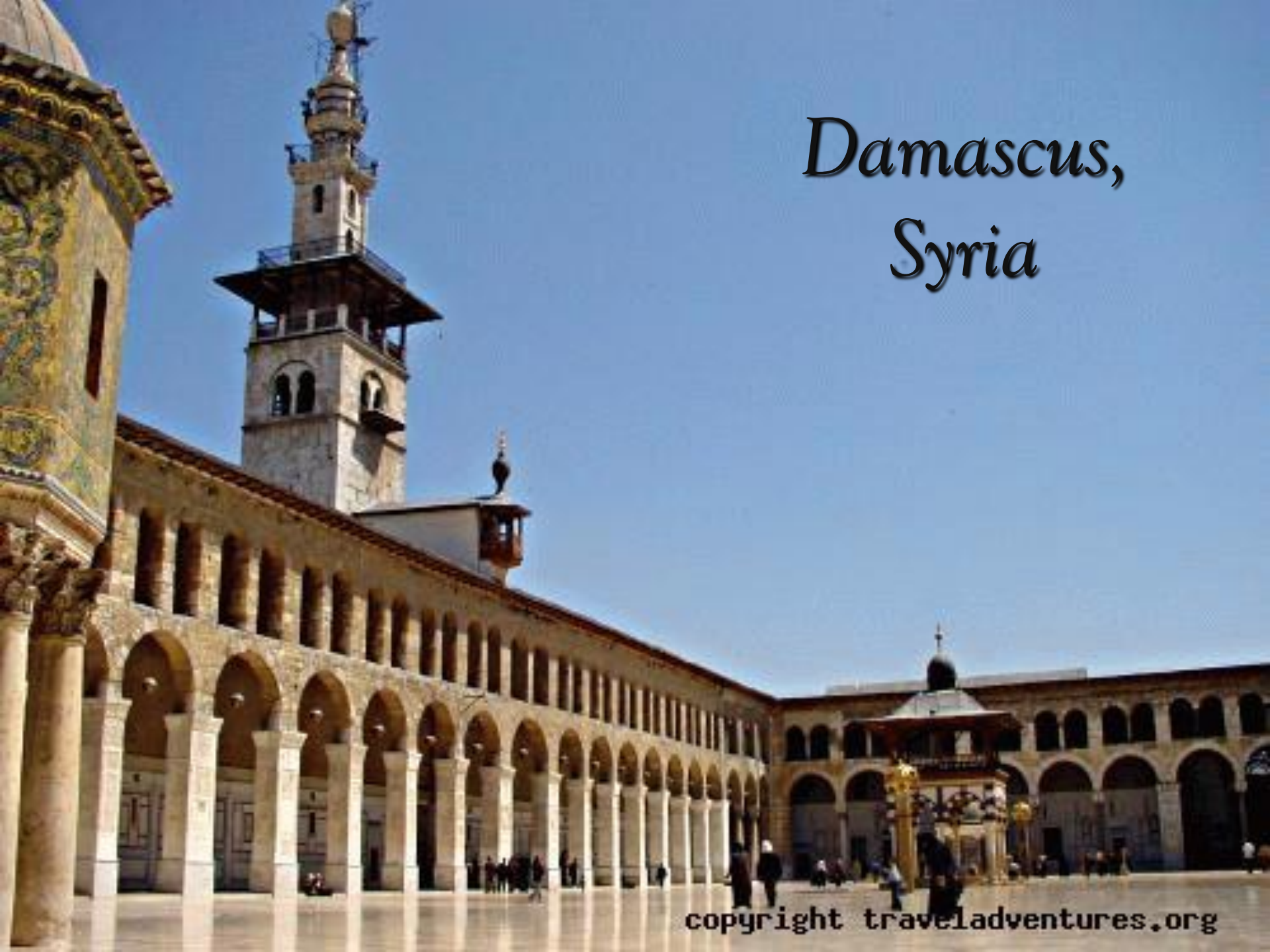


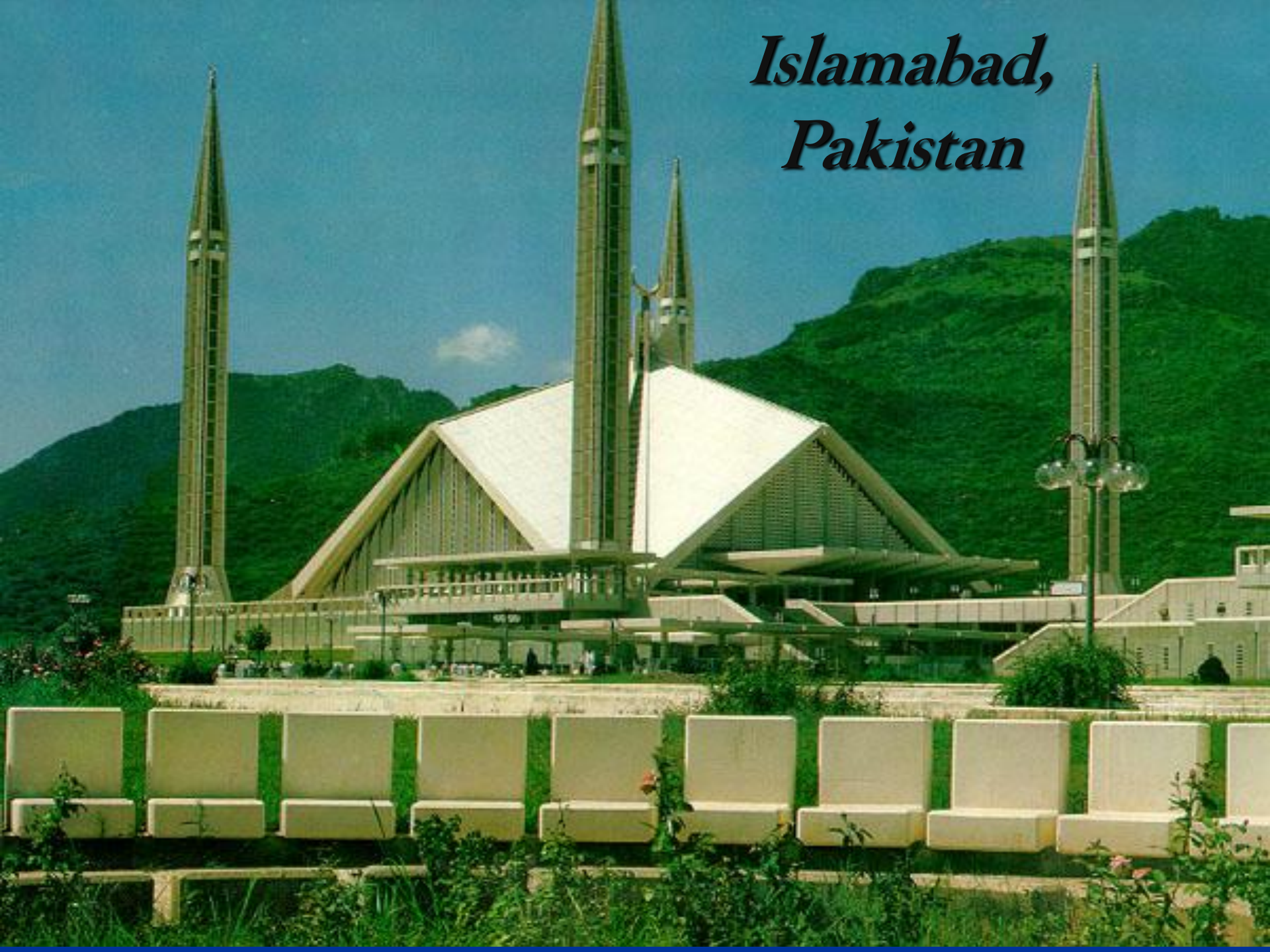


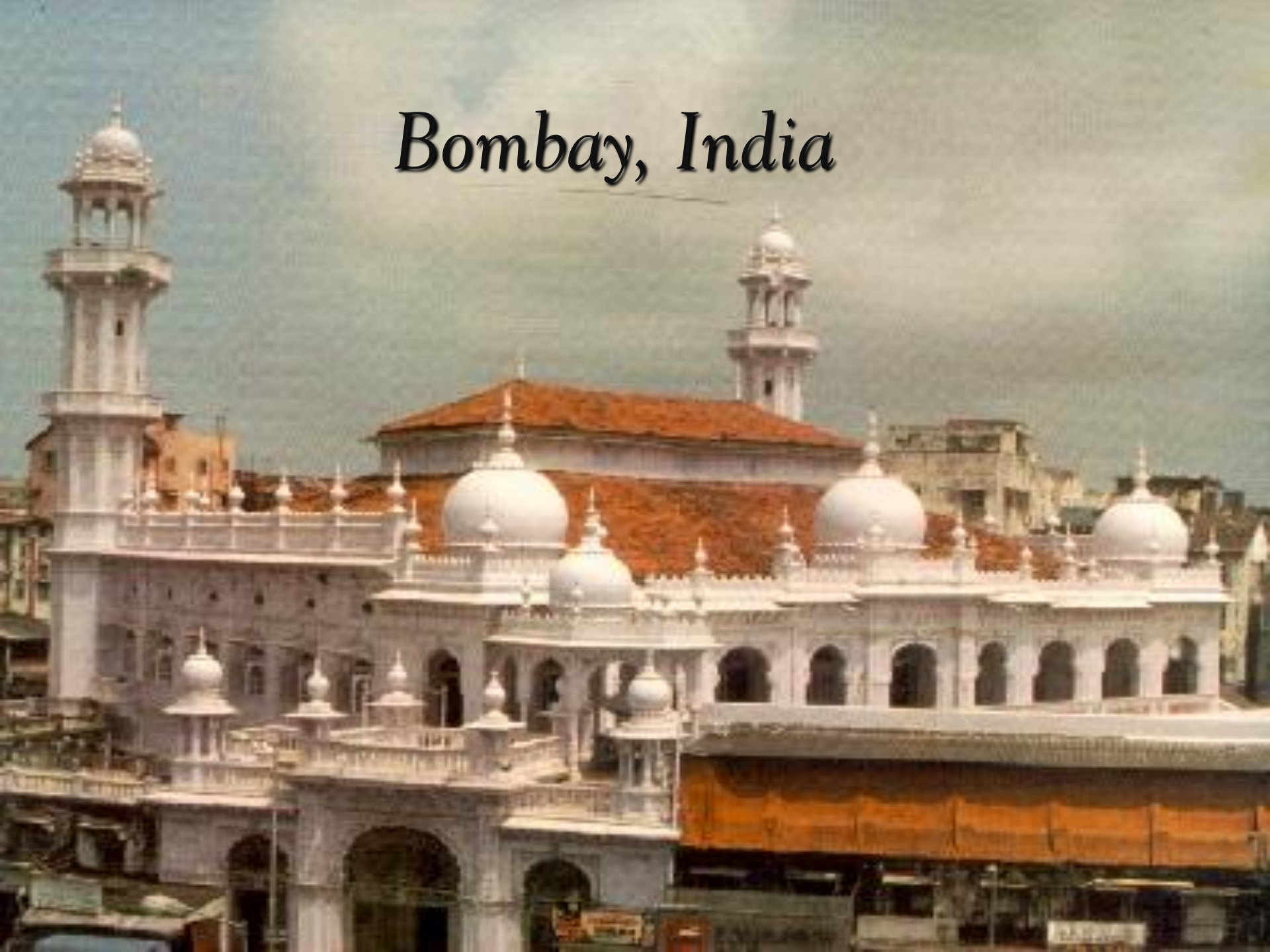





Cairo,
Egypt


Damascus,
Syria
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Islamabad,
Pakistan


Bombay, India


Istanbul,
Turkey


Jakarta, Indonesia



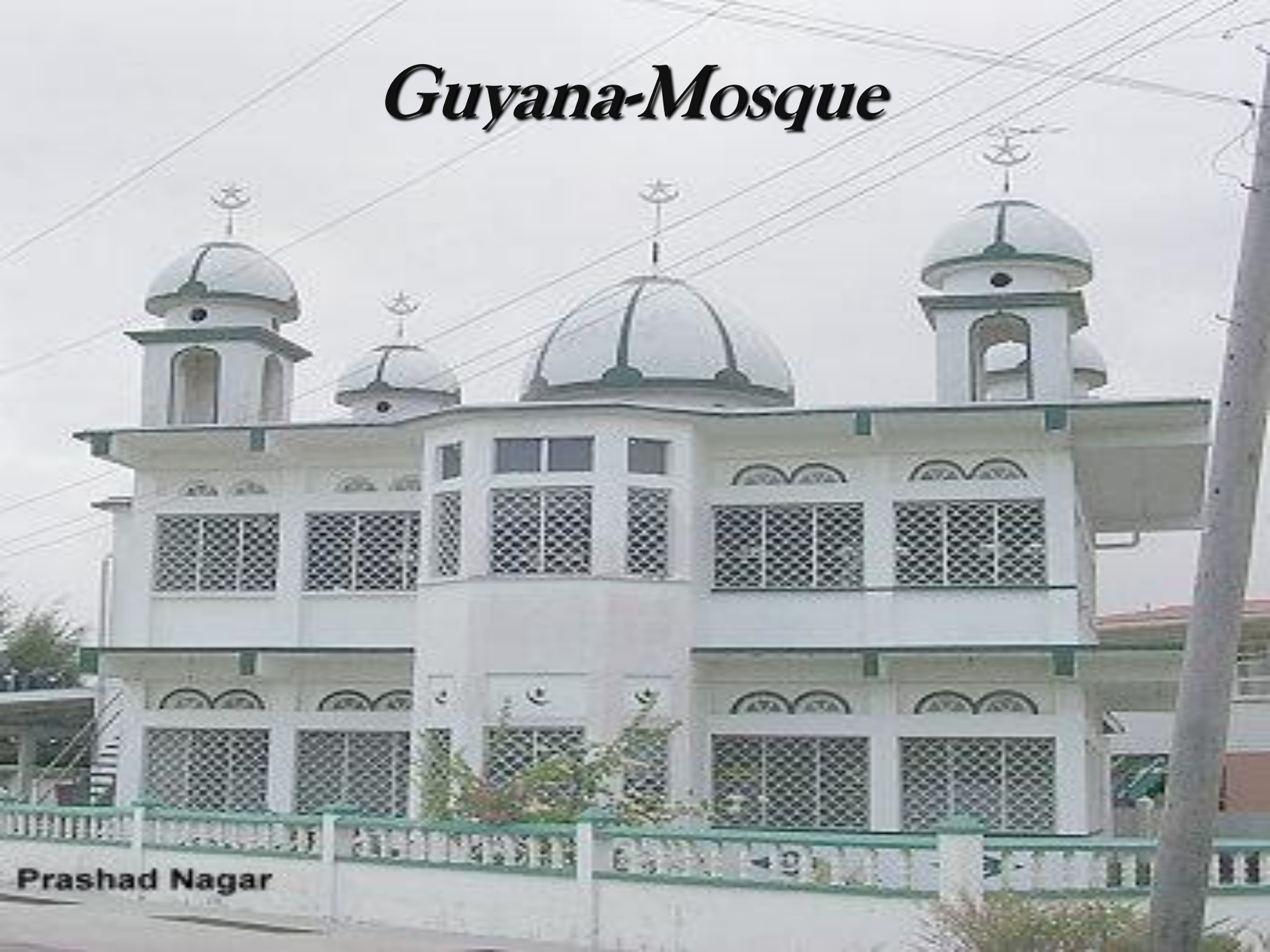
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia


Rome, Italy

Dublin, Ireland



Guyana-Mosque




The Mother Mosque
of America
1934


Cedar Rapids,
IA. USA
FEB 5 2003


Arizona,
USA







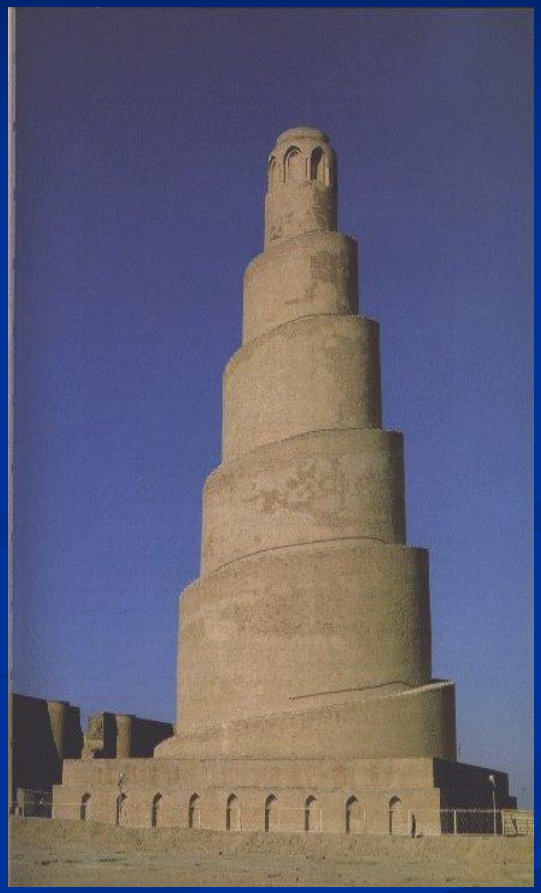








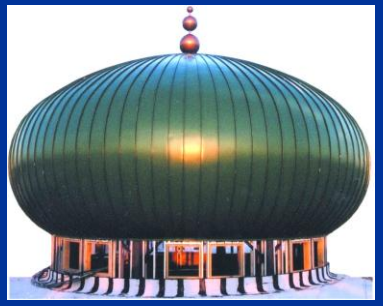








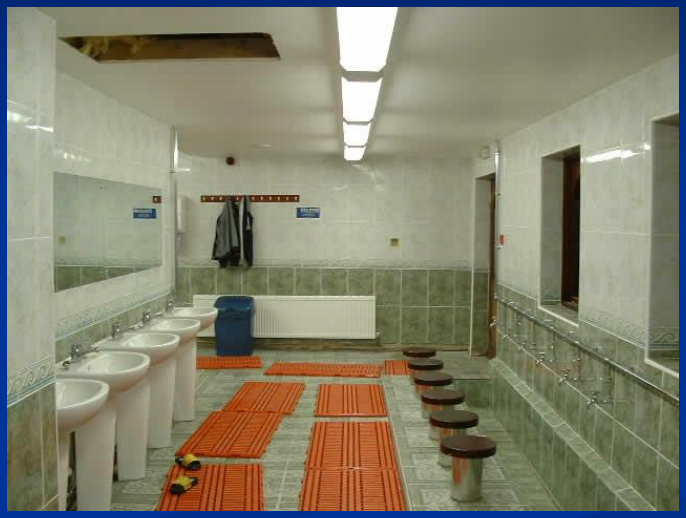














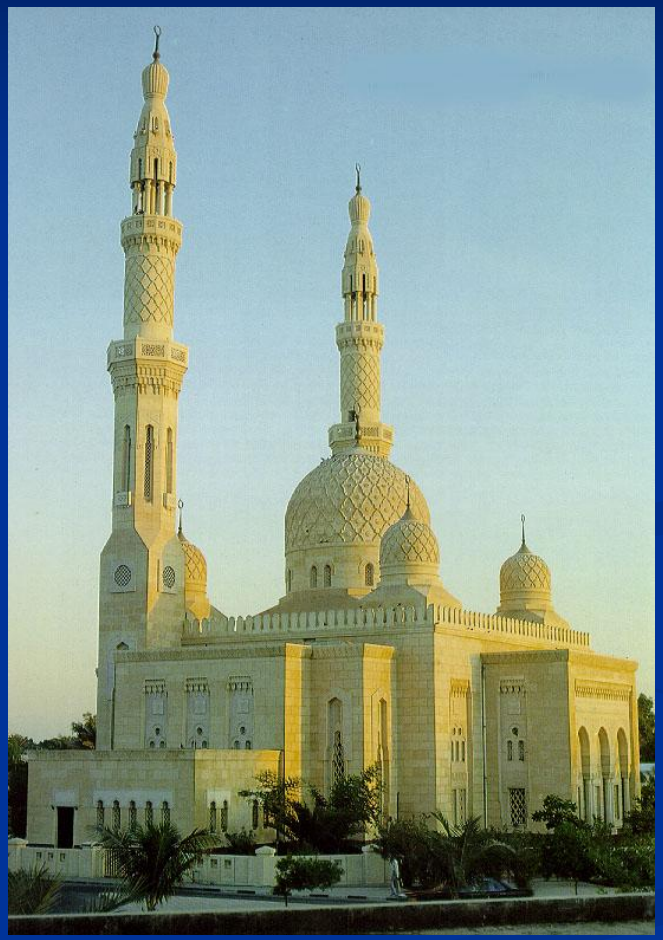













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