

IS ISLAM AN ABRAHAMIC RELIGION?

Islam claims to be a religion with Abrahamic roots. You may even hear in the news that Judaism, Christianity and Islam are the three "Abrahamic" religions.

While Judaism and Christianity can without doubt claim their origins with Abraham who was chosen by God, Islam does not have the same solid foundation.

WHERE DOES ISLAM TALK ABOUT ABRAHAM?

The Quran speaks of Abraham by name a few times, and by inference even more. The verses of the Quran that were "given" to Muhammad in Mecca during the peaceful period of his "prophethood, Abraham is mentioned as a prominent prophet and an original monotheist. The Quran goes as far as to call him a follower of Allah.

"Who can be better in religion than one who submits his whole self to Allah, does good, and follows the way of Abraham the true in Faith? For Allah did take Abraham for a friend."
Surah 4:125

At the same time, the Quran clearly states that no prophet had come before Muhammad to the Arab people.

"Or do they say, "He has forged it"? Nay, it is the Truth from thy Lord, that thou mayest admonish a people to whom no warner has come before thee: in order that they may receive guidance." Surah 32:3

However, later in the Medinan period of Muhammad's revelation of the Quran, it is said that Abraham lived in Mecca and built the sanctuary of Mecca, known as the Ka'aba, with the help of his son Ishmael (the ancestor of the Arabs).

"Remember We made the House a place of assembly for men and a place of safety; and take ye the station of Abraham as a place of prayer; and We covenanted with Abraham and Isma'il, that they should sanctify My House for those who compass it round, or use it as a retreat, or bow, or prostrate themselves (therein in prayer). And remember Abraham said: "My Lord, make this a City of Peace, and feed its people with fruits,-such of them as believe in Allah and the Last Day." (Read the full account in Surah 2:125-129)

According to the Quran, the religion of Abraham (which predates Judaism and Christianity) is the pure and original religion that Muhammad was sent to restore and complete.

IS THERE BIBLICAL PROOF THAT ISLAM IS ALSO AN ABRAHAMIC RELIGION?

While all of this is interesting, there is no historical or biblical evidence of Abraham ever traveling to Mecca with Ishmael and building Mecca. Abraham is never recorded as worshiping Allah and there is certainly not any Biblical evidence of Mecca being “our place for the celebration of (due) rites.”

As a matter of fact, Abraham is mentioned 250 times in the Bible and Abram 62 times, a total of 312 times. None of these citations include any mention of Mecca, travels to the Saudi Peninsula, the building of the Ka’aba, or worshiping Allah.

HEBREWS 11:8-12

“By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.”

WHO IS ABRAHAM IN THE BIBLE?

In the Bible, we see a picture of Abraham as a great man of faith, who was chosen by God to be the father of a great nation (Genesis 17:10-14). Without hesitation, Abraham trusts God’s promises, leaves his home and land, and travels to Canaan, “the promised land” (Genesis 11). Later we see Abraham’s faith waver when, in a time of famine, he travels to Egypt (Genesis 12-13) and then again when he sires a child with his wife’s servant (Genesis 16).

Abraham’s faith meets the ultimate test when God asks him to sacrifice his long-awaited son Isaac in the land of Moriah (Genesis 22).

Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice Isaac is one of the most striking examples of faith and trust in the Bible. And it is foreshadowing of the ultimate sacrifice that God made for us by placing his Son on the cross in our place to pay for our sins.

ISLAM IS NOT AN ABRAHAMIC RELIGION LIKE JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY

Abraham was not a prophet sent to build a shrine to Allah and prepare a way for Muhammad. Abraham was a man "looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God."

"And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise." Galatians 3:21

As Galatians 3:21 says, heirs of Abraham belong to Christ. They follow Jesus exclusively, not the god of Muhammad. While Islam may claim Abrahamic roots, their evidence is lacking and what evidence they do use is not conclusive. Nor is Islam consistent at all with the beliefs about the God that Abraham served.

KEEP LEARNING



If you are a Muslim investigating your faith further, please read our other free resources on Islam.



If you are a Christian learning about Islam, pray with us for more Muslims will come to know Christ. You can learn more about reaching Muslims with the love of Christ on our blog.



CALL OF LOVE MINISTRIES



@CALLOFLOVE



CALLOFLOVE.ORG

**CALL OF
LOVE**
MINISTRIES — John 10:16