

Is “Allah” Another Name for God?

Is Allah the true God, the Creator of the Universe, the same as the God of the Bible? Or is Allah really the name of the moon god of the ancient pagan Arabians? What is the truth? Is it all one God, just different names or titles? Or is there a vast and unmistakable difference?

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While “Allah” technically could be used to refer to God, in a general sense, the true origin of the Allah of Islam is that he was the moon god of ancient pagan Arabia.

Literally speaking, the Arabic word for “god” is “ilah”, while “al” is the Arabic for “the”. Therefore, “Allah” combines “al” with “ilah” and removes the “I”, and literally means, “the god.”

But, “Allah” was also the *personal name* given to the *moon god*, the highest of the 360 pagan idols worshipped in Mecca, Muhammad's home town!

What evidence is there that Islam's “Allah” is really the pagan moon god of ancient Mecca? Let's consider what the pagan Arabians did to worship their moon god, Allah; they prayed while bowing towards K'abah, the “house of Allah” in Mecca that houses a meteorite – a stone from space – several times a day, visited it once a year, and walked around it several times during their visit.

Nowhere in the Bible does the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob command any such worship observances.

And, according to the inspired Word of God, the Scriptures, the true personal name of God is YHVH, the Tetragrammaton, pronounced as “Yehovah.”

God's Name Revealed

In the book of Genesis we read, “In the beginning GOD created the heavens and the

earth” (Gen.1:1). The original word translated “God” in this verse is “Elohim” in the Hebrew. In the time of Abraham, God appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless” (Gen.17:1). In this verse God reveals Himself to Abraham the patriarch by the name of “El Shaddai” in the original Hebrew. Translated into English, it means “God Almighty.” “El” is a shortened form of “Elohim,” and “Shaddai” means “all mighty, all powerful” in Hebrew.

However, when God began to call Moses to bring His people out of captivity in Egypt, He revealed Himself to Moses by an altogether different name. Notice! When Moses went over to investigate a mysterious burning bush that would not burn up, God said to him, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob” (Exodus 3:6). This is the same word for God used in Genesis 1:1, *Elohim*.

Is *Elohim* God's actual name? The Scriptures often use the word *Elohim* to refer to the true God, the Creator, the Almighty God. But this same word is also used in other places where it is used of “gods,” false gods, pagan deities, and is also translated sometimes as “judge,” “judges,” or even “angels.” Literally, it simply describes the essence of “might” or “power” as applied to individuals, whether the true God, idols, angels, or human magistrates or judges. It means, “that which is strong.”

Thus the term *Elohim* is not used as the literal “name” of God, for there are many kinds of “elohim,” including false gods. It is a generic term, and sometimes refers to the true God, and at other times to pagan gods. In English, we differentiate between the two by spelling “God” with a capital “G” and “gods” with a small “g.” In Hebrew, there is no such manner of distinguishing between the two, and context supplies the correct rendition.

God Has Many Names

The Scriptures show that God Almighty has many names. In fact, in rabbinical thought, it is stated that God’s Name is the entire “Torah” – it spells the long form of His Name. Since one’s name represents one’s total character, in God’s sight, this would be true. In fact, one could even say that God’s Name is His entire WORD – from the first word of Genesis to the last word of the book of Revelation!

Among God’s names are *Elohim*, a uni-plural word, usually translated “God” in the English, but which literally means, in Hebrew, “The Mighty Ones.” Its singular form is *El*, meaning, “God,” or “Mighty One.”

The word is similar to the Hebrew *cherub* and *cherubim*. The cherubim were a high ranking order of angels whom God created (Ezek.1, 10). There were at least four of them, that we know of, which guard and transport the throne of God in heaven, two of them stretching their wings over the mercy seat (Exodus 25:18-20). The word “cherub” is singular, but the plural form is “cherubim.” Even so, we have “El,” and “Elohim.”

However, as God is ONE, the plural form *Elohim* shows God as a Family, or as a perfect UNITY-- one in purpose, thought, mind, spirit, totality!

The Shema of Israel says, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD" (Deut.6:4). Or, "The LORD our God, the LORD is ONE." The Hebrew word for "one" is *echad*. It means a perfect UNITY. For example, God told Adam and Eve, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be ONE [*echad*] flesh" (Gen.2:24). They become united, in God's sight, as ONE FLESH, a perfect unity. But GOD is "One" in perfect body, soul and SPIRIT – a divine UNITY.

Interestingly, in Hebrew, the numerical value of the word for "one" and the numerical value of the word "love" are *one and the same!* Thus "perfect love" is perfect "unity" or "oneness" in God's sight!

In Exodus we find revealed the *personal name* of the God of the Bible.

God's Personal Name

God revealed Himself to Moses at the burning bush in Sinai. When God began speaking to Moses, He said, "I am God [*Elohim*] of thy father, the God [*Elohim*] of Abraham, the God [*Elohim*] of Isaac, and the God [*Elohim*] of Jacob" (Exodus 3:6). Moses, knowing that the term *Elohim* meant "God," and was more a title, than a distinct name, as there are many "gods" including pagan gods, then asked God:

"Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say unto me, *What is his name?* what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM [Hebrew, *EHEYEH asher EHEYEH*]: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you" (verses 13-14). God continues, "The LORD [YHVH] God of your fathers . . . hath sent me unto you: THIS IS MY NAME FOR EVER, and this is my memorial to all generations" (Exodus 3:15).

In these verses, when God says "I AM THAT I AM," He is saying to Moses, according to the Septuagint, "*I am he who exists.*" The Syriac, Persic, and Chaldee preserve the original words without a gloss. The Arabic paraphrases them, "The Eternal, who passes not away."

The Targum of Jonathan and the Jerusalem Targum paraphrase the words: "He who spake, and the world was; who spake, and all things existed." The original words, Adam Clarke points out, signify "*I will be what I will be.*" The words seem to suggest the eternity of God, and His self-existence, His absolute independence and complete control and power.

When God says, "This is my name for ever," He is referring to the expression in verse 13, "The LORD [YHVH] God." This, in the Hebrew, is a compilation of the two

names YHVH and *Elohim*. This is the name by which God had been known from the creation of the world (Genesis 2:4). The pagan, heathen nations corrupted this name into their own forms, such as Jao, Jeve, Jove, Jupiter.

In Exodus 3, however, Moses goes on to say to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” (Exo.3:13). God responded, saying:

“I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.”

God went on, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers -- the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob -- has sent me to you.’ THIS IS MY NAME FOREVER, the name by which I am to be REMEMBERED FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION” (Exodus 3:15).

The Hebrew word here translated “LORD” is actually the word “YHVH” – in Hebrew it is called the Tetragrammaton. It is composed of the four vowel-consonants Y-H-V-H and is usually translated as “LORD,” in capital letters, in most English translations. The Moffatt translation, however, renders it, “The Eternal.” The God of the Scriptures says that THIS NAME is the real, personal, definitive name by which He is to be remembered. There are many “gods” in the world, but only one true “God.” His name is YHVH – not Jupiter, Zeus, Baal, Tammuz, Thor, Odin, or any other of the names of the pagan gods! Nor is His name “Allah,” which is the name of an ancient Arabian moon god, taken by Mohammed to identify the name of the Muslim deity.

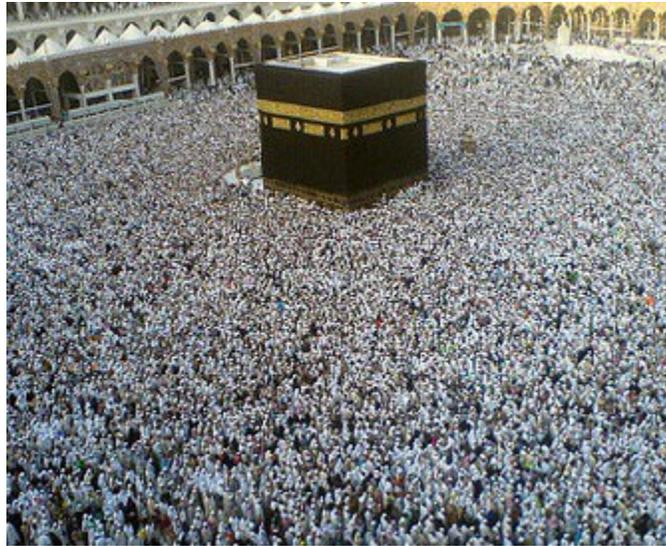
They are not all just different names of the one true God!

Jesus Christ, in praying to the Father, the God whom He Himself worshipped, declared, “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, *THE ONLY TRUE GOD, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent*” (John 17:3).

The apostle Paul wrote, “Yet for us there is ONE GOD, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live” (I Cor.8:6).

When the Muslims pray to the one they identify as their supreme God, they pray toward Mecca, which is not even mentioned in the Holy Word of God.

To worship their Allah today, Muslims pray bowing towards the K'abah in Mecca five times a day. About two million Muslims visit Mecca every year and walk around the K'abah (the black cube, which is 40 feet tall, in the picture below).



The Muslim “holy” month of Ramadan starts at the sighting of a new crescent moon. Perched atop **mosques** across the world is the crescent moon), the symbol of the moon god Allah whom **Muhammad chose** as the god of Islam.

When confronted with the details above, Muslims typically re-assert that “Allah” still means “al” + “ilah” – that is, “the” + “god”. They claim he is the same as the **God of the Bible**, not the moon god of pagan Mecca. They even point out that Arabic Christian Bibles uses “Allah” to refer to God.

However, although the “Allah” in the current Arabic Christian Bibles is literally “the God” and does refer to the God of the Bible, the “Allah” of the Koran is **NOT THE SAME GOD AT ALL!**

The Samaritan Woman

As Christ said to the Samaritan woman at the well, who belonged to the Samaritan religion and worshipped toward their own temple on Mount Gerizim, “Woman, believe in Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him” (John 4:21-23). He said, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (v.24).

The Word of God is the Bible, and the Bible speaks of the personal Name of God as Yahveh, or Yehovah, or sometimes shortened to “Yah.” It means the Self-Existent

One Who Is, Was, and Evermore shall Be, the great “I AM.” The word “Allah” meaning “the God,” is like the Biblical “El,” which means “the Mighty One,” often translated simply as “God.” In New Testament Greek it is “Theos,” again, simply meaning “God.” “El” and “theos” can also refer to pagan gods, or anything worshipped as a “god.”

PROOF of the Bible

If Muslims that are really worshipping the true God, the Creator, then they must worship Him according to the Scriptures, His inspired Word. The Koran has no such proof – the proof of fulfilled prophecy! But the Bible does!

The Bible can be PROVED to be God’s inspired Word! Fulfilled Biblical prophecy proves beyond human doubt that the Bible had to be divinely authored and inspired! Who but God Himself could foretell in advance, thousands of years ahead of time, events to occur in the future, and bring them to pass unerringly?

The Koran contains no such prophecies – no such proof of authorship!

Yet the God of the Bible thunders: “Now, the Eternal cries, bring your case forward, now, Jacob’s King cries, *state your PROOFS*. Let us hear what happened in the past, that we may ponder it, or show me what is yet to be, that we may watch how it turns out; yes, let us hear what is coming, that we may be sure you are gods; come, do something or other that we may marvel at the sight!—why, you are things of naught, you can do nothing at all!” (Isaiah 41:21-23, Moffatt).

The God of Israel states: “Here is the word of the Eternal, King of Israel, Israel’s deliverer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the first and I am the last, there is no god beside me, who is like me? Let him come forward with his claim, let him set out his case before me, who foretold the future long ago? Pray let us hear what is still to be!’” (Isa.44:6-7).

Almighty God declares, “Fear nothing, dread not in the days to come; *have I not foretold it and announced it long ago?* You are my witnesses whether there is any god, any Power, any, besides me. Remember this, O Jacob, O Israel, my witness” (Isa.44:8).

God says further in Isaiah, “Tell and bring forth your case; yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me” (Isaiah 45:21).

God adds through the prophet, “I am God and there is none like Me, *declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done*, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure’” (Isa.46:9-10).

Again, we read in Isaiah, in the Moffatt translation, God says to His people Israel, “God is among you only, besides him there is no god at all. Yours is indeed the God of mystery, a God who saves. Shamed and disgraced are all his rivals; and they depart disgraced, who fashion idols; while Israel is saved by the Eternal in a lasting triumph” (Isa.45:14-17).

No other God controls the future, predicts it with uncanny accuracy, and brings it about according to His plan. No other “god” has that kind of power and control. No other “god” is in charge of the destiny of man or controls the future of the world.

The God of Israel says, “I predict honestly” (Isa.45:19). He says of His people Israel, “Jacob wins victory and power by the Eternal only; all who were enraged at him shall be defeated and disgraced, but all the sons of Israel shall triumph and exult in the Eternal” (Isa.45:24-25).

The clarion call goes out. The truth is cried aloud. Do we get the message?

Fulfilled Bible prophecy proves the God of Israel to be the true God. The Koran of the Muslim world has no such proof! Write for our free articles, “The Astonishing Case for Christ,” “Daniel 9 Proves Jesus Is the Messiah,” and “Daniel 11 – the Longest Prophecy.”

The True Word of God

As Paul the apostle declared, “All Scripture [the Bible] is given by inspiration of God [is literally “God breathed”], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (II Tim.3:16-17).

If Muslims want to worship the true God, as He desires, it must be according to His revealed Word, the Old and New Testament Scriptures. They should stop bowing down toward a meteorite five times a day and the crescent moon should neither start their “holy” month of Ramadan nor be on the top their mosques. It is a pagan emblem, even as the so-called “Christian cross” is also derived from ancient paganism! See our article on “Is the Cross Christian?” If the Allah they are worshipping is the God of the Bible, then they should worship Him as the Bible itself instructs us to do.

Teachings from the Koran

In his book *Secrets of the Koran*, Don Richardson reveals that the heart and core of Islam is violence. He writes, “In fact, there are at least 109 identifiable *war verses* in the Koran. One out of every 55 verses in the Koran is a war verse. War verses are scattered throughout Mohammed’s chapters like blood splatter at a crime scene” (p.28).

Here are some enlightening examples from the Koran, the “Bible” of the Muslim world, that we would all do well to understand:

“Fight against them until idolatry is no more and God’s religion reigns supreme” (Koran 2:193).

“Strike off their heads. Strike off their finger-tips! . . . because they defied God and his Apostle” (Koran 8:12-13).

“Prophet! Rouse the faithful to arms. If there are twenty steadfast men among you they shall vanquish two-hundred . . . A prophet may not take captives until he has fought and triumphed in the land [or, until he has made a great slaughter in the earth. Rodwell’s rendering of this last phrase]” (Koran 8:65, 68).

“Seize them and put them to death wherever you find them” (Koran 4:89).

“Believers, make war on the infidel who dwells around you” (Koran 9:123).

“When you meet the unbelievers in the battlefield strike off their heads and, when you have laid them low, bind your captives firmly” (Koran 47:4).

“When the sacred months [Ramadan] are over slay the idolaters wherever you find them. Arrest them; besiege them; and lie in ambush everywhere for them. If they repent [.convert, Rodwell’s translation] and take to prayer and render the alms levy, allow them to go their way” (Koran 9:5).

Clearly the God of Mohammed was not the same as the God of the Bible, the Jewish people, or true Christians!

Clearly, there can be no true unity between the religion of Islam and the Bible, the Word of God, without true repentance and massive changes in belief, approach, and practices. There can be no melding together of two such disparate faiths. Beware of those who teach otherwise!

There is a trend today to attempt to merge Christianity with the Muslim religion. Some call such a combination “Chrislam.” But such a merger is simply impossible! It would be a perversion of the truth – a subversion of God’s Word!

Religious Syncretism

The God of the Bible is not the same as the “God” of the Koran, or Mohammed.

Mohammed taught contrary to the Bible, a way of jihad, conquest, and forcible conversion, and put unbelievers to death. He was therefore a false prophet. Therefore Islam is a false religion, and a pagan religion, raised up by Satan the devil to deceive millions, today. This may seem offensive to some, who want to embrace everybody and every religion under the same roof, but it will not work. Alexander the Great tried it, propagating what was called “Greek Hellenism,” bringing all the gods of all the nations together.

The true God of the Bible, the only true God, does not accept that kind of worship. As the apostle Paul wrote, “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?” (II Cor.6:14-16).

Religious “syncretism,” or blending all religions together in one pot, is not of God, but denies the truth and embraces multifaceted error. There can be only one truth. Christ said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:32).

We should love all people, but we don’t have to accept or agree with their religion. Solomon was guilty because he allowed many pagan idol gods to be set up in and around the Temple of the One True God in Jerusalem, to please his many wives ((I Kings 11:1-10). God cast ancient Israel out of His sight, because they compromised the truth and embraced false religions and false gods (II Kings 17).

The Word of God reveals that the “god” of this present, evil world is Satan the devil. He “deceives the WHOLE world” (Rev.12:9). He is the “god of this world” (II Cor.4:4), the “prince of the power of the air” (Eph.2:2). He is the “spirit that now works in the children of disobedience” (same verse) It is he who is striving to “UNITE” all religions together, to worship HIM! He disguises himself, pretending to be the One true God. He seeks worshippers, and even tried to tempt Christ to bow down before him and acknowledge his authority. He is the author of the modern Church unity movement.

But God says to His people, “Therefore come away from these, separate, says the Lord, touch not what is unclean, then I will receive you” (II Cor.6:17, Moffatt).